



The Scion

Newsletter



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Published by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent – Bexar County Horticulture & Master Gardener Coordinator & the Bexar County Master Gardeners, a nonprofit 501c(3)
Kimber Briggs, Class 58, Editor



Bexar County Master Gardeners President's Message



Dear Master Gardeners-

We should congratulate ourselves! Seventy-two master gardeners have signed up to volunteer at the SA Home & Garden Show, the Herb Market and the 1st Monarch Festival...filling almost all of the seventy-eight slots posted to the VMS...for a fill rate of 79%! We still need some folks to assist with pot-a-plant at the Herb Market. Everyone I have spoken with about their experience using the VMS to volunteer has stated how easy it was and how they hope we continue using the VMS.

Ann Marie Pease, Karen Gardner and Anna Vogler are working diligently to create a "button" on our website for our speakers to access information pertaining to filled and unfilled speaker requests. It is our hope that this will make it easier to fill the speaker requests since all our speakers will be able to see what requests need filling rather than waiting to receive an Eblast notice or be individually contacted by the Speaker Bureau Coordinator.

Our new SAWS contract - our largest revenue source - has been a worry as it significantly changed how SAWS approves our educational activities and how and when they reimburse us. Under our Water Conservation Coordinator, Anna Vogler, we have exceeded the presentation goals required of us in the first six months of the new contract. However, due to the change in reimbursement rates we still need to complete as many educational presentations as we can to reach the amount of reimbursement that we achieved in previous years under the old contracts.

We do accounting for the activities done by David, Molly and Ruby and the money they generated masks our finances so we have not been able to tell how much money belonged to the Master Gardeners. Lori Bindseil, our Treasurer, and Carol Law, our Office Manager, have been working for months to separate the BCMG monies from the Extension monies in our budget so that we could have a clear view of our finances. Now, for the first time, we can see the Master Gardener revenue and expenses...and, we are \$9,900 overspent for the year. Thus,

President's Letter, Cont.

the board is focusing on the need to produce more revenue through our Speaker Bureau and to watch our expenses in the coming months.

Robbie Farmer, our Clothing Guru, brought a large inventory of new clothing items to the September monthly meeting...new colors and new items...all were well received with a lot of purchasing going on...contact Robbie (positivelyrobbie@sbcglobal.net) to order your BCMG logo clothing items.

We recently enjoyed bountiful rain throughout our city with fall weather finally appearing...wonderful gardening weather...get out and enjoy. Take Care!

Jack Downey, President
Bexar County Master Gardeners



BOOTANICA PLANT SALE

This is the **LAST Plant SALE** of the **YEAR!**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

10 AM TO 2 PM

9 AM Early Admission for Garden Members!

GALLON POTS \$8

LARGER POTS \$15

SUCCULENTS IN 4-in. POTS \$4

QUANTITY DISCOUNTS ON A HUGE VARIETY OF
PLANTS!

5 PLANTS OR MORE...10% OFF

10 PLANTS OR MORE...20% OFF

25 PLANTS OR MORE...30% OFF

(PLUS 10% MEMBER'S DISCOUNT WHERE APPLICABLE)



SAN ANTONIO
BOTANICAL GARDEN

(210) 207-3250
555 Funston Place - San Antonio, TX 78209

sabot.org

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.

October Gardening Chores, Cont

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.”



BCMG General Meeting and Educational Program



Thursday, October 20
1 - 3 pm
2 CEUs
3355 Cherry Ridge Dr.,
Ste. 208



TOPIC:

“Holiday Arrangements”

Master Gardener
Stephanie Jones

will inspire us to get creative with plants for the holidays!

This isn't a wreath making session!

It is a demonstration on how to craft arrangements using driftwood and succulent that include fall & Christmas holiday elements.

Stephanie Jones retired from United Services Automobile Services Company in 2007 after a career in financial services and training with the company. She soon discovered her deep passion for plants and became a Bexar County Master Gardener and started volunteering at the SA Botanical Garden working in the Society Greenhouse. In addition to working with plants, Stephanie is a garden guide, facilitates various classes on low water usage plants in the landscape, helps with the Garden's holiday decorations, and teaches propagation classes for both adults and children's summer camps.





Master Gardener of the Month

By: Ann Marie Caldwell, JMG 1



Don Crites, our **Master Gardener for the month of October**, is one of those rare individuals who shares his gardening experience with

others by volunteering to give presentations through the Speakers Bureau. He has given presentations on insects, composting, herbs, vegetable gardening, edible plants in the landscape, and companion plantings. As you can see from the breath of these topics, Don's knowledge of gardening goes far beyond the course work that he did to become a Master Gardener in 2008.

