



The Scion

Newsletter



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Published by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Bexar County Master Gardener Volunteers & Our Partners David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent – Bexar County Horticulture & Master Gardener Coordinator



President's Message



The Fall San Antonio Home & Garden Show concluded September 20th and the Master Gardener Booth was a great success! Thanks to [Anna Vogler](#), Water Conservation Manager, for creating a beautiful booth full of informational hand-outs and exhibits that attracted steady crowds and all the volunteers who manned the booth throughout the weekend.

The Master Gardeners volunteering were: myself, [Anna Vogler](#), [John Vann](#), [Pat Brown](#), [Janice Wilson](#), [Jane Whitaker](#), [Betty Hyman](#), [Lyn Welles](#), [Ruben Lozano](#), [Juan Santos](#), [Donna Armstrong](#), [Sue Buck](#), [Joyce Felter](#), [Jimal Hales](#), [Ann Marie Caldwell](#), [Donna Irwin](#), [Mary Mangiapane](#), [Stanton O'Neal](#), and [Jim Strong](#).

Master Gardeners presented seven of the twelve presentations on the Home & Garden Stage. Special thanks to the presenters: [John Vann](#), [Judy Carmona](#), [Randy Baker](#), [Sir Oliver Smith](#), [Albert Motz](#), and [Jamie Daily](#).

It was fun to see some new Master Gardener volunteers out supporting our educational efforts. I encourage **all** Master Gardeners to try and volunteer – I think you'll enjoy it!

Craig Hensley, Texas Parks and Wildlife, was the Guest Speaker at our Monthly Meeting on September 17th. He gave a masterful

presentation, which was enjoyed by a large crowd, on the history of the Milkweed and the decline of butterflies. (Note: Our Monthly Meetings are always on the third Thursday of the month with a guest speaker, door prizes and fellowship – come join us!)

Take care, get the fall garden in and use that sunscreen. I look forward to seeing you at a Master Gardener event.

- Jack Downey, BCMG President



**And a reminder...
Daylight Savings Ends November 1!**

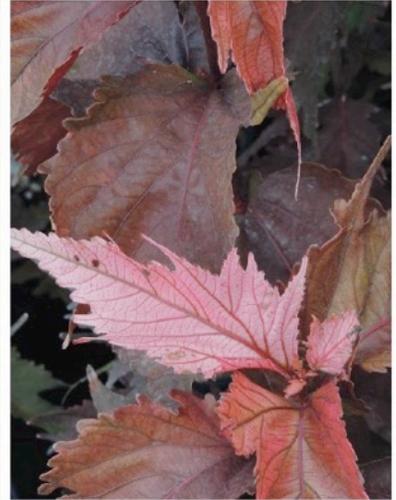


BOOTANICA Plant sale

Saturday **October. 24**

10 am - 2 pm

Free admission to sale with paid admission to Garden.



GALLON POTS \$8, LARGER POTS \$15

QUANTITY DISCOUNTS

5 plants or more 10% off | 10 plants or more 20% off | 25 plants or more 30% off
plus member's discount

Choose from thousands of plants and over 200 varieties.

This sale's featured native, drought-tolerant plants:

ARROYO SWEETWOOD (*Myrospermum sousanum*):

Fast growing tree with fragrant, white flowers in spring.

PYRAMID BUSH (*MELOCHIA TOMENTOSA*):

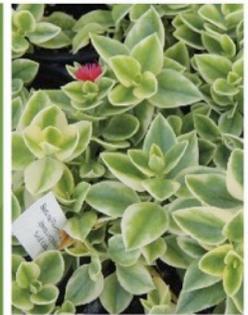
Short to medium sized perennial that blooms spring through fall with short spikes of violet to pink flowers.

PINK GLOBEMALLOW:

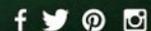
Tall, erect stems to 5'. Heaviest bloom in spring but intermittent through summer with open spikes of pink flowers

GREY GLOBEMALLOW:

Multi-stemmed perennial with bright, grey foliage and small, apricot flowers from spring to fall.



SAN ANTONIO
BOTANICAL GARDEN



(210) 207 3250 | sabot.org
555 Funston Place | San Antonio, TX 78209



October Gardening Chores

Tom Harris, Ph. D., BCMG Class 13

“The Hill Country Gardener”

www.thehillcountrygardener.com



Next to April, October is about the best time to garden around here. The weather cools down a little and there is a definite feel of “fall in the air.”

Birds and Wildlife

- Continue to provide sugar-water for hummingbirds—4 parts water to 1 part sugar by volume.

Color

- You can plant roses this month through the winter. Use lots of compost and don't plant them any deeper than they were in the pot.
- This is the ideal time to plant cool weather loving annual flowers, including petunias, dianthus, ornamental cabbage and kale, phlox, and Shasta daisies.
- Put your spring-blooming bulbs in the ground in October and November if they got 6 weeks of chill in the fridge.
- Divide iris, phlox, daylilies, Shasta daisies, and other perennials. Give half to the neighbors and replant the other half.
- Plant perennials now through December. Move any misplaced perennials that have already bloomed.
- Refrigerate tulip bulbs for 6-8 weeks in a paper bag prior to planting in December. Do not put them in the freezer.
- This is a good time to plant container-grown roses. Add lots of compost to the soil for the best bloom next spring.

Fruits and Nuts

- Continue watering pecan trees weekly. Harvest pecans as they fall to the ground.

