



# The Scion

Newsletter



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



## February President's Message



*Dear Master Gardeners -*

Whew! January has been a busy time for many of us.

Thanks to everyone who made our January 19<sup>th</sup> Rodeo Round-Up so wonderful. Over 100 Master Gardeners attended. It was a busy meeting with Rodeo sign-up's, notarizing liability letters, making copies of driver's licenses and insurance forms, paying dues, picking up membership cards, buying our new clothing offerings and an abundance of chili to eat prepared by the best cooks in town. I walked everyone through the layout of the Lil' Buckaroo Tent and David gave us an informative run-down on the plants we will have for sale as well as updating us on the on-going Citrus sale – just in time to replace those trees you lost in the recent freeze. You still have time to order your new Citrus trees so you can pick them up at the February 16<sup>th</sup> afternoon meeting.

Construction has begun in earnest at the Lil' Buckaroo Tent. Our construction team led by **John Maldonado** has completed the enlarged plant sale area and the rest of the tent is laid out so construction will be rapidly finalized in all the Master Gardener areas. **Dale Ovody, Bill Nodine, David Taylor** and **Debbie Elia** of the Guadalupe Master Gardeners are an important part of our team – driving the forklift and leading construction efforts.

Our Rodeo shifts are beginning to fill up. Please sign-up for a shift or two. **Aurelia Hovell** at AgriLife is handling the volunteering for Plant Sales, Youth Activities and Tree Give-Aways. **Liz Davenport** is collecting Greeter sign-ups and I'm handling the sign-up of Van Drivers. **Ann Marie Pease** will be sending out Special e-Blasts informing you of the shift vacancies in our various areas.

I would like to especially encourage those Master Gardeners who have never volunteered to assist at Rodeo to sign-up. It's important that your Master Gardener service be in a broad variety of our programs so you are conversant on all of our programs and activities. Come on

*President's Letter, Cont.*

out and help – if you're worried about not having done it before remember there will be experienced Master Gardeners there to help you.

**The application cut-off date for the new Master Gardener Training Class is February 3, 2017 with the class starting on February 22, 2017.** If you know of someone who would be a good addition to our membership, please encourage them to apply now. A committee composed of me, **Ruben Lozano, Lisa Nixon, Jan Craven** and **Chris McKnight** is interviewing the applicants and will select thirty to enter the class. It takes a lot of hours to complete the interviews and I applaud the members of the committee for their dedicated efforts.

Take care and thanks for all you do -

*Jack Downey, President*

*Bexar County Master Gardeners*



*Gorgeous Texas sunset captured by Jack Downey*



## Master Gardener of the Month

By: Ann Marie Caldwell, JMG 1



*Oralia Quiroz*, our **Master Gardener for the month of February**, is a woman with two passions. The first one, her

passion for gardening, began very early in her life, and the second, her passion for educating the young, began in her early adult years. Both found an outlet in the Master Gardener program and have combined to bring joy and satisfaction to her retirement years. These two aspects of her life merged when Oralia graduated in May of 2014 as part of the Master Gardener Class 58 and began volunteering to work in the Children's Garden