



The Guadalupe Gardener



December 2013



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



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

December is a time for reflection. It has been a busy year for us. From the SA Stock Show and Rodeo, Earth Day, Ag Fest and Pecan Fest, Ag Fairs, Water Fairs, and the County Fair to the training of Class 25 and to their graduation. From the Community Garden, to the Big Red Barn Garden, to Gardening with Kids projects, to the unexpected move. What a year. Thank you to all of you for your support and participation in 2013. And to think that, in 2014, we will be doing it all again and more under the leadership of Bob Teweles. Hope to see you all at the December Social on the 15th at the Big Red Barn. Happy Holidays.

"A Gardener is the spirit of the garden, the organizing force, the heart and soul of it all." **Jeff Cox**

Peggy Jones



Christmas Social

Big Red Barn

December 15th - 5:00 PM

See page 4

In This Issue

- Page 2 - November Meeting Program
- Page 3 - November Meeting
- Page 4 - Christmas Social
- Page 5 - New MGs
- Page 6 - Class 25
- Page 7 - Baby Bloomers
- Page 8-9 - Gutierrez Xeriscape Garden
- Page 10 - Member in Service, Future Programs, November Volunteer Recognition Program
- Page 11 - Oak Wilt Disease
- Page 12 - Community Garden
- Page 13 - George Ammermann Fund
- Page 13-14 - Preparing the Spring Vegetable Garden
- Page 15 - Dues, KWED Radio
- Page 16 - Gardening Hints
- Page 17 - Volunteer Opportunities
- Page 18-20 - Education - Classes - Seminars
- Page 21 - December Calendar

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

- Bob Teweles, President
- Open, President Elect
- Peggy Jones, Past President
- Ellen Laubhan, Vice President-Programs
- Cindy Waechter, Treasurer
- Pat Schultze, Secretary

Association News

November - GCMG MEETING PROGRAM

Pruning, “Less is More”



Paul W. Johnson, Urban Forestry Coordinator from the Texas A&M Forest Service, presented the November educational program for the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners. Paul is a Board Certified Master Arborist. Paul presented a very lively slide program reviewing the basics of pruning.

He stressed that sometimes it is better to seek professional help rather than ‘do it yourself’. Consider how big is the tree, how high up is it, do you feel comfortable doing the task, can you reach it from the ground.-.if not it is time to call a professional. He reminded everyone that a trip to the ER is more costly than calling in an Arborist to trim your tree.

If you need a professional, be sure they have insurance, actually see it. Ask if they are certified and what their professional affiliations are. They should work according to ANSI –A300 Standards. For more information you can find these standards on line.

He reviewed the safety gear needed to do pruning, especially when using a chain saw. Items included were: hard hat, eye protection, ear protection, long sleeves, gloves, long pants and boots. He also encouraged the use of chaps to protect the legs. He listed the tools needed and how to care for them. A bleach solution (1part bleach to 9 parts water), Lysol that is 70% or greater, or fire can be used to clean the tools.

For actual pruning, he stressed “less if more”. Start early, pruning when the tree is young. Crown cleaning can be done (cleaning out dead wood) but emphasized that dead wood is not a problem for the tree. Crown thinning should only be done when limbs are rubbing against one another to protect the tree from insects and disease. Crown raising or cleaning out the lower limbs is needed to make space under the tree for mowing or walking. For crown reduction, if needed, Paul believes you should cut down the tree and plant a smaller tree.

Paul recommends making a plan before you begin pruning. You only need to paint oak and fruit tree wounds. He recommends you paint after every 3 cuts or you will not remember where all the cuts are on the tree. Cut no more than 20-25 % and use the 3 cut process, making your wound as small as possible.

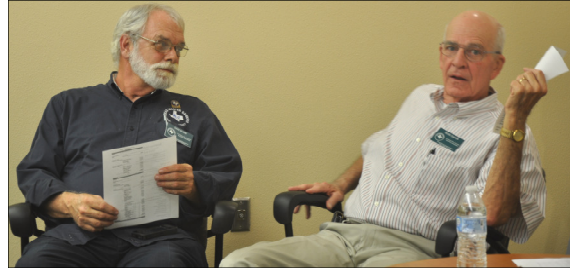
He closed with the 3 things you should remember from his talk: less is more, watch out for electrical lines running through your tree (don’t trim, call the utility company), and wear chaps when using a chainsaw.

Some websites recommended for more information: pjohnson@fs.tamu.edu; www.treesaregood.com; and www.horticulture.tamu.edu.

Article submitted by Sandy Foss. Photos by Marvin “T” Taylor

NOVEMBER 2013 MEETING

Photos by Marvin "T" Taylor



Mary Styblo (pictured) won \$27 in the raffle. Harold Burris won a \$10 gift certificate to Maldonado's.



REFRESHMENTS

The refreshments for the November meeting were provided by: Ellen Laubhan and Randy Rye, Betty Hughes, Liz Romero, Bob Davis and Beth Zies. Thank you all very much for the great snacks which were enjoyed by all.

We will include one recipe each month. See recipe on page 20.