Ornamentals

- Dig and store caladium bulbs for winter.
- This is a great time to plant perennials--columbine, old-fashioned roses, perennial asters, blue plumbago, rock rose, Shasta daisies, daylilies and irises.
- Reduce house plant fertilization by one-half during the late fall and winter.
- Fall blooming annuals and perennials can be kept in flower longer and will look better if their maturing flowers are removed.
- This is a great time to plant some ornamental grasses that do so well here.

Shade Trees and Shrubs

- This is the absolute best time to plant trees.
- Do not fertilize trees and shrubs now.
- Consider planting some other types of trees this fall—Montezuma cypress, Arizona cypress, cedar elm, Chinese pistache, Lacey oak, Monterrey oak, Mexican sycamore, and bur oak.

Turf Grass

- Apply “winterizer” fertilizer in a 3-1-2 or 8-1-2 (15-20 percent nitrogen) ratio this month.

October Gardening Chores, Cont.

- If you like to mow grass all year long, now is the time to plant rye grass.

Turf Grass

- Apply “winterizer” fertilizer in a 3-1-2 or 8-1-2 (15-20 percent nitrogen) ratio this month.
- If you like to mow grass all year long, now is the time to plant rye grass.

Vegetables

- Plant cole crops such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, kohlrabi, and Brussels sprouts.
- Time to plant cool season vegetable crops: beets, Chinese cabbage, carrots, collards, lettuce, mustard, parsley, garden peas, spinach,

radishes and turnips.

- Plant garlic cloves and 1015 onion seeds (on 10-15).
- Plant fall herbs.

Questions?

Write: gardener@gvtc.com

To get a complete list, go to: www.thehillcountrygardener.com and click on “Publications.”



**Bexar County
Master
Gardener
Scarecrow**

**“Praying for
Rain”**

**See it at the
San Antonio
Botanical
Garden!**



Master Gardener of the Month

By: Ann Marie Caldwell, JMG 1

Master Gardeners who have volunteered to work at the rodeo, bought Master Gardener paraphernalia, gone in search of a name badge or submitted receipts for reimbursement are all familiar with **Carol Law**, our **Master Gardener for the month of October**. Carol is employed by the Bexar County Master Gardeners as a bookkeeper, a position she has held for that past 7 or 8 years. Her big non-paid responsibility is organizing the transportation for the rodeo. Master Gardener rodeo volunteers who have enjoyed the ease of being transported by van to their volunteer station at the rodeo can thank Carol for this perk. Carol claims that she really has very little to do in this endeavor, thanks to the willing volunteers who agree year after year to drive the van, but, without Carol's time and expertise in organizing the drivers, it would not be the well-run operation that it is. Besides the ten hours she works at the Bexar County Master Gardener Office from 9 to 2 on Wednesdays and Fridays, Carol also serves as a docent at the McNay Art Museum on Tuesdays and delivers Meals on Wheels on Mondays.



In 2003, when Carol ended her career in educating teenagers about social studies, she turned her attention to educating herself on the various aspects of gardening and the natural world. The first thing she did was to enroll in

the Master Gardener Class 39 and later in classes to become a Master Naturalist. She has also taken classes to become a Specialist in Composting, Entomology and Rainwater Harvesting. The information she acquired in those areas she then shared with others through presentations and volunteer activities helping Molly Keck with summer camps for young people interested in learning about insects. Teachers never stop teaching or learning. When they retire they simply direct their drive to learn and to educate to other areas.

When asked why she chose to direct her quest for knowledge in the direction of gardening, Carol couldn't come up with any reason other than her love of flowers, especially native flowers. This love led Carol to also take classes to become certified as a Specialist in native plants. Carol says that this certification involves a very rigorous curriculum, requiring her to identify the many native and invasive plants indigenous to Texas. Carol is a member of the Native Plant Society and works with this organization to spread interest among gardeners in introducing native plants into their gardens.

When asked about her own garden, Carol heaved a big sigh. With her weekday afternoons taken up with her service to the Master Gardener organization and with volunteering at the McNay and with Meals on Wheels, Carol confesses to not having much time to work in her own garden. Although she has planted mostly native plants that require little care, she finds that they don't always survive where she first planted them because of the changing light conditions: trees die giving shade-lovers too much light and other trees mature giving too much shade to sun-lovers. Gardens are fluid and gardeners must be too,

always adapting what they know to the changing conditions in light, soil and climate. That is the reason why gardeners must never be satisfied with the knowledge they have. Like most teachers, Carol herself is a life-long learner and that is what she says all gardeners must be. She advises Master Gardeners, both the new and old, to read books about plants, especially about the species that are adapted to life in south Texas, and to find out about their light, soil, and water requirements before introducing them into the garden. A good place to start is with books that publish lists which classify plants by their required habitats. Of course, joining the Master Gardener program is a good place to begin, but it is only a beginning. After certification, Carol's advice to the Master Gardeners is to read, read and read—advice given from the mouth of the life-long learner and teacher that Carol herself is!





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Hello fellow Master Gardeners. I hope you have all been able to stay cool through these past summer months. In this article, I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make the BCMG booth at the San Antonio Fall Home & Garden Show a colossal success. We manned the booth over three busy days and filled the Garden Stage schedule with Master Gardeners speaking on such topics as:

“The Wonderful World of Drip Irrigation and Water Conservation” by Jack Downey and John Vann

“The Mystery of the Monarch Butterfly” by Jamie Daily

“Native and Adaptive Plants for Beauty” by Sir Oliver Smith

“Mulch and Soil Enhancement” by Owen Keiser

“Irrigation Troubleshooting” by Albert Motz

“An Introduction to Composting” by Judy Carmona

All of these speakers did great presentations that were both informative and very appreciated by the show attendees. The BCMG booth volunteers stayed busy answering hundreds of gardening questions and, for the first time, giving short demonstrations at the booth. Janice Wilson showed the proper techniques in planting containers, for both houseplants and bulbs. Jack Downey and John Vann gave hands-on instruction on the ease of drip irrigation and the importance of water conservation. Joyce Felter demonstrated how to divide bulbs and then she thrilled the audience by giving away the divided bulbs. The Master Gardener mission was certainly enhanced by these very useful tutorials.