Don has greatly expanded his knowledge of gardening by volunteering to work with experts in various fields and by taking further course work to become a specialist in aspects of gardening that interest him. Since becoming a Master Gardener, Don has volunteered to work with Bexar County Entomologist Molly Keck. From this experience he went on to take the course to become an Entomology Specialist. He has also done special course work to become a Composting Specialist, a Vegetable Gardening Specialist, and an Herb Specialist.

Don's interest in gardening dates back to his childhood in El Paso. There, under the tutelage of his mother, he began raising peppers, tomatoes, onions and radishes in the 10 X 10 garden plot that was assigned to

him. However, his gardening adventures were temporarily interrupted when he joined the Air Force in 1969, but were resumed again when he retired and set up a permanent residence in San Antonio. As much as he longed to get his fingers back into the soil after his years of travel in the military, his enthusiasm had to be tempered by his new job as a retail sales manager for Radio Shack, a position which left him little time to "play in the dirt" as Don terms his addiction to gardening. His new job in the electronics field was a far cry from his job as a medic in the Air Force, but Don is a self-made man who reads extensively to increase his knowledge in different kinds of endeavors. Electronics started out as a hobby fueled by reading and turned into a full-time profession.

The same can be said for Don's gardening knowledge. In the mid 90's he became interested in herbs, read extensively about them, and then began planting and experimenting with herbs for both medicinal and culinary purposes. However, Don had to wait until his retirement from his second profession to finally give his full attention to herbs and gardening in general. It was at this point that he enrolled in Master Gardener Class 47. Shortly before his graduation, Don was asked to establish an herb garden on the grounds of the San Antonio Food Bank. After a few months as a volunteer in this capacity, Don was then asked to become a full time employee as Manager of the Food Bank gardens, a position he held for a little over a year. Then in 2015, David Rodriguez asked him to be the point of

MG of the Month, Cont.

contact between the Texas A & M Earth Kind program and the Bexar County Master Gardeners. As he had done previously in his professional life, Don went from being a hobbyist to becoming an expert in gardening practices, an expertise he generously shares through his volunteer activities with the Speakers Bureau.

Perhaps the most interesting of Don's presentations is the one he gives on companion plantings. It is also one topic for which he has not had any specialist training. For his knowledge about this special field, Don credits his mother, who always insisted that he and his sister curl up with a book and read. That's how he learned about plants that keep pests away from both vegetables and flowers and about plants that you never want to put in your garden because of the harmful effects they have on other edible and ornamental plantings. Don recommends reading Louise Riotte's *Carrots Love Tomatoes* to learn how to plant certain vegetables together to cut down on the use of pesticides. To do the same thing for flowers he recommends reading Riotte's book *Roses Love Garlic*. Or you can take a short cut by attending Don's presentation entitled "Companion Plantings."

Don's advice to Master Gardeners may seem strange to those who equate gardening with outdoor activity. Don advises all gardeners to find a quiet nook inside in which to curl up with a book about an aspect of gardening or really about anything that interests them. This childhood wisdom, gleaned from his mother, has enabled Don to venture far afield from any area of knowledge that he has gained through formal study or professional experience. Don's love for

reading, combined with specialized training, plus a flare for packaging his presentations in eye-catching slides, has made Don Crites a much sought after speaker for Master Gardener and community events in and around San Antonio.





Junior Master Gardener Page

Hello All! Welcome to the **Junior Master Gardener Monthly Updates Page**. Here you will find what our special JMG trained volunteers and Bexar County Master Gardeners have done for the Youth Gardens Program and some new volunteer opportunities with kids.

Learn Grow Eat and Go!

We have started our Learn Grow Eat and Go! Program! Volunteers are needed to support the Learn Grow Eat Go JMG curriculum in Palo Alto Elementary, Baskin Elementary, and Wrenn Middle School. Volunteers might assist with teaching, garden activities with students or preparing simple recipes for tastings from vegetables in the garden. Volunteers may work on a regular schedule or for specific occasional projects. For more information on projects and schools participating in youth education programs contact Ruby Zavala at Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu

2016 Fall Youth Garden Educator Training

Thank you to Linda McLaughlin, Joanie West, Becky Mendez, Ted Ritchie, Ling Yin Liu, Sonjia Smith, Judie Frisch, Pam DeRoche, Sue Buck, Joyce Austin, Barbara Lutz, Karen Foote, John Sells, Shirley Conrad, Gladys Baker, and Sherri McShane. We had Mr. Jesse Valdez, Lou Kellogg and Don Crites give some amazing presentations on Compost, Rainwater Harvesting, and Herbs in the Garden. We had 74 teachers representing 55 different schools in Bexar County attend this day. Because of your help and support, these schools will have some amazing school gardens and lots of fun experiences for their 4,634 students!