Treva Hicks, Refreshment Volunteer Coordinator

Note: Treva Hicks broke a bone in her foot. She will not be sending or answering e-mails for a while. If you need to contact Treva, please telephone her at 303-4712. Remember to be patient when you call. If the phone is not sitting with her, she may have to call you back.



Master Gardener Christmas Social ***Sunday, December 15th, 5:00pm***

Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center, Big Red Barn
390 Cordova Road, Seguin

\$7.00 per person

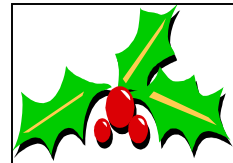
. Members are encouraged to bring an appetizer or dessert.

Please RSVP by Dec. 12th noon

Ccalentine@ag.tamu.edu. Call or text to 830-305-1715

We will be collecting items at the Christmas Social for the Christian Cupboard and for the Blue Santa program.

The Christian Cupboard is in need for all kinds of food items. Things that are always needed are: cereal, peanut butter, jelly, juices, and canned goods.



We will also be collecting unwrapped toys for Blue Santa. Items should not be more than \$10.00 each. Ages that are needed are 0-2 years and 9-12 years. Suggestions for:

1. The 0-2 years are push toys, blocks and things that will help with their development.
2. The 9-12 years: board games, kits that they can put together, electronics (include batteries), hair items, and things that can be for a boy or girl.

Blue Santa is also in need of scissors, tape and bows. If you would like to help with the Blue Santa Project, they need help now. You can contact:

Hope Vasquez, D.A.R.E. Instructor
Seguin Police Dept.
350 N. Guadalupe St., Seguin, TX 78155
830-401-2386
email: dare@seguintexas.gov

There will be a raffle at the Christmas Social. Contact Cynthia Lyssy (210-648-0517 or cell 210-275-3970, or e-mail cmylssy@prodigy.net) to donate items for the raffle.

NEWLY CERTIFIED MASTER GARDENERS

The following members of graduating class 25 were recognized as being newly certified Master Gardeners and received their certificates and membership cards from GCMG President Peggy Jones: Lillian Augustus, Joyce Briscoe, Welta Burris, Kimberly Darrough, John Lewicki, Cynthia Lyssy, Janet Magee, Maria Montalvo, and Ruby Peeples.

Photos by Marvin "T" Taylor



Lillian Augustus



Welta Burris



Joyce Briscoe



Kimberly Darrough



John Lewicki



Cynthia Lyssy



Janet Magee



Maria Montalvo



Ruby Peeples

What an outstanding certification rate for any class!

GCMG Class 25

Class 25 Group Picture



Front Row (kneeling) from Left – Ivonne Hernandez, Lisa Foss, Cynthia Lyssy, Bob Teweles (Class Coordinator)

Second Row from Left – Adriana Loya, Laurie Brunell, Maria S. Montalvo, Lillian Augustus, Ruby Peeples, Jeri Duncan, Janet Magee, Dave Elder (Assistant Coordinator)

Back Rows from Left – Janette Barrow, Joyce Briscoe, Cindy Waechter (almost hidden!, Assistant Coordinator), Jon Elia, Kimberly Darrough, Katie McLean, Welta Burris, Marvin Borth, John Lewicki

Class 25 graduated at the November 21st monthly membership meeting with all 18 students receiving their Intern Certificates! Successful course completion by all students indicates the high interest and energy level of the new Interns which they demonstrated throughout the entire four-month course. Interns know what they need to accomplish to Certify as Master Gardeners and will benefit from the efforts of all Master Gardeners to include the Interns in Guadalupe County programs over the coming year. Please take the opportunity to meet and greet our new Interns. Nine students Certified as Master Gardeners at the monthly meeting which was icing on the cake (see page 5). Class 25 has already had a significant positive impact on our Guadalupe County Master Gardeners. Keep up the EXCITEMENT!

Many Master Gardeners have made important contributions to Class 25 and some have already been recognized. Our two Assistant Training Coordinators, Cindy Waechter and Dave Elder, provided critical class support with classroom set-up, instructor support, coordinating the student Sponsor Program, working with individual students and much more. “Thanks for Your Support”!! Speaking of the Sponsor Program, our sponsors helped in many ways to enhance the student experience which shows in their student’s success. Kudos to our sponsors: Mary Styblo, Ruben Roecker, Joyce Friesenhahn, Sandy Foss, Cindy Martin, Judy Stanley, Tracy Pingel, Debbie Elia, Peggy Jones, Treva Hicks, Dave Elder, Cindy Waechter, Bob Teweles, and Patti Zgabay.

Another group providing critical class support were the Test Graders. Led by Patti Zgabay, test graders assisted all students in finishing the testing requirement. The graders included Cindy Martin, Patricia Watkins, Mary Styblo, Joann Rand and Cindy Waechter. Thank you all for an excellent job!

When one class graduates, can the next class be far behind?? Planning for Class 26 needs to start in February, 2014!! Cindy Waechter and Dave Elder have offered to continue as Assistant Coordinators for next year. We are looking for one or two motivated Master Gardeners to be the Class 26 Training Coordinators. Besides the opportunity to attend some great training classes, the coordinator has a unique opportunity to influence future membership while benefitting from a limited length effort! Contact our Board to apply!!

“It Takes A Village”!