These H&G shows are a great way for us to reach out to the general public and educate using Earth-Kind Principles and all the resources available to us through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Supporting a show booth is a fun way for us to work with the public and earn our volunteer hours. Don't worry, not everyone needs to do a demonstration or give a presentation.

I would like to once again thank all the volunteers for their help with the Fall H&G show. There are more events coming up over the next year. Please feel free to contact me directly if you are interested in learning more.

Conservationally yours,

Anna Vogler - Water Conservation Coordinator

BCMG General Meeting and Educational Program

Thursday, October 15

1 - 3 pm

2CEUs

3355 Cherry Ridge Dr., Ste. 208

San Antonio, TX 78230



TOPIC:

Water Lilies & Water Features

An informative presentation on the different types of water lilies, their care, and the management of water features.

SPEAKER:

*Shane Stefek
Owner of Water Garden Gems*



MASTER GARDNER GARDEN STARS

Awards and Achievements of Our Fellow Master Gardeners



Congratulations to the following members who have achieved their Bexar County Master Gardener certification for August & September!

They have finished and submitted at least 30 volunteer hours and 6 CEU credits by September 21 to earn the Grandma Yellow Rose pin.

The pins are available at the monthly Bexar County Master Gardener meetings, or can be picked up at the BCMG office. For other delivery options or questions, please contact Susan Noonan: susan.noonan@gmail.com



Susan Holley

Rebecca Andujar

Bill Manning

Suzan Bartholomew

Ann Caldwell

Roberto Ambriz

Liz Davenport

Catherine Rose

Robert Cochran

Lyle Elkins

Ann Goode



Muriel Lanford

Barbara Wardwell

Karen Dawson

Carol Law

Dewayne Nelson

Carolyn Riley

Margie Larkin

Carolyn King

LaVunn Mims

Jan Tauer



MASTER GARDNER GARDEN STARS

Awards and Achievements of Our Fellow Master Gardeners



Let's recognize and applaud those Master Gardeners who have volunteered and submitted **over 125 hours so far this year**. You will recognize these members as the backbone to our Bexar County Master Gardener program!

REMINDER: Keep submitting your hours regularly to avoid the end-of-the-year rush.

125 +

Ted Ritchie

Barbara Lutz

Lou Kellog

Kimber Briggs

Mary Duffy

Pete Mendiola

Jack Downey

Shanna Ciano

Numa Laiche

Stephanie Jones

Ron Csehil

Henry Brune

Ann Marie Pease

Edgar Bradley



125 +

Judie Lopez

Sandy Justice

Karin Foote

Sir Oliver Smith

Anna Volger

Lisa Nixon

Andrew Waring

Jamie Daily

Sylvie Rodgers

Dewayne Nelson

Monika Menczer

Lorene Adkins

Donna Armstrong

Fruit & Nut Resources

4th Annual Texas Fruit Conference Oct. 5th & 6th, 2015



Make plans to attend the 4th annual Texas Fruit Conference, October 5th & 6th, College Station Hilton & Conference Center, College Station, Texas

What is it? The Texas Fruit Conference is an educational program by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, aimed at bringing together commercial and recreational fruit growers from around the state to hear and discuss the challenges and successes of fruit growing in Texas.

New Faces: This year we are partnering with Southern Fruit Fellowship, a chapter of North American Fruit Explorers (NAFEX) with members in several Gulf Coast States. SFF is holding their annual meeting at the Texas Fruit Fellowship and sponsoring two lectures on Tuesday (see details in the program schedule).

This program offers valuable information updates to seasoned fruit growers while also providing persons with no experiences in orchard management a place to learn how to get started.

This 4th Fall Fruit Conference in Aggieland features exciting topics: –

- Opening session, Monday afternoon—Peach tree pruning, grafting, home orchard insecticides, more
- Networking reception, Monday evening, College Station Hilton & Conference Center
- Tuesday session—strawberries, kiwifruit, walnuts, honeybees, brown rot management, organic fruit, more.
- Pomegranate fruit variety tasting! Sample some of the newest pomegranate varieties in Texas trials.

Featured Speakers:

- Dr. George Ray McEachern will discuss the fruit orchard's foundation—site, soil and water
- Dr. David Byrne—protected culture of fruits in China
- Russ Studebaker, Studebaker Farms-Fredericksburg—Experiences in fruit growing and marketing
- Dr. David Creech, Stephen F. Austin University—Kiwifruit in Texas
- William D. 'Bill' Adams—Jujube

Southern Fruit Fellowship Lectures:

Dr. Ethan Natelson—Dwarf Severinia citrus rootstock, Mr. Randell Verhoek, Sustainable Beekeeping

AgriLife Extension Speakers:

Larry Stein, Jim Kamas, Monte Nesbitt, David Appel, Sheila McBride, Bill Ree, Andrew Labay

When is it? Registration begins 12 Noon, Monday, October 5th, presentations 1:00 pm-5:00 pm; Tuesday October 6th; presentations 8:30 am-5:00 pm.