© Kimber Briggs



© Kimber Briggs

Save The Date!

*Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator
Festival*

Sat. Oct. 22 – 2 pm to 7 pm

The Pearl Farmer's Market

*312 Pearl Parkway, San Antonio,
78216*



This event is scheduled in conjunction with the peak migration season and will focus on pollinators, education, and native plants.

9 am: People's Pollinator Parade through the Pearl (costumes encouraged!) led by the Pedaling Pollinator Life Cyclers (sponsored by Earn-a-Bike Coop & Henry Ford Academy at the Alameda)

10 am - 1 pm: Monarch Tagging Demo and Butterfly Release

Ongoing: Culinary tie-ins in conjunction w/Pearl Farmer's Market; special foods and drinks made possible by insect pollinators will be featured. Arts, crafts & educational activities for kids of all ages.



MASTER GARDNER GARDEN STARS

Awards and Achievements of Our Fellow Master Gardeners



2016 BCMG Certification Pin

Please look for the names of those Master Gardeners who have earned their 2016 certification pin in September and October in the November issue of The Scion!

Thank you,

Susan Noonan



Attention All Master Gardeners!

The Board of Directors has approved the presentation of a distinctive "**BCMG Speaker Shirt**" to members who are registered to speak through our Speakers Bureau. This shirt will clearly identify our speakers as Master Gardener Speakers!

The criteria for award of the BCMG Speaker Shirt is:

- (1) Complete five speaking engagements via the Speakers Bureau after October 1, 2016, and
- (2) Turn into the BCMG Office completed sign-in sheets for each speaking engagement.

The first Speaker Shirt is complimentary and a second Speaker Shirt is available after fifteen completed speaking engagements meeting the criteria listed above.

Additional Speaker Shirts will be available for purchase by speakers who have completed twenty speaking engagements. The Speaker Shirts will only be available to Master Gardeners who participate in the Speaker Bureau educational program.

Eligibility for award of the Speaker Shirt will be jointly determined by Anna Vogler, Water Conservation Coordinator, and Karen Gardner, Speaker Bureau Coordinator.

Please email President [Jack Downey](#) if you have questions or comments.



Master Gardener Specialist Corner

Barbara Lutz, BCMG Class 40



Texas Superstar Specialist Training

What a wonderful experience to be able to gather with Master Gardeners from across the state and to learn about the Texas Superstar Plants from the experts.



Dr. Jerry Parsons, Dr. Brent Pemberton, Greg Grant, Dr. Larry Stein

Day 1 – I arrived to the Extension Conference room at 7:30 am to sign in. Lots of beautiful Texas Superstar plants were outside the door and coffee was ready inside. I visited with some Bexar County MGs and then found a table with Master Gardeners from Parker and Hunt counties. I love to learn about the MG associations from across the state.

BCMG Specialist Corner, Cont.



Jack Downey signing in with Angel Torres-Luna



Sylvie Rodgers and Smitty Smith prepared Texas Superstar and Plants the Thrive exhibits.

David Rodriguez and Jack Downey welcomed the group of 35 attendees, then each of us shared information about our county and our involvement with the Texas Superstar Program.

Eighteen counties were represented with 11 in the class from Bexar County! Lou Kellogg's Class Assistants included helpers from Comal and Kerr counties and John Sells, Smitty Smith and Jamie Daily from Bexar County.



Bexar County Master Gardeners
Front Row: Barbara Lutz, Anna Vogler, Jack Downey, Ginny Frederick, John Sells
Back Row: Brigid Oman, Grace Emery, John Maldonado, Marybeth Parsons, Henry Brume, Smitty Smith, Sylvie Rodgers, Lou Kellogg.

BCMG Specialist Corner, Cont.

Dr. Pemberton gave an overview of the Texas Superstar Program and what it takes to become a Texas Superstar. Dr. Parsons then presented “How and Why the Texas Superstar Program Started”. After a break, Dr. Parsons told about the Colorization of the Bluebonnet and Texas Superstar Vegetables. David then provided information about four Texas Superstar plants. It was then time for a great lunch from Two Guys Barbecue and a chance to view Smitty’s plant specimens.