Bob Teweles, Class Coordinator

Baby Boomers

We Baby Boomers may not be called the "greatest generation" - that's you, Mom and Dad! - but we certainly are the biggest. A veritable demographic juggernaut, the generation of Americans born between 1946 and 1964 is proceeding into post-middle age.

On January 1st, 2011, the oldest Baby Boomers celebrated their 65th birthday. On every day since, and every day for the next 18 years, 10,000 Boomers will have turned age 65. By 2030, 18% of the country will be 65 or over, and by 2050 there will be more than 4 million centenarians. We'll break out the champagne.

As the Sixties Generation turns 60, Boomers are set to reinvent how it looks and feels to be elderly in America. Since we are the first to grow up in an entirely branded world, it's only fitting that our collective old age get a makeover.

The existing terms used to describe us are, well, bummers: senior citizens, the elderly, older Americans, golden agers. Just hearing them makes one's joints ache. They reflect the viewpoint of a clinician wielding pincers over a gurney. Who would proudly proclaim himself a "senior citizen"?

Indeed, the very notion of "old" has gotten old. A study by the Pew Charitable Trust reveals that just a third of respondents 75 or older regard themselves as "old", while a third of adults 65 to 74 feel 10 to 19 years younger than their years, with a frisky sixth feeling 20 years younger. The post-young era is a time for happy reflection: a mere one percent of Pew's respondents say their lives turned out worse than expected.

So what does this new old-age hold for Boomers? What will we do in the coming third of our life? The aging Boomer can regard retirement not as an impending dark ages, but rather as a renaissance in the making - the perfect opportunity to renew, discover, and express oneself and find new meaning in this life business.

This is not your father's retirement. Our restless generation will continue its quest for new challenges and new discoveries. In our old-age we seek meaning. Experience has taught us that life's greatest, most enduring pleasures are simple ones. By now we know immediate gratification isn't gratifying, and that material things do not add up to happiness or fulfillment. Older and wiser, we want what money can't buy.

I suggest one way to fulfill these wants, as well as fill the emptiness retirement often presents. Since ancient times, those of humankind who could do so, retired to the country. But now, in this still-affluent age, the country can be found mere steps from your door.

The garden provides the essential ingredients for post-youngsters to stay physically, socially and mentally active, curious and relatively stress-free. Plus, vegetable gardening not only saves money, but also introduces you to flavors and colors you've neither tasted nor seen. Starting over, indeed.

Unlike golf, tennis, bridge and travel, gardening offers a rich and varied narrative - one calling for planning, caring and resourcefulness. The home garden is a sacred realm, a world apart from the babble of media and hum of technology. We are linked to the sun, the earth and the elements. Caring for plants, we ourselves are nurtured and nourished. And, farther afield, community gardens enable post-youngsters to help build neighborhoods and create a healthful and sustainable legacy for decades to come - an age-old, old-age concern.

In both private and public gardens, the generation that gave new meaning to "green" can find a continuing source of stimulation, serenity and fulfillment. Baby Boomers become Baby Boomers. Joni Mitchell put it best: "We are stardust, we are golden, and we've got to get back to the garden."

Found in Burpee Gardens Catalog

Volunteer Work Day at Gutierrez Xeriscape Garden



On Saturday 11/16/2013, eleven members of the Steele High School Key Club joined their Faculty Advisor Denise Leverich to provide a long overdue face lift to Gutierrez Xeriscape Park in Schertz. They were joined by Master Gardeners Judy Stanley, Welta Burris and Park Co-Chairs Kim Darrough and John Lewicki. Schertz Parks and Recreation Manager Chuck Van Zandt and Supervisor Mike Trainor arranged to have supplies and equipment including paint and rollers, a pallet of edgers and two truckloads of mulch for the volunteer work day. Parks and Recreation workers Ross Dye and Scott Duever were on hand to provide assistance and take pictures.

The eleven Key Club Members who gave over 4 hours of their Saturday morning and afternoon were Blake Arlow, Annalise Brewer-Hall, Dominique Hunt, Timothy Kidd, Sarah Lopez, Taylor Perry, Krystal Sagan, Lesley Salas, Desiree Torres, Jazmin Torres, and Sophie Trevino. They painted the Gazebo, trimmed and mulched trees, thinned the Butterfly Garden, and planted wildflower seeds in three areas. They also laid edgers around the new wildflower area surrounding the Gazebo and the two new areas of the expanded Butterfly Garden.



A special thanks to Master Gardener Nancy Masterson who pre-identified tree trimming tasks and Judy Stanley for her consultations on the expanded Butterfly Garden prior to the work day. Also greatly appreciated were the efforts of Melissa Lewicki who led the students in painting the Gazebo.

Several residents came by during the work day and afterwards to thank everyone for all their hard work and commented on how improved the park looked. We're planning another volunteer work day with the Key Club on 11/30/2013.