Where is it? Hilton College Station & Conference Center, **801 University Drive East, College Station, Texas 77840**, (979) 693-7500; <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/hilton-college-station-and-conference-center-CLLCHHF/index.html>

Guest Room Rates: \$149; **Deadline to reserve rooms –September 13th**

Hotel Group Code: Hort15

How do I register? Online Registration is at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/Horticulture>

Cost \$80.00/person online before 9/25/14. On-site registration \$90.00

Or Combine registration with Texas High Tunnel Conference (\$55/person), Wednesday October 7th, for \$125/person for both events

For more information? Contact Monte Nesbitt (979) 862-1218, MLNesbitt@tamu.edu

Horticulture/Forest Science Building | 2134 TAMU | College Station, TX 77843 | [Map](#)
Phone: (979) 845-5341 | Fax: (979) 845-0627 |



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From Our Members... a peek behind the garden gate!

Some beautiful butterfly photos taken by Master Gardener Candy Roach. Most of her flowers are grown from seeds that she has harvested every year for the past 20 years! Candy and her husband moved to San Antonio last June and she says that one of the first things they did was to put in some flowerbeds to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.



Feeding on Zinnias: Top, Eastern Swallowtail Butterfly; Bottom, left, Gulf Fritillary. Bottom right, Skipper Butterfly feeding on Marguerite marigold.



TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



FALL OPEN HOUSE!



Insect & Horticulture Event

Saturday, October 3rd, 2015

10am-12pm

Bexar County Extension Office

3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208

\$2 per child (16 and under) payable at the door



Enjoy a morning of learning, experimenting, crafting, and having fun! Pay at the door. Come anytime between 10am and 12pm. Youth activity, parents welcome to join in! Only kids pay. We do not accept credit cards - cash or check only.

Touch Bugs
Perform Experiments
Crafts & Games
Pot plants
Learn and Have Fun!



For more information,
contact:
Molly Keck
mekeck@ag.tamu.edu
210-467-6575

Educational programs of Texas A&M AgriLife are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.

AgriLife Advice

Master Gardeners from throughout Texas get 'Superstar' training

by Paul Schattenberg

September 23, 2015

SAN ANTONIO – Forty-two Master Gardeners representing more than 20 Texas counties recently attended the three-day State Master Gardener Texas Superstar Training held at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service facility in San Antonio.

It was the first-ever statewide Master Gardener specialist training focused on the Texas Superstar program, said David Rodriguez, AgriLife Extension agent for horticulture in Bexar County who coordinated the training.

The Texas Superstar program is a collaboration of AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and the state's commercial nursery industry, Rodriguez explained.

"This training was offered to and provided for Master Gardener volunteer horticulture program volunteers throughout Texas," Rodriguez said. "It was designed to help provide them with knowledge and skills required to effectively support our statewide horticulture efforts."

Instruction was provided by experts from AgriLife Extension and AgriLife Research, both agencies of the Texas A&M University System, along with experts on water conservation and the commercial nursery industry.

"To get the Texas Superstar designation, plants and trees undergo several years of extensive field trials and must be proven to be both beautiful and Texas-tough," Rodriguez explained.



Master Gardeners from 20 counties throughout Texas came to San Antonio recently to participate in the first-ever statewide Texas Superstar specialist training. The three-day training was provided by Texas A&M AgriLife agencies in collaboration with the green industry and others. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Paul Schattenberg)

For the program, a variety of Texas Superstar program "classics" were set out for viewing, including fire bush, plumbago, John Fanick phlox, New Gold lantana, Pride of Barbados and hibiscus, along with Green Magic broccoli. Newer offerings included mandarin and satsuma citrus plants crossed with a more cold-hardy species for better additional performance in far North Texas.

"This is one of the most interesting and best presented Master Gardener programs I've ever been to," said Janet Schaffer, a nine-year Master Gardener from McLennan County. "We've heard from some of the most knowledgeable speakers on the Texas Superstar Program and have gotten a lot of useful information."

Schaffer, who is also director of the Carleen Bright Arboretum in Woodway, southwest of Waco, said she will apply the information she learned at the training to select new plant materials to expand the current Texas Superstar bed at the arboretum.

"We also do Master Gardener trainings of our own at the arboretum, so I'll be able to pass along what I've learned here to other Master Gardeners, who will pass it along others interested in gardening and landscaping," she said.

Among the first day's presenters were Dr. Brent Pemberton, AgriLife Research horticulturist at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Overton and chair of the Texas Superstar Executive Board, Rodriguez and retired AgriLife Extension horticulturist Dr. Jerry Parsons. Other presenters included Mark Peterson, conservation project

AgriLife Advice, Cont.

coordinator for the San Antonio Water System, and Mark Fanick of Fanick's Garden Center.

"This is a unique opportunity for Master Gardeners from throughout the state to get advanced training on the amount of research and testing that goes into Texas Superstar selections," Pemberton said. "We have multiple trial sites around the state where we look for plants that perform well and have unique features or qualities we feel will make them desirable to the consumer and successful in Texas landscapes."

"The Texas Superstar program actually began in San Antonio 38 years ago with the study of vegetables, then later incorporated ornamental plants and fruit trees," explained Parsons, who has been involved with the program since its inception.

Parsons, who presented on the colorization of the Texas bluebonnet and on Texas Superstar vegetables, annuals and trees, said one of the best-known Texas Superstar vegetables is the 'rodeo' tomato, which is selected annually for sale during the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo.