The afternoon included learning about the characteristics and growing of many Superstar annuals from Dr. Pemberton, Dr. Parsons and David Rodriguez and a presentation on Texas Superstar Trees by Mark Peterson of SAWS. We finished up with a perspective on supporting independent nurseries and landscape contractors by Tres Hazlet of Milberger’s Landscape Nursery and Billy Long of Billy Long Enterprises.

Day 2 – Another great day! Dr. Stein started us off with information on the Satsuma Superstars, Natchez Blackberries, and other fruit candidates like Pomegranates and Olives. We were then treated by Greg Grant with the stories of how they found many Superstar plants and how to use Texas Superstars in landscapes. After lunch from Jason’s Deli, Greg discussed Superstar Roses and Per-Annuals. I learned that a per-annual is a tropical annual like the Hibiscus. Dr. Parsons then discussed more Superstars. Shane Stefck from Water Garden Gems gave a presentation on Texas Superstar Water Lilies. We finished the class for the day with a presentation by the nursery that provides Lowe’s Nursery with Texas Superstars.

We loaded up our vehicles with one each of the Texas Superstars: Arctic Frost, New Gold Lantana, Victoria Red Grape, Henry Duelberg Salvia, Little Ruby and “Brazilian Red Hot” Altermantheras and “Gold Star” Esperanza. We finished Day 2 with a nice dinner at Mamacita’s.

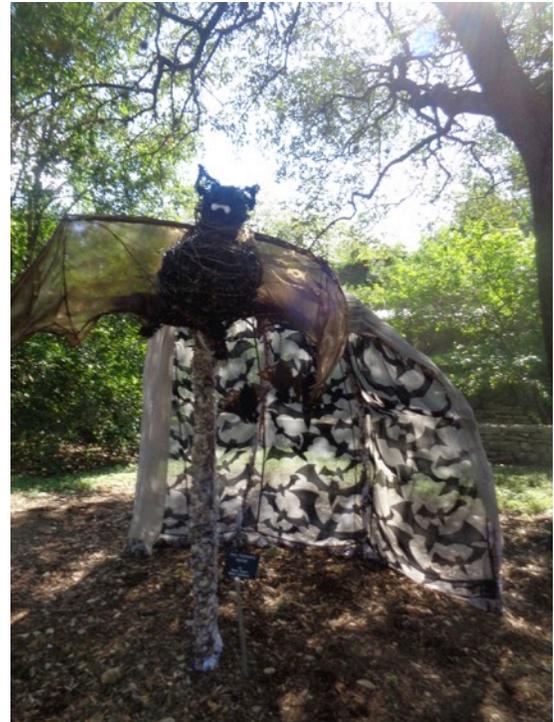
Day 3 – We met up early at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Bob Brackman gave a talk on the SABOT’s history and plans for improvement. We then walked the gardens looking for Texas Superstars. We found so many and saw lots of butterflies! We saw the BCMG Scarecrow, “Holy Pollinator, Batman!” Our time at the San Antonio Botanical Garden concluded with a visit to the greenhouse to get more plants!

BCMG Specialist Corner, Cont.



Above: David led the group on a tour of the gardens at SABOT

Right: BCMG Scarecrow – Holy Pollinator, Batman!



Group Photo

I really enjoyed the Texas Superstar Specialist training. I learned so much from the outstanding group of speakers and made new Master Gardener friends. Bexar County Master Gardeners can be proud of the fantastic job done as hosts for this training. If you have ever thought about taking a Specialist Training class, I highly recommend doing so. You will be glad you did. I am!

Barbara Lutz
Class 40

Texas Master Gardener Specialists are a corps of Master Gardeners who support and expand the Bexar County educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Specialist training is designed to empower the Master Gardener with the knowledge and skills required to effectively support designated programs or projects, to include administration of projects, training of Master Gardeners, clientele presentations, and/or applied research and demonstrations.

Specialists have received a minimum of 16 hours of subject matter training: formal classroom training, field trips and tours, mentoring by experts, and/or self-directed study. Following completion of the training requirement, each individual has completed a minimum 20 hours of volunteer service in the designated program or project to obtain this title of Master Gardener Specialist.

WELCOME
Enter With A Happy Heart
From Our Members...
a peek behind the garden gate!

This month, our “own” Tom Harris, Ph.D., (a.k.a. “The Hill Country Gardener”) is sharing some photos of his elevated beds...

“I have three beds in a “U” shape. They’re 2’ wide and 6’ long (photo 1). I plant veggies in them. I made them this tall so I wouldn’t have to bend over to work them (or pull weeds), and I can stand in the middle and do all my gardening. What you see in photo 2 is the cucumber vines growing up the trellis. The trellis is made from ½” PVC with ‘trellis netting’ (photo 3) put on with zip ties (photo 4).