(Continued on following page)

Volunteer Work Day at Gutierrez Xeriscape Garden (continued from prior page)



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Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors

Two Year Term - Dave Elder - Jose Contreras Alternate

One Year Term - Cindy Martin—Linda Bruno Alternate

Membership Outreach Committee - Virginia Biggs

Speakers Bureau - Treva Hicks

Guadalupe Co. Community Garden - Dale & Ann Odvody

JMG Program Coordinator - Lo-Ra Dick

Master Gardener Office/Library - Betty Hughes

AgriLife Building Workdays - Liz Romero

Hours Reporting - Dale & Ann Odvody

Notification - Dale Odvody & Beth Zies

Refreshment Coordinator - Treva Hicks

Volunteer Chair Assistant - Don Hilbert

Gutierrez Xeriscape Garden - John Lewicki & Kim Darrough

Historian - Open

Class 25 Coordinator - Bob Teweles

Facebook Editor - Open

Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Web Master - Randee Malmsten

Newsletter Staff

Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Photographer - Marvin "T" Taylor

Distribution - Doug Biggs

Proof Reader - Patti Zgabay

Wandering Gardener - Marilyn Moltz

FUTURE PROGRAMS

January - Mark Fanick, Fruit Trees

February - Andy Chidster, The Natural Gardener, manufacturer of Lady Bug Products

March - Marty Ruona, Xeriscape

Thanks to Jeff McKee for arranging these wonderful programs.

November Volunteer Recognition Program



Sixteen Master Gardeners participated in the November Volunteer Recognition Program Drawing, our highest number to date. Since August, when we introduced the program, 34 Certified Master Gardeners have participated.

Congratulations to Joyce Friesenhahn, our November Volunteer Recognition Program Drawing recipient. As our November Volunteer, Joyce won a \$20 gift certificate to Maldonado's Nursery. In addition, four other names were drawn for entry into the year-end grand prize drawing for a \$150 gift certificate. They were Denise Bonds, Guadalupe Rodriguez, Marvin Taylor, and Cynthia Winkelman.

Other members who qualified for the drawing were Jose Contreras, Sandra Foss, Jim Johnson, Janice Knobles, Elaine McIntyre, Hughlene Micheli, Gretchen

Ricker, Mary Ruppert, Clifford Smith, Katherine Taylor, and Patti Zgabay. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and effort.

To qualify for the Monthly Volunteer Recognition Program drawing, certified GCMG Master Gardeners must report a minimum of 5 volunteer and continuing education hours earned during the month to the Hours Coordinator by the last calendar day of the month. Hours earned for attendance at the monthly GCMG Membership Meeting are not included in the minimum 5 hours, except those earned for meeting setup.

Don't forget to earn and report your hours by 30 November 2013 to be eligible for the December Social Drawing.

Texas A&M Forest Service Urges Caution to Decrease the Spread of Oak Wilt Disease

COLLEGE STATION, Texas - With the long-anticipated arrival of cooler weather, now is the perfect opportunity to enjoy some time by the campfire but be careful to pay close attention to the firewood you are picking. Transporting and storing diseased wood is a known means of spreading the devastating oak wilt fungus to previously uninfected neighborhoods. Utilizing these prevention steps is the key to safeguarding against spreading the disease through the selection and use of firewood:

- **Select well-seasoned firewood.** Well-seasoned wood is cut before the summer and is typically dry with loose bark and cracked ends. Avoid oak wood that appears unseasoned, that may have tight bark and cut ends which show no cracks or signs of aging. The extreme heat and drying of a full Texas summer effectively destroys the fungus in cut firewood.
- **Safely store unknown sources of firewood.** If the oak wood comes from an unknown source and it is not well seasoned, cover the woodpile with a clear piece of plastic. Burying the edges of the plastic will prevent the entry or exit of insects that might have been attracted to diseased wood and fungal mats.
- **Destroy diseased red oaks.** A knowledgeable arborist or forester should diagnose red oaks (i.e., Texas red, blackjack or shumard oak) that die rapidly (2-3 weeks) or in groups (2 or more trees over several years) for oak wilt. Trees suspected to have died recently from oak wilt should be destroyed by burning, burying or chipping. The heat of a fire destroys the fungus and the smoke emitted poses no threat to healthy trees. When planning to do any outdoor burning, be sure and check with local officials to see if an outdoor [burning ban](#) is in place for your county and take care not to burn on windy days with low humidity.
- **Avoid wounding oaks during vulnerable seasons.** The general recommendation is to avoid injuries to oaks from February through June. The best times for pruning of oaks are during the heat of summer (minimal spore production) or the cold of winter (minimal insect activity).
- **Paint all oak wounds including pruning cuts.** Throughout the year, immediately apply a thin coat of latex or pruning paint to all fresh wounds and other injuries that expose the inner bark or sapwood of oaks. This prevents contaminated sap beetles from infecting the wound with oak wilt spores.

Hunters, especially west of IH 35, should be especially careful in not transporting recently killed oak trees off of ranch land. The probability exists of moving red oaks that have died of oak wilt and having these trees produce disease spores while being stored. If in doubt, again always cover the wood with clear plastic and seal the edges with rocks or soil.

Oak firewood is an important commodity to Texans, whether it's used for firing up the barbecue pit or for warming up on a chilly hunter's morning. By selecting well-seasoned, disease-free firewood and by following other disease prevention guidelines, homeowners are taking the correct steps to prevent a new oak wilt disease outbreak in their neighborhood. Please visit www.texasoakwilt.org for more information on this devastating tree disease.