The second day's presentations addressed Texas Superstar fruit plants for the landscape and patio, finding Texas Superstar plants, Superstar perennials, roses and water lilies, along with landscape considerations. Presenters included Dr. Larry Stein, AgriLife Extension horticulturist, Uvalde; Greg Grant, Stephen F. Austin State University gardens outreach, Nacogdoches; and Shane Stefek, president, Water Garden Gems, Marion.

Stein presented on Texas Superstar citrus, including the new Orange Frost and Arctic Frost varieties and the Natchez blackberry.

"Orange Frost and Arctic Frost are hardy satsuma hybrids," he explained. "Orange Frost was the result of crossbreeding a tangerine changsha seed with a mandarin seedling. The Natchez blackberry produces a large, sweet fruit and, in fact, produces so much it needs to be thinned out from time to time. We're also looking into varieties of pomegranates and pears to see if they too might be suitable for future designation as Texas Superstars."

On the final day of training, attendees were given a tour of the San Antonio Botanical Garden, conducted by Rodriguez and Bexar County Master Gardener Pete Mendiola. Attendees walked the garden grounds, viewed established Texas Superstar plants and toured the Children's Vegetable Garden — a collaborative youth gardening program of the botanical garden and AgriLife Extension.

"I have a half-acre yard and an additional 1½-acre property across the street from it," said Duane Robinson, a six-year Master Gardener from Walker County while on the tour. "With what I've learned in this training, I'll be able to make better decisions about the plants and trees I'll use for my landscaping. Also, as a Master Gardener, I'm involved in a lot of plant sales for fundraising and this will help me decide what plants would be best to offer for my area."

For more information about the Texas Superstar program, go to <http://texassuperstar.com/>.



As part of their training, Master Gardeners toured the San Antonio Botanical Gardens to get a first-hand look at plants that have received the Texas Superstar designation. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Paul Schattenberg)



Bexar County Master Gardener Pete Mendiola shows other Master Gardeners plants with the Texas Superstar designation at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Paul Schattenberg)

Master Gardener Specialist – Rainwater Harvesting Training
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
1600 Smith Rd. Austin, TX 78721
October 20, 21, 22, 2015

Drought and landscape water plans have created a new interest in rainwater harvesting for irrigation and other uses. Water conservation plans by water utilities in large urban areas provide an opportunity to educate homeowners how to irrigate with harvested rainwater. Drought in rural areas gives us an opportunity to educate landowner how to use harvested rainwater to meet the water needs for livestock, wildlife, gardens, firefighting and greenhouses. In areas of natural low precipitation, rainwater harvesting can make the difference between having a vegetable garden or shade tree.

Master Gardeners have a tremendous opportunity through all their networks to provide home and landowners with unbiased information they can understand and use immediately to conserve potable water and irrigate with rainwater to maintain a beautiful landscape, grow vegetables, keep a shade tree alive, reduce demand on water treatment plants, prevent runoff and erosion and slowly apply the rainwater to the ground.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will train you to share this information with other Master Gardeners and home and landowners through presentations and demonstrations. The training will teach you about rainwater harvesting from 55 gallon rain barrels up to large collection systems, explain how to hold rain barrel classes in your county, work with water conservation, groundwater conservation districts, stormwater departments, and other groups in your county and provide the support you need to teach others.

Master Gardener Specialists – Rainwater Harvesting will volunteer 20 hours above their current volunteer obligation, train Master Gardeners in their county, present the information to at least 3 other groups and set up a demonstration in their county.

Registration

Only 30 participant spots are available for this training. Registration is first come/first served basis.

Submit your registration forms as soon as possible at <http://dallas.tamu.edu>

Payment and forms must be in our office by October 12, 2015. No refunds will be given October 16, 2015.

Please let us know right away by e-mail or phone if you are attending.

Tuition \$250.00

Registration fee of \$250.00 per person that includes:

- Master Gardener Specialist – Rainwater Harvesting Manual
- Power Points, evaluations, and report form for public presentations
- Three lunches. Please let us know about any special dietary needs
- Snacks and drinks will also be provided each day
- A 55 gallon rain barrel to take home

Travel

Participants will need to provide their own travel and hotel arrangements. If you are looking to car pool or for a roommate, let us know. Dress appropriately for outdoor activities. A listing of surrounding hotels will be provided with receipt of the registration form.



BUG BANQUET



Enjoy an evening of entomophagy prepared by expert chef's and Bexar County 4-H Food Challenge Teams. Dine under the stars at Clearwater Ranch and learn how raising insects is a sustainable form of agriculture and a surprisingly enjoyable culinary experience.

Delight in an expertly prepared four course meal made with delectable insects and paired with an appropriate cocktail, beer or wine. Food prepared with insects can be pushed to the side for those not so inclined to partake.



Cost: \$35 per person or \$50 per couple

Event Date: Friday, November 6th

Event Time: 7-9pm (cocktails and hors d'oeuvres 7-7:30pm)

Event Location: 24510 Clearwater Run, SATX 78255

Register at: agriliferegister.tamu.edu

Hosted by:

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.



Announcements!



11th Anniversary Hoot & Harvest Festival

WHEN: Sat., Oct. 17, 9 am – 4 pm

WHERE: Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

INFO: Volunteers Needed – 1st shift 8 am – 12 pm and 2nd shift 11:30 am – 4 pm to manage a kid's activity booth and to talk to the kids and adults about pollinators. You do not need to be a pollinator expert, but we need assistants to help kids with the coloring book. Email [Ruby Zavala](mailto:Ruby.Zavala@sabot.org) for info.