I’m sure Tom would be happy to share additional information with any fellow Master Gardener who may be interested in setting this up at their own home!



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 4



Photo 3



AgriLife Advice



Backyard Basics Expo helps people learn self-reliance, preserve the past

September 20, 2016

Writer: Paul Schattenberg, 210-859-5752, paschattenberg@ag.tamu.edu

Contact: Nelda Lebya Speller, 210-631-0400, nlspeller@ag.tamu.edu

David Rodriguez, 210-631-0400, dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu

SAN ANTONIO — More than 100 people attended the Backyard Basics Expo held recently at the Oppenheimer Academic Center at San Antonio College.

The expo, presented by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, emphasizes self-reliance and the production, preparation and preservation of homemade and homegrown foods.

“People are more interested in and concerned about where their food comes from, and many people want to produce and prepare their own food to ensure its freshness and quality,” said Nelda Lebya Speller, AgriLife Extension county director, Bexar County. “Through the Backyard Basics Expo we’re showing people how to produce their own food and be more self-sustaining. We’re also providing an opportunity to help them preserve the past by getting back to basics.”

Educational sessions were presented by personnel from AgriLife Extension, the agency’s Bexar County Master Gardener volunteer horticulture program, and experts from organizations and area businesses associated with horticulture and agriculture.

Expo workshop sessions addressed vegetable gardening, beekeeping, composting and vermiculture, aquaponics, herb gardening, backyard chickens, drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting and more. A vendor area provided additional information on products and services related to self-sufficiency and home food production.

“This program helps give people a sample of the type of information and educational assistance they can get from AgriLife Extension on a variety of interesting topics for the hobbyist or person who wants to delve more deeply into becoming more self-reliant,” said David Rodriguez, AgriLife Extension horticulturist and an event coordinator.

This year, session presenters were assisted by four American Sign Language interpreters provided by the department of American Sign Language and interpreter training at San Antonio College.

“We have a lot of deaf students in the Alamo Colleges system and this gave our interpreters the opportunity to practice their skills in translating English into American Sign Language,” said associate professor Melody Hull. “Deaf people prefer to have a live person interpret for them and we were glad to provide some trainees to assist and to get some additional practical experience.”



More than 100 people attended the recent Backyard Basics Expo emphasizing homemade and homegrown foods. The event was held at the Oppenheimer Academic Center at San Antonio College. (Texas A&M AgriLife Communications photo by Paul Schattenberg)

AgriLife Advice, Cont.

One of the best-attended programs during the expo was the beekeeping class presented by AgriLife Extension entomologist Molly Keck.

Keith Spruill was among the class attendees.

"I really enjoyed the beekeeping presentation," Spruill said. "But I'm sure my reason for attending was different from most people. I wanted to learn to keep bees so I can make my own honey to use in making mead, which is something the Vikings used to drink. Plus, because of all the plant and flower pollination they do, bees are probably the most important insect in the world."

Spruill said his wife Corinne was also attending the expo to learn about backyard chickens.

Another popular course during the expo was aquaponics, presented by Steven Sumrow, owner of Aquaponic Systems USA.

Aquaponics is a combination of aquaculture and hydroponics in which plants, such as vegetables and ornamentals, and marine life, such as fish or shrimp, are produced together in a symbiotic system.

"Aquaponics is a way people can produce their own animal and plant protein together," Sumrow said. "If more people were aware of aquaponics and used aquaponics systems, it could make a real difference in their ability to be self-sustaining."

Water conservation was another emphasis of the expo and dozens of people attended the drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting classes offered.

"I live on 3 acres of land in Elmendorf and wanted to know how to get the most out of my water use," said Rebecca Vowell, who attended the drip irrigation presentation. "Along with drip irrigation, I got a lot of good information about sprinkler systems, the importance of keeping adequate water pressure and the right amount of water to use for new and established turf and plants."

Event coordinators said post-event surveys completed by expo attendees indicated they found the presentations educational and provided a wealth of useful, practical information they could use in their own home and backyard projects and endeavors.

For information on upcoming Backyard Basics programs, go to <http://backyardbasics.tamu.edu>.