The Guadalupe County Master Gardener Association

Is a

VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

Guadalupe County Community Garden Appreciation Celebration



Guadalupe County Master Gardeners wanted an opportunity to go back and thank all those organizations and people that have worked so hard to help us. So on Friday, November 22nd we did just that.

During the last year with the help of so many organizations and people the Guadalupe County Community Garden has realized many of our dreams. With the installation of a pavilion that was donated and built by



Pulte Homes progress happened on a large scale at the Community Garden. The pavilion led to the installation of electricity with the help of Adult Probationers, Juvenile Probationers and Master Gardeners. Donations of time and discounts on materials were made by Gerald Electric, Tower Electric, and Eagle Rentals. Our greenhouse was completed via a donation. The pavilion needed benches and tables and those were built and donated. Looking to the future we now have a place to

hold outdoor horticulture classes in a shady spot with a plan for 2014 of placement of a rainwater harvesting system. A big thanks to all and please remember to pass the word that this garden is open to the public on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Visitors are welcome and encouraged. Photos by Bill Jones



GCCG - Updates from Ann Odvody

11/7 - Saturday, November 9 will be a GCCG workday. We have some cardboard to put down and mulch to cover it. Paths between the beds also need mulch. We also have three new beds to fill with soil. And weeds galore. Rakes and wheelbarrows would be appreciated. After the beds are filled with soil, we will install drip irrigation systems, time permitting. Starting time is 9:00 a.m. or whenever you can get there. I'll bring a dozen breakfast tacos, first come first serve. Bring your own coffee. I've asked the Commissioner to open the building for restroom availability. vr, Dale Odvody

11/12 - We all worked in the garden today harvesting and weeding until the cold front came through about 11 a.m. We sprayed the Bermuda grass in the potato bed with Round-Up and will plant it if we can get it all killed out. Hope to get the watermelon patch cleared (only two melons left) and the okra pulled up on Friday. We will have to see how everything comes through this cold snap. Today's harvest brought us to a total of 5,450 pounds 12 ounces. We will shift to winter hours this Friday and will begin at 9 a.m.

11/22 - We will NOT be working in the garden this morning starting at 9 a.m. It is cold out there and the wind is really blowing. We WILL be having the recognition ceremony in the county building starting at 11 a.m. to say thank you to the local businesses and folks who have helped us get as far as we have. Hope to see you there.

11/25 - Hey folks, the older I get, the more of a fair weather gardener I become. It is just too darn cold out there to muck around the mud planting plants and pulling up other plants and weeds. So here's what we are going to do. The Tuesday and Friday garden days are cancelled this week. Not much to harvest anyway. However, as the other shoe drops, we will try for a garden workday this Saturday right after Thanksgiving. We need to pull up all the tomato plants and the rest of the okra and green beans. That done, we need to plant five bunches of onions and at least four six-packs of vegetables. The low Saturday morning is supposed to be 48 degrees, so let's have a starting time of 10:00 a.m. to give it a chance to warm up a little. With enough help, we should be finished in a couple hours. So let's try for a good turnout. vr, Dale Odvody

George Ammermann Education Fund

At the October board meeting, the board of directors approved the expenditure of monies from the George Ammermann Education Fund to purchase the three children's gardening books that the Junior Master Gardener program recommended as the best books of 2013. We agreed to donate all three books to the Schertz Library, the Marion Library and Seguin Library. At the Schertz Library the books were accepted by the Children's Librarian, April Toman. At the Marion Library the books were accepted by Librarian, Susan Hale (on the far right) and her assistants. At the Seguin Library the books were presented to the Youth Services Librarian, Debra Lindenburg-Morrow (in the middle) by Master Gardeners Liz Romero and Peggy Jones. Photos provided by Bill & Peggy Jones



**REMEMBER TO TURN IN
YOUR HOURS!**

Preparing Your Spring Vegetable Garden

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners will conduct two simultaneous classes for the public on "Preparing Your Spring Vegetable Garden". In an unusual twist, the 3-hour class will be taught at both the Mary B. Erskine school in Seguin and the Guadalupe County Annex in Schertz at the same time – 9AM to Noon on Saturday, January 18, 2014. Please see the Spring Vegetable Garden flyer on page 14. Master Gardeners can help present the class by assisting with classroom set-up, registrations, and support during the classes. Master Gardeners who volunteer to help can attend the class for free when duties permit. Master Gardeners can also help publicize the classes by asking their friends and neighbors if they would like to attend. The flyer in this newsletter can be printed to post in public places or given to prospective attendees. The Seguin class will be presented by Clara Mae Marcotte and Jim Johnson while the Schertz class will be presented by Deedy Wright and Betty Hughes.

Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Gardeners interested in purchasing advance tickets should contact Bob Teweles at [210 289-9997](tel:210-289-9997) to arrange payment by mail. The Guadalupe County AgriLife Extension Office and others will have advance tickets for sale. If Master Gardeners would like to have tickets for resale to the public, please contact Bob Teweles. We are asking that advance ticket purchasers identify whether they will be attending the Seguin or Schertz class.