Volunteers Needed for Botanica

WHEN: Sat., Oct. 24, 8 am – 4 pm

WHERE: San Antonio Botanical Garden

INFO: Bexar County Youth Gardens will be hosting this annual event that celebrates Halloween in a fun atmosphere suitable for even the smallest kiddos: Terrarium Necklace, Veggie Game, Fruit Veggies Bingo and more... Special volunteers are needed to play a Fortune Teller for the kids and to lead the kids in dancing to various pop songs. Email [Ruby Zavala](mailto:Ruby.Zavala@sabot.org) to confirm the activity you want to help with.

Wine Down at the Garden

WHEN: Sat., Oct. 10, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

WHERE: San Antonio Botanical Garden

Presented by Total Wine & More, *Wine Down at the Garden* features South American wine tastings complemented by savory bites from some of your favorite restaurants. Purchase your ticket online: <http://www.sabot.org/events-listing/> \$75 Gen. Admission; wine, food tastings, souvenir wine glass, music, shuttle parking. \$125 VIP; additional wine & food tastings, gift bag, private seating, on-site parking. *Adults 21 and over only.

Bexar Roots Semi-Annual Native Plant Sale

WHEN: Sat., Oct. 10, 2015, 9 am – Noon

WHERE: Phil Hardberger Park East

Find your favorite Texas native plants, grasses, shrubs and trees, many not readily available in nurseries. See a list of plants at the [NPSOT Website](http://www.npsot.org). Affordable prices: One-gallon pots \$8 or less; 4" pots \$2 - \$3; credit & debit cards accepted. Texas Invaders will provide info. on non-native, invasive plants & the harm they cause. Native tree expert & City Forester Ross Hosea will answer questions & help with tree selection.

Guadalupe County Native Plant Society of Texas

WHEN: Tues., Oct. 13, 2015, 7 pm

WHERE: St. John's Lutheran Church, FM 465, Marion, TX

TOPIC: *The Life and Future of the Edwards Aquifer* **PRESENTER:** Gregg Eckhardt, renowned environmental scientist, will address how our water use has evolved historically. He will describe the geology of the Edwards Aquifer, how humans have adversely changed that geology, and how we are now working to correct the damage by restoring the natural conditions. For more information: <http://npsot.org/wp/guadalupe/>.

Celebrating Natives!

WHEN: Sat., Oct. 24, 9:30 am – 11 am

WHERE: San Antonio Botanical Garden

TOPIC: Join us as we celebrate TX Native Plant Week, Oct. 18-24! Learn the benefits of using native plants in your landscape to conserve water, money & time. 1.5 CEUs. Sponsored by SAWS. Fee: \$10 per class (\$9 for SABOT Members). For details and to register: <http://www.sabot.org/education/adult-classes/>.

Announcements, Cont.



**In Cooperation with
Bexar County Commissioners
Court:**

Nelson W. Wolff,
County Judge

Sergio “Chico”
Rodriguez,
Commissioner
Precinct 1

Paul Elizondo,
Commissioner
Precinct 2

Kevin A. Wolff,
Commissioner
Precinct 3

Tommy Calvert,
Commissioner
Precinct 4



Bill Shuler, Class 48, peacefully passed on September 2, 2015. Bill was an active BCMG member. He will be remembered for his service on the Board of Directors, cooking hot dogs for the Children’s Vegetable Garden contests, co-chairing tours for the TMGA State conference and MG Booth at Spring Bloom, working construction at Rodeo and volunteering at many events. Donations to the Food Bank can be made in his name.

*Join our
Master Gardener Group on
Facebook!*

[Click Here](#)



Lawn & Garden Show Podcast

[Click Here](#)



[ATTENTION ALL BCMG!](#)

Please visit the new [Bexar County Master Gardeners website](#) to get DETAILS on all the latest, hottest news and upcoming VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES! While at the website, you can also check out the Master Calendar for your future planning.

[NEED TO REPORT YOUR HOURS?](#)

Go To: <http://www.bexarmg.org>
Click on “Members”
Scroll down and click on “Report Your
Volunteer Hours”

Announcements, Cont.

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

➤ [San Antonio Botanical Garden](#)

Greenhouse, Terrarium Ecosystem Program: contact SABOT Volunteer Coordinator, [Veronica Dallahan](#) at 210-207-3261

➤ [Children's Vegetable Garden Program](#)

Contact Mary Fernandez at fernandez.m1978@gmail.com or Anne Marie Simmons at am-simmons@hotmail.com.

➤ [San Antonio Food Bank Gardens](#)

Saturday from 9am – 12pm. [Click here](#) for more information.

➤ [Wounded Warrior Gardens](#)

Tuesday contact: Melody McMahon at melodym1222@yahoo.com, Thursday contact: joyce_dare@satx.rr.com.

➤ [Earth Kind Speakers Bureau](#)

Contact Sandy Justice at sandy@sandyjustice.com to get on the speaker request notification list.

➤ [Helping Hands](#)

Help BCMG with mailings or other work at MG office. Contact: Holly Julian at khollyj@satx.rr.com.

➤ [Plant Hotline](#)

Our Plant Hotline answers phone and email questions daily. Contact Angel at matorres@ag.tamu.edu for information.

➤ [Plant Trials](#)

Contact David Rodriguez at dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu to be contacted when help is needed for a project.



From Your Board of Directors...

The BCMG Board is here to serve the Master Gardeners of Bexar County and to assist Bexar County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in providing education opportunities to the community in which we live. Please feel free to contact the Board – or a particular member – with suggestions, ideas, comments, etc.