The Backyard Basics Expo included a vendor area where attendees could find out more about area agricultural and horticultural products and services. (Texas A&M AgriLife Communications photo by Paul Schattenberg)



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension entomologist Molly Keck presents a program on beekeeping to a group of attendees at the recent Backyard Basics Expo. (Texas A&M AgriLife Communications photo by Paul Schattenberg)



Bexar County Master Gardener Lou Kellogg presents on rainwater harvesting at the recent Backyard Basics Expo. (Texas A&M AgriLife Communications photo by Paul Schattenberg)

Master Gardeners Out and About...

Backyard Basics Expo September 17

Photos by
Candy Roach,
Class59



Master Naturalist Booth



MG Brian Roach assisting a customer



MG Candy Roach working the BCMG booth



MG Judee Frisch

MGs Out and About, Cont.



MG Judee Frisch and Ruby Zavala



MG Robin Maymar working at the Herb Society booth



MG Sue Buck assisting customer



MG Sue Buck working the MG booth



"Germs Make Me Sick!"



MG Judee Frisch

MGs Out & About, Cont.

September MG General Meeting

Photos by Barbara Lutz, Class 40



Left:
Randy Verhoek spoke on commercial beekeeping

Right:
Robbie Farmer with new BCMG shirts



Teacher Training



Angel Torres-Luna, Sherri McShane, Ling Yin Liu, Sue Buck



Ruby Zavala welcomes the teachers

MGs Out and About, Cont.



Karin Foote, Gladys Baker, Shirley Conrad, Judith Frisch, Donna Kadlis, Joanie West, Sonja Smith



Unloading the plants for the school gardens



Don Crites spoke about herbs



Jesse Valdez discusses composting



Lou Kellogg demonstrated how to build a rain barrel



Announcements



Remember, Master Gardeners, you need to get 3 of your CEUs for recertification from attending Master Gardener General Meetings!

All meetings are on a Thursday, alternating monthly between afternoon (1 - 3 pm) and evening meetings (6 - 8 pm).

**** UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ****

THIS MONTH - On Oct. 20th at 1 pm, **STEPHANIE JONES** will share her expertise on making "Holiday Arrangements."

NEXT MONTH - **CLAUDE TOWNSEND** will give a presentation on "Flora of the Big Bend Country" at 6 pm on November 17th.

MG Specialist Courses in 2016

- ❖ **Growing Healthy Communities Specialist**, Oct. 4-6, Weslaco
- ❖ **Tree Care Specialist**, Oct. 12-14, Houston
- ❖ **Rainwater Harvesting**, Oct. 19-21, San Angelo (Also in SAT Apr. 10-12, 2017)
- ❖ **Irrigation Efficiency Specialist**, Oct. 24-26, El Paso
- ❖ **Vegetable Specialist** - Nov. 9-11, BCMGs, San Antonio

For More Information see [MG Calendar](#)
 Contact: [David Rodriguez](#) to sign up!

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: www.bexarmg.org
 Click on "Members"
 Scroll down and click on "Report Your Volunteer Hours"

*Join our
 Master Gardener Group on
 Facebook!*

[*Click Here*](#)



Lawn & Garden Show Podcast

[*Click Here*](#)



Daylight Savings Time ENDS Sunday, November 6!





OCTOBER



ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

➤ [Green Spaces' Community Gardens](#)

Knowledgeable gardeners are wanted to occasionally help with garden projects, and regularly serve as garden mentors. We have two staff; everyone else is a volunteer loving the chance to garden a little. Contact Tia Moen at tia@greensatx.org or check out one of our volunteer pages at www.greensatx.org or www.meetup.com/San-Antonio-CG/.

➤ [San Antonio Botanical Garden](#)

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

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

Contact Mary Fernandez at fernandez.m1978@gmail.com or John Mayer at jamud23@gmail.com

➤ [San Antonio Food Bank Gardens](#)

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

➤ [Wounded Warrior Gardens](#)

Contact Joyce Dare at 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. Call 210-467-6575 or ask by [email](#).

➤ [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.



Minutes – BCMG Board of Directors Meeting September 08, 2016

Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Jack Downey, September 8, 2016, 4:02 p.m.
- Board Members present: Jack Downey (President), Ruben Lozano (Vice President), Lori Bindseil (Treasurer), Sherry Cantrell (Secretary), Ann Marie Pease (Member at Large).
- Absent Board Members: Robbie Farmer (Member at Large), Inez Ornelas (Membership).
- Other Attendees: Lou Kellogg (Director of Education), Anna Vogler (Water Conservation), Barbara Lutz (Past President), Jack Hoover, Brian Rosch, Candy Rosch.

Approval of Minutes for May BOD Meeting

- July meeting minutes were distributed via email July 23 and August 10. Motion to approve the July minutes made by Lori; 2nd by Jack. Approved by unanimous acclamation. (Note: July minutes were not approved at August meeting, as we did not have a quorum).