Preparing Your Spring Vegetable Garden

Saturday, January 18, 2014, 9AM – 12:00

Presented by the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners

Topics:

Vegetable Selection
Garden Soil Preparation
Seed Starting
Cold Weather Protection Methods
Vegetable Garden Maintenance



Where: TWO Locations at Once!!

Schertz – Guadalupe County Annex Courtroom, 1101 Elbel Road, Schertz, with Deedy Wright

Seguin – Mary B. Erskine School Cafeteria, 216 East College Street, Seguin, with Clara Mae Marcotte

Cost: Advance tickets \$15 per person, \$20 on day of event

For More Information call Bob at 210 289-9997

15 Dec Dues Deadline Quickly Approaching!

The good news is 105 Master Gardeners have met their 2014 Certification Requirements and of those 83 have paid their dues. Our sincerest thanks to you. The bad news is we still have 22 Master Gardeners who are eligible to but have not paid their dues and we have 39 Master Gardeners who have not reported sufficient hours to certify and pay their dues. Early dues payment and hours reporting are much appreciated by your Treasurer and Hours Coordinator as this helps speed up our year-end reconciliation and reporting requirements. We will continue collecting 2014 dues (\$20) at the 15 December Social for those Certified Master Gardeners who have met their recertification requirements, twelve (12) hours of volunteer service and six (6) hours of continuing education and who have reported those hours to the Hours Coordinator, Dale Odvody at odvodyd@swbell.net prior to the social. Please remember the Treasurer cannot accept your dues until you have submitted the minimum hours required for re-certification. According to our Policies and Procedures, members who do not report their hours and/or pay their dues will be dropped from the GCMG membership roles as of 31 Dec 2013. Please don't let this happen to you.

For **Class 24** students:

If you certified in December 2012, to recertify in 2014, you must complete twelve (12) hours of volunteer service and six (6) hours of continuing education and report those hours to the Hours Coordinator, Dale Odvody at odvodyd@swbell.net not later than 31 Dec 2013 and pay your \$20 dues.

If you certified in 2013, to recertify in 2014, you have met your volunteer and continuing hours requirement. You may pay your \$20 dues at the October meeting, but must pay them not later than 31 Dec 2013.

Cindy Waechter, Treasurer

GCMG Outreach

Virginia Biggs is GCMG's Outreach Chairman. If anyone knows of a GCMG that needs a meal, please let her know 830-560-1976.

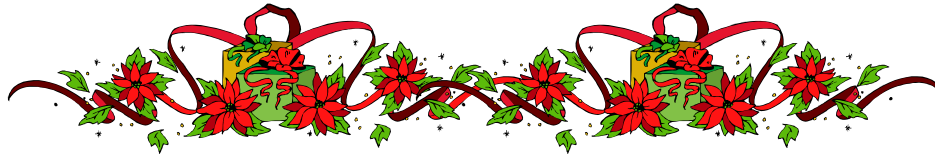
REMINDER

If anyone needs a card from the organization for an illness or loss of a family member, contact Pat Schultze Secretary, 830-556-6751 or e-mail clydepat6@aol.com.

KWED need volunteers

The KWED Lawn & Garden Show is on KWED 1580AM radio every Saturday beginning at 9:05am. The radio station is located at 905 East Court Street in Seguin. Master Gardeners, Master Gardener interns & students research a garden subject to talk about and go on live radio with by-your-side support from: Bob Grafe, program emcee, or Ryla Cottingham filling in for Bob Grafe, plus their frequent assistant and behind-the-scenes MG, Gene Griffin.

Volunteers always appreciated - Please contact Bob Grafe (alaskagrafe@yahoo.com)



HELPFUL GARDENING HINTS

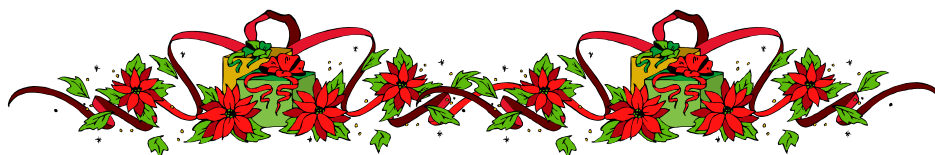
Preparing for winter, or inactive periods, is always an important aspect of being able to resume gardening without difficulty. Sometimes “an ounce of prevention” is really worth all they say it is. There are some very simple chores that can be accomplished quickly and easily to prevent problems later on. So, before becoming too familiar with that overstuffed recliner, here is a list of things to consider, and DO !!

- Rub linseed oil or paste wax into the handles of your gardening tools to preserve and protect them.
- Wash crusted soil from metal areas and rub with an oily rag or spray with WD40 to prevent rust.
- Sharpen cutting edges on hoes and shovels.
- Cover all outside faucets; drain all garden hoses.
- After your last spray, run some hot water and vinegar through your sprayer to clean away any chemical residue; store with the tank open.
- Drain gasoline from tanks of power engines to prevent clogged fuel lines during storage, or use one of the liquid fuel stabilizers. Stagnant gasoline will cause crusty varnish deposits.
- Remove the spark plug and squirt some WD40 in the cylinders of power engines, and then replace the plug.
- Store pesticides safely and protect from freezing temps. Put them away from sunlight and out of reach of children and pets. Powders should be placed in moisture proof containers. Make sure that all liquid containers are tightly closed. You may want to seal with tape.
- Take inventory of your gardening products to see what you will need next year. Safely discard any old products that are too old to be effective. Chemicals that are more than two years old are probably not good.
- Fertilizers should be protected from moisture during the winter months. Water-soluble fertilizers are especially susceptible to absorbing moisture. Place opened bags in a plastic trash bag, and place it in a hard container that can be tightly closed.
- It is very helpful to keep track of quantities of products used during a season. This will permit you to take advantage of off-season sales or bulk purchases, without having a lot of extras left over at the end of a season. Fresh chemicals are always better.