BCMG Board of Directors Meeting



There was no Board of Directors Meeting for the month of September.

... Upcoming Meetings ...

BCMG Ed. Seminar/Gen. Mtg.
Thurs., October 15, 1-3 pm
 3355 Cherry Ridge Dr., Ste. 208, San Antonio

Topic: **“Water Lilies and Water Features”**
 2 CEU's

Speaker: **Shane Stefek, Owner of Water Garden Gems**

BCMG Ed. Seminars/Gen. Mtgs. are held on the afternoon of the 3rd Thurs. every month. For more info., contact Jack Downey: President@bexarmg.org

BCMG Board of Directors Meeting
Thurs., October 8, 4 pm – 6 pm
 3355 Cherry Ridge Dr., San Antonio

Meetings are held monthly. Members can request items to be added to the agenda by emailing the President, President@bexarmg.org at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

All members are welcome to observe the meetings, however in order to accommodate seating, please email the President, President@bexarmg.org that you will be attending.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Jack Downey

President@bexarmg.org

Vice President

Anne Marie Simmons

vp@bexarmg.org

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Theresa Ford

Treasurer@bexarmg.org

Secretary

Sherry Cantrell

Secretary@bexarmg.org

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Membership@bexarmg.org

Members-at-Large

Jamie Dailey

Member1@bexarmg.org

Ted Ritchie

Member2@bexarmg.org

Immediate Past President

Barbara Lutz

PastPresident@bexarmg.org

To Send an E-mail to the entire Board

board@bexarcountymastergardeners.org

Seasonal Conservation Tips

from

“Take Care of Texas: Commemorate Pollution Prevention Week”

Sept. 21, 2015

Contact Lisa Wheeler Phone 512-239-5003 Pager 512-839-1142



Pollution prevention is any practice that reduces, eliminates, or prevents pollution at its source. Source reduction allows for the greatest and quickest environmental improvements by avoiding the generation of waste and emissions. **Take action this fall to do your part.**

Turn off the lights and use energy-saving light bulbs:

Lighting accounts for approximately 12 percent of a household's annual electric bill. New energy-saving bulbs use 25 to 80 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs. Replacing 15 traditional incandescent bulbs could save you about \$50 per year.

Reduce standby power: The electric power consumed by products when switched off or in a standby mode is called standby power. It accounts for 5 to 10 percent of residential energy use, costing up to \$180 per year. Unplug or turn electronics off at a power strip to eliminate this wasted energy.

Buy locally: Buying locally grown food supports the local economy, reduces emissions from refrigeration and transportation, and cuts back on packing materials. Buy Texas organic products that are produced without synthetic pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers.

Use less toxic cleaning products: Using less toxic cleaning products can reduce pollutants in both the air and water, and may help improve the air quality in your house. The EPA's Safer Choice program labels products that can help protect the environment and are safer for families.

What is a Master Gardener?

Bexar County Master Gardeners are trained, certified volunteers who support the educational horticulture programs and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service in Bexar County. We work with County Extension Agent-Horticulture David Rodriguez to help create and maintain gardens that showcase plants for our area; help with trial gardens and field research; share planting, composting, and irrigation methods; present information at garden and trade events; answer horticultural inquiries over the telephone; organize and/or present educational programs to various groups; introduce children to gardens through programs in schools and the Children's Vegetable Garden; and increase awareness of integrated pest management, water conservation, and other environmental stewardship issues. Master Gardener training sessions are held in spring. Classes are usually held on Wednesdays from 12 pm to 4 pm. After acceptance into the program, intern students are required to submit to a background check, attend the 13-week course, and complete 50 hours of volunteer service within a year before they are certified as a Master Gardener. Lectures by experts in their field, hands-on activities, and field trips make up the classroom experience. A large variety of volunteer activities offered throughout the year provide ample opportunity to complete the service requirement. After initial certification, Master Gardeners are required to complete 30 hours of service and 6 continuing education hours each year to re-certify. Learning and teaching others is the Bexar County Master Gardener mission. We are “hands-on” gardeners who are interested in sharing all aspects of gardening with anyone who will listen.

Seasonal Conservation Tips, Cont.

Use less pesticides and fertilizers: Apply pesticides and fertilizers according to the label’s directions, and only use the recommended amount. Excessive watering or a rainstorm can wash away the chemical excess—wasting your money and endangering nearby waterways.

Drive less: To reduce air emissions, take your lunch to the office, carpool, use public transit, or simply combine errands. Removing one properly maintained car from the road for one year saves an average of 17 pounds of nitrogen oxides from being discharged into the air.

Take care of your tires: Over 3 million tires were sent to Texas landfills last year! Reduce the number of tires you use by taking care of the ones you have. Test your tire tread monthly. Insert a penny upside down. Your tread is too low when you can see the top of Lincoln’s head.

For more ways conserve water and energy, reduce waste, keep the air and water clean, and save money, visit TakeCareOfTexas.org. While you’re there, [pledge to Take Care of Texas](#), and we’ll say thanks by mailing you a free Texas State Parks Guide.