CEA Report – David Rodriguez (not present)

- In David's absence, Jack reported on two recent rodeo meetings that have taken place. A number of favorable decisions for BCMG came out of those meetings: The tent is moving to where the Lego tent was last year. This location will face the food court area and give us better visibility; All four barns are out of the tent, but the logistics of how a barn can be placed next to the tent is still being addressed; The design layout includes separate entrance and exit doors opposite one another and separated by a landscaped area; All of Ruby's ideas were accepted; A commercial kitchen will be brought in on a truck and placed inside the tent facing inward.

Youth Program Coordinator Report – Ruby Zavala (not present)

- No report.

Water Conservation Report – Anna Vogler

- Anna reported that approvals are now coming back to us in a timely manner with the exception of responses regarding special projects. She may have to postpone a Fall event but is hopeful all will be approved for a future digital outreach project and the Spring Garden Show.
- She has been contemplating the criteria to use for those who should receive shirts. After reviewing the numbers from last year's presentations, she has determined that 7–8 people could receive shirts if the criteria used is, as follows:
 - MG must have given 5 presentations.
 - MG must have submitted required paper work for each of the five presentations (i.e. sign-up sheets).

The above was agreed to and approved by unanimous acclamation.

- She discussed the idea of a name change for the Speaker's Bureau, such as Outreach Program, with some of her presenters. While initially in favor of or okay with a name change, some later expressed reservations. No one present at the board meeting saw any advantage or need to change the name at this time so the idea has been tabled for now.

Education Report– Lou Kellogg

- Lou reported he is stepping down from his position as a Bexar County representative to the Texas Master Gardener Association and a replacement will need to be found.
- The next Superstar class (to be held the 20th–22nd) is full, with 32 people registered. He plans to set up the classroom with five people to a table to encourage more interaction among participants.
- Lou reported that, as a nonprofit organization, BCMG has access to discounted software through a program called Tech Soup. Our membership in this program is free, and through the program, the organization is allowed up to 10 licenses per year.

Membership Report– Inez Ornelas (not present)

- Jack updated the board on a recent problem with the VMS when it was reported during a meeting between the Speakers Bureau and Water Conservation that our Member Roster disappeared from the system. Access to the Member Roster is critical for the Speaker Bureau Coordinator to be able to contact potential speakers. Inez was telephoned during the meeting and he resolved the issue immediately.

Treasurer's Report – Lori Bindseil

- Lori distributed the Profit & Loss statement for July 1 through September 8, 2016. This is the first monthly financial report that reflects just the BCMG revenue/expenses as all previous reports had included the revenue/expense by the Extension staff. The inclusion of the Extension money masked the true expense/revenue picture of the BCMG. Now, BCMG will be able to clearly see its financial status thanks to the hard work by Lori and Carol. She pointed out the negative net income is due to journal entries related extension money that was previously reflected in our reports. From this point forward, the reports will reflect true net income for BCMG.
- A question was raised regarding how we earn income. In response, the following sources were mentioned: presentations/SAWS contract money, rodeo, plant sales, and Birdies for Charity.
- Jack advised our large money market account is currently earning an extremely low rate of interest and that the board will look into how we might be able to improve the rate of return (e.g. laddering CDs).

Old Business

- Clothing: In Robbie Farmer's absence, Jack distributed a price sheet/ order form that Robbie prepared for the clothing items available for purchase. Items are priced nearly at cost with only a small amount added to round prices and avoid odd amounts (making bookkeeping much easier). While items can be ordered, she will establish a small inventory of some items to have available at meetings.

New Business

- Jack reported that VMS is now up and running for members to use for volunteer activities. He referenced the latest issue of the Scion for details on the new system. The system is very user friendly and expectations are high that MGs will adapt to the new way of volunteering.
- Jack Hoover reported on the Herb Market plans. The event will be held the 3rd Saturday in October, and is the 25th Annual Herb Market. He has been working with Ruby on the potting activity. While the pepper is the International Herb, mint will be used for this activity. Don Crites will hold 30 minute classes at 9, 10:45, and 12:15. Jack reinforced the need to be careful on approval requests, as he reported on another organization's request that was denied because of including the word "tomato." Anna concurred and agreed she would work on how to submit this event for approval. Barbara added that our sponsorship for this event is \$400.00.
- Barbara distributed a sheet regarding the Texas Search for Excellence Awards Program, sponsored by the Texas Master Gardener Association (TMGA). She provided a brief overview of the program and the various awards categories. Traditionally, our BCMG organization does quite well each year, winning recognition in most, if not all, categories. She wants everyone to review the categories and begin thinking about our entries in these categories, which are due in January. She would like to have the list finalized at the November meeting.
- Speaker for the next BCMG meeting: Randy Verhoek, Owner of IntegriBees
- Master Gardener of the Month: Don Crites. No motion was made but approval was given by unanimous acclamation.