When you have completed all of these “Honey Do’s”, go ahead and settle into that recliner for a long, easy winter

~ ~ Knowing that when the great thaw arrives, you will be ready to do some serious gardening in 2014~ ~

By Ed Bradley



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Volunteer Opportunities

Every Monday the MG office/library is open from 9am-noon except for holidays. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Betty Hughes. 830-401-4066 or e-mail ehughes5@satx.rr.com.

Every Tuesday, Friday and 2nd Saturday are work days at the Guadalupe County Community Garden. **Start hour is 9 AM** Check with Ann Odvody (odvodyd@swbell.net 830-914-3593) for access at other times.

Every Friday 9 am is a workday in the gardens at the Big Red Barn. Check with Gretchen Ricker (gricker@satxrr.com 830-305-1664) for details.

KWED Master Gardener Lawn and Garden Show always looking for volunteers.

Christmas Social, December 15th - 5 pm, Big Red Barn, see page 4.

Volunteers are needed to set up the chairs before each monthly meeting. Contact Treva Hicks at hicks1t@lycos.com

If you still need volunteer hours to renew your membership, please call Carol Calentine 830 303-3889 or email ccalentine@ag.tamu.edu



AND WE NEED A NEW VOLUNTER CHAIRPERSON
Carol is willing to assist if needed

San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo

Many helpers are needed, either on set-up and tear down, bringing plants in and planting, driving the van, etc. Construction set up will start on January 21. Dale Odvody will be sending more information to the members by email. If members are planning to work, they will need to sign a "San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc., Release and Indemnification Agreement", and have it notarized. Kim Luensmann at the AgriLife Extension Service is a notary.



EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

San Antonio Botanical Garden Seminars

Natural Ornaments - Friday, December 6 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Not inspired for the holiday season and weary of the same artificial holiday ornaments? Come learn the basics of turning natural elements found in the garden into lovely holiday decorations. Ideas will include the use of the golden butterfly vine, magnolia pods, sweet gum, seeds, and more. Please bring a grape vine wreath, glass ornament, or other item; the Garden will provide the natural materials. Instructor: Stephanie Jones. Class Fee: \$20 (\$18 members).

5 Ways to Remove a Stubborn Lawn - Saturday, December 7 from 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Learn grass removal techniques, like solarization and sheet composting, then explore your options for plant selections that are gorgeous and save water! Sponsored by SAWS. Fee: \$10 (\$9 members).

Grocery Store Botany - Saturday, December 7 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. Ever wonder about the life of a plant? Or what really is that vegetable or fruit you find in the grocery? What we call fruit, might not really be that, and what we call vegetables are often something altogether else to a plant. This class will explore the various parts of a plant, and their role in its life, from the structure of flowers to the formation of fruit and the critical role of roots, leaves, and even bark in their well being. Instructor: Mary Irish. Fee: \$30 (\$27 members).

Rain Barrel Workshop - Saturday, December 14 from 9 am – noon. Rainwater harvesting is an innovative approach to capturing free water. Join County Extension Agent Bryan Davis, and Master Gardeners Lou Kellogg and Mary Fernandez to learn about rainwater collection for the home and landscape and make your own rain barrel to take home. Limit 30. Please RSVP by Wednesday, Dec 11, 2013. Fee: \$65.

To register online, please visit www.sabot.org. For fees and more information, please contact 210.207.3270 or programregistrar@sabot.org.

Floral Arrangements for the Holiday Season Dec 3 (Tue) 6:30-8:30pm

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Horticulturist David Rodriguez presents local florist Jim Bliet at Suite 208 of the AgriLife Extension office for Bexar County, Conroy Square office complex, 3355 Cherry Ridge Drive. Learn basic floral arrangement tips for the winter holiday season and participate in fun hands-on activities in creating your very own take home decoration. 2 CEUs. Cost is \$45; class is limited to 20 individuals.

Register online at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/BackyardBasics>. For more information call Angel Torres at [210 467-6575](tel:2104676575).

Take the Earth-Kind challenge at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/> and learn how Earth-Kind your landscape is.

Looking for local gardening and landscaping information?

Go to: <http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/programs/earth-kind-horticulture/>

Tomato Roundup:

All you ever wanted to know about growing tomatoes featuring Bill Adams and Tom LeRoy, authors of "Common Sense Vegetable Gardening in the South" and "The Tomato Lover's Handbook".