24th Annual San Antonio Herb Market

Saturday, October 17, 2015
At The Historic Pearl Brewery
9:00 am – 3:00 pm



Cooking Area:		
9:15 - 10:00	Growing Herbs: Best Practices	Mary Dunford: Natures Herb Farm
10:10 - 11:00	Savory, Herb of the Year. Let's Grow It, Let's Use It!	Mary Dunford & San Antonio Herb Society
11:10 - 11:45	The Many Uses of Herbs In The Home	San Antonio Herb Society
12:00 - 1:00	Cooking With Savory	
1:30 - 2:30	Cooking With Herbs	Culinary Institute of America
Demonstration Area:		
9:15 - 9:45	Gardening In Containers	Bexar County Master Gardeners
10:00 - 10:30	Efficient Irrigation	Gardening Volunteers of South Texas
10:45- 11:15	Gardening In Containers	Bexar County Master Gardeners
11:30 - 12:00	Efficient Irrigation	Gardening Volunteers of South Texas
12:15 - 12:45	Gardening In Containers	Bexar County Master Gardeners
1:00 - 1:30	Efficient Irrigation	Gardening Volunteers of South Texas

Children’s Potting Activity All Day

Ask the Experts: 9:00 – 10:00 Dr. Jerry Parsons/Dr. Calvin Finch
 10:00 – 11:00 Robbi Daves Will
 11:00 – 12:00 Paul Cox
 12:00 – 1:00 Mark Bird
 1:00 – 2:00 Dr. Connie Sheppard

From the Editor...

“You cannot go through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” – Jane Goodall



Besides the obvious enjoyment Master Gardeners gain from their usual digging in the dirt, cultivation, and discovery of new plants, one of the benefits of enjoying a beautiful garden is the wildlife it attracts. Many of the people I know who enjoy gardening, or learning about plants, also enjoy learning about the wildlife the plants attract. I'm one of those people too.

So, I thought my fellow MGs might be interested in the trip I took recently to Rockport, TX for the 27th Annual Hummingbird Festival (Sept. 17-20). My husband and I have attended this event every year for the past three years. It has become something we both look forward to, and even though he is not a gardener or naturalist, he does appreciate the exquisite beauty of the “hummer birds.”

The Festival coincides with the migration of the ruby-throated hummingbird whose flyway extends from Canada all the way into Central America from Mexico to Panama. However, for these little birds, it's not an easy migration.



© Daniel Briggs

According to the *Hummingbird Journey North* website, hummers need to double their weight before leaving land for their 500 mile trip across the Gulf of Mexico. Because of this, we get to

enjoy watching them gorge themselves on a variety of flowers, insects, and feeders while at the festival in Rockport. And, when I say, “gorge” I'm talking about a bird that is only 3 to 3.75 inches long and weighs between 2.4 g. to 4.5 g. (females are larger than males, generally 2.8 – 4.5 g.) – about the same as a penny. However, just like the athletes who “carbo-load” before a long race, they will load up and eat 1.5 to 3 times their body weight in food PER DAY; a necessity due to their metabolism, which is faster than any animal on earth. Additionally, hummers have to deal with the hazards of predation by crows, jays, roadrunners, cats, mice, dragonflies, praying mantises and bad weather.

The festival takes place around the middle of September each year to coincide with their migration through Rockport. Since the birds don't have a calendar, there is no guarantee you will see the largest influx of migrators at the festival, but in the three years my husband and I have attended, the numbers are definitely high enough to make the trip worthwhile. A “Welcome Reception” kicks off the festival at the Rockport Center for the Arts on Thursday evening, followed by three days of festival activities, which include guided hummer bus tours and self-guided tours of the “hummer homes” of Rockport residents who have agreed to open their hummingbird feeder areas to the festival attendees for observation. Just this in itself is a wonderful example of people who want to share their love of wildlife with complete strangers! There are also guided birding field trips.

Because this event attracts hummingbird lovers from all over, the speaker programs take place at



© Kimber Briggs

the local high school and middle school, which is also where you can find “everything hummer” at the two vendor “Hummer Malls” inside the schools. You can discover some really unique gifts for friends and family, but also some great information about birding “tools of the trade” such as binoculars, scopes, books, kayaks, you name it! Outside, you can find a display of beautiful plants for sale by the Mid-Coast Master Naturalists.

A sampling of the many lectures which are offered that my husband and I attended include topics such as: “The Hummingbirds of Texas,” “The Hummingbirds of Costa Rica,” “Seeing Double – Identifying Birds that Look Alike,” and “Birding by Impression: A Different Approach to Knowing and Identifying Birds,” presented by Kevin Karlson, co-author of the Peterson’s book by the same name. Warning: the presentation on the hummingbirds of Costa Rica made me REALLY want to plan a trip to Costa Rica! In addition to all of this activity, probably my favorite was observing hummingbird banding which takes place at a designated hummer home “off campus.” For young and old alike, it is truly a unique experience to see these little birds captured, weighed, measured, banded and then set free from the open palm of a child’s hand.



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Hopefully, I’ve piqued your interest, and you’ll want to attend the festival and learn more about these fascinating birds! To find out more about the Rockport Hummingbird Festival, go to: <http://www.rockporthummingbird.com>. To learn more about hummingbirds and hummer Citizen Science projects, go to the [Hummingbird Journey North](#) website which is an excellent site for “everything hummer” including a migration map that follows the hummers during their journey south. Another couple of great websites for hummer lovers is Audubon’s [Hummingbirds At Home](#) and TPWD’s [Hummingbird Roundup Wildlife Diversity Program](#). Audubon’s website includes not only citizen science projects with video and tutorials on how to monitor, but information on how to create a hummingbird-friendly yard. TPWD’s website provides information whereby you can participate as a citizen scientist in collecting important data about which hummingbirds are in your area. If you are looking for great information in book form, I highly recommend [Hummingbirds of Texas](#) By: Clifford E. Shackelford, Madge M. Kindsay, and C. Mark Klym which not only has great information about hummers, but beautiful photographs as well.

Your Editor,
Kimber Briggs