President's Report – Jack Downey

- Some volunteer slots for the Home & Garden Show are still open. Jack encouraged each of us to try out the VMS system by volunteering for something (and then canceling out if not actually volunteering). He would like us all to be comfortable with the system so we can promote the use of the system to other MGs.

Upcoming BOD Meeting

- Date and time for next BOD meeting is October 13, 2016, 4:00 p.m.

Sherry Cantrell
Secretary

Jack Downey
President

**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



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Barbara Lutz
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To Send an E-mail to the entire Board

board@bexarcountymastergardeners.org



**BCMG Board of Directors
Meeting**

Thurs., Oct. 13, 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 that you will be attending.

Just One More...

Master Gardener Sir Oliver Smith
at the Schultze House
(Photo submitted by Jack Downey)



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.

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

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

- Albert Camus

I'm a transplant from "up North" - at this point more than 30 years ago. I've grown roots here, so I guess you could call me an "official" Texan (although I am still a loyal Cubs fan). One of the first major differences I noticed after living in San Antonio my first few years was that as opposed to the four distinct seasons I had experienced up through early adulthood in Illinois, down here there were really only three (some people would even say two), distinct seasons: "not quite hot," "hot," and a cooler (sometimes wet) "winter." So, you would think that we don't experience an autumn here, but indeed we do! Although the colors might not be as spectacular in some parts of Texas as "up North," we do get to see some beautiful color, albeit brief, which you would call fall. That got me wondering as to exactly why the leaves turn color (if they do) and why there are so many variations of fall across the county.

Before the color change happens, leaves are green. Most people are familiar with the green pigment chlorophyll that helps the plant make food (sugar) through photosynthesis by using sunlight. Plants also contain another pigment, carotenoid, which is yellow and orange (and is also contained in foods like bananas and carrots), but we don't see it because the chlorophyll masks the carotenoids until fall. What causes the

change from green to yellow and orange are shorter days and longer nights. Additionally, there is a third pigment, anthocyanin, which produces the vibrant reds and purples (also seen in a variety of foods of the same color), but is only produced during autumn, and not all trees can produce it.

So how does it work?

The decreasing amount of sunlight causes the trees to produce less and less chlorophyll, allowing the yellows and oranges of the carotenoids to show through. What about the reds and purples? Temperature and cloud cover will cause variations in the amount of anthocyanins produced in any given year. Warm, sunny fall days with cool (but not freezing) night temperatures allows the leaves to continue to produce lots of sugar, but the cooler evenings prevent the sugar from moving through the veins of the leaf and into the branches to nourish the tree. In order for the tree to continue receiving nutrients, it produces anthocyanins to recover the nutrients before the leaves fall off. The production of the anthocyanins results in the bright reds, purple and crimson coloring of the leaves.

Moisture also plays a role in the color saturation of the leaves. A severe drought will delay the arrival of fall color, and a warm wet period during fall will lower the intensity of color. A frost will have the

From the Editor, Cont.

disappointing effect of killing the leaves, which will then unceremoniously turn brown and drop.

Although yellow and gold colors will remain fairly constant from year to year since the carotenoids are always present in the leaves, the most favorable conditions for a perfect storm of brilliant color are: 1) a warm, wet spring, 2) a summer without extremes (too hot or dry), and 3) a fall with warm sunny days and mild, cool nights.

The final stage, after the leaves have turned color, is the leaf drop. For the tree's protection, any living tissue susceptible to freezing temperatures has to be shed - hence, the "leaf drop." Gradually, as fall progresses, the veins in the leaf that transport sap into and out of the leaf close and form a "separation layer" at the base of the leaf stem, which basically "shuts the door" to the living tree and the leaf drops to the ground below. And, as all good gardeners know, the leaves eventually decompose (or are picked up and mulched or composted!) to add vital nutrients to the soil.

Although New England may boast the most consistently spectacular fall colors, our Hill Country and Lost Maples State Park also put on a pretty good show. Hopefully this year we will be rewarded with some colors (almost) as good as those Yankees "up North"!



Your Editor,
Kimber Briggs

Happy fall, y'all!!