**Tarrant County Master Gardener Regional Conference
Resource Connection of Tarrant County
Building 2300, 2300 Circle Drive, Fort Worth
Saturday, February 8, 2014 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Open to the Public
\$45 per person, includes box lunch and snacks**

If you have questions, contact **Billie Hammack** at 817-884-1296 or blhammack@ag.tamu.edu.
Master Gardeners earn 6 CEUs.

SAVE THE DATE!

TEXAS MASTER NATURALISTS *GUADALUPE COUNTY CHAPTER FORMING NOW!*

The Texas Master Naturalist program is a statewide organization sponsored jointly by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. The mission of the Texas Master Naturalist program is to develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities. Detailed information about the Texas Master Naturalist program can be found on their website: <http://txmn.org>

A new chapter is forming in Guadalupe County. The Master Naturalist training session for the Guadalupe Chapter will begin on January 7, 2014 and continue every other Tuesday evening, meeting at various sites from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., through May 2014. Five field trips are scheduled on various Saturdays. Attendance at four of the field trips is required. Volunteer opportunities will be available during the course to allow students to complete a portion of the first year's required 40 hours of volunteer service. Registration fees, which cover the cost of handouts, materials, mileage for speakers, space rental, security checks, and graduation, are \$160. The deadline for sending an application is December 13, 2013. Your registration fee, either a check or money order, must be included with the application form (refundable until the first class).

Please check our website where you can download the application: <http://txmn.org/guadalupe/>

Also, feel free to contact Julia Osgood for more information at jkoztz@gmail.com

Natives to Fly For:
Attracting Butterflies, Hummingbirds, and Song Birds to Your Yard

February 22, 2014, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Schertz Civic Center, 1400 Schertz Parkway

Workshop Leaders: Butterflies - Craig Hensley, Texas Parks & Wildlife; Hummingbirds - Mark Klym, Texas Parks & Wildlife; Song Birds - Ann Mallard, Audubon Society; Wildscaping Your Yard - Kelly Conrad Simon, Texas Parks & Wildlife.

Vendors: Maldonado Nursery, Seguin; Schulz Nursery, Marion; Wild Birds Unlimited; The Twig Bookstore.

Tickets \$40 includes all-day workshop and box lunch. To purchase call 830-303-0333. Limited number available, so buy early!

Presented by the Guadalupe County Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas

Recipe - Sopapilla Cheesecake

2 cans Pillsbury original crescent rolls
3 8 oz original cream cheese
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
1 stick butter

Topping
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat 13 x 9 baking pan with Pam. Beat together cream cheese, sugar and vanilla. Press one can of crescent roll into pan. Next spread cream cheese mixture onto crescent roll. Add second crescent roll on top of cream cheese mixture. Pour melted butter all over top of second crescent roll. Sprinkle sugar and cinnamon on top of butter. Bake 35 to 40 minutes at 350 degrees until golden brown. Do not overbake.

Note: Seal off any perforations in crescent rolls. I use one can of big and one can of regular crescent rolls with the big at the bottom for more crust. Do not substitute for the butter. I use Land O Lake salted butter.


This recipe was submitted by Cynthia Lyssy, Class 25, but in Class 20 Esther Pinter brought a very similar dessert to our class and called it Mexican Cheesecake. Either way, it's delicious.

Subscribe or Renew and Add to the GCMG Treasury

To all of you Texas Gardener subscribers (or those of you thinking about subscribing), Texas Gardener has invited the GCMG to join their Fundraising Program. For each subscription that goes through us (and yes that includes renewals), the GCMG will be able to keep 25% in its treasury. Instead of sending your renewal notice and payment to Texas Gardener, make your check payable to GCMG and send it with your mailing address to 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx 78155. Give us your phone number too in case we have any questions and mark the envelope Texas Gardener subscription. The GCMG will send the subscription on to the Texas Gardener for processing. Rates are as follows: 1 year - \$24.95; 2 year - \$42.95; 3 year - \$53.95. Add an extra \$8 on the one year renewal for the Annual Calendar. You don't have to be a Master Gardener to participate, so if you have friends that subscribe, tell them about the Fundraising Program. Any questions? Email jbruno@gvec.net

December 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Master Gardener Office/Library 8:30—Noon	3 GCCG Workday 9 AM ● NEW MOON	4	5	6 GCCG Workday 9 AM Red Barn 9 am	7 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9 a.m.
8	9 Master Gardener Office/Library 8:30—Noon	10 GCCG Workday	11	12	13 GCCG Workday Red Barn	14 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:a.m
15 GCMG Christmas Social 5 PM	16 Master Gardener Office/Library	17 GCCG Workday ○ FULL MOON	18	19	20 GCCG Workday Red Barn	21 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9 a.m.
22	23	24	25 	26 <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	27	28 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:a.m.
29	30 Master Gardener Office/Library	31	GCCG - Guadalupe County Community Garden			



Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, Inc.
210 East Live Oak St.
Seguin, TX 78155

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners <http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org> 830-379-1972 Ext 210
Guadalupe County Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension <http://www.guadalupe-tx.tamu.edu/> 830-379-1972
Texas Master Gardeners <http://www.txmg.org>

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Carol Calentine	Volunteer Chairman
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Christmas Social

Sunday, December 15th, 2013 - 5:00 P.M.
Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center, Big Red Barn
390 Cordova Road, Seguin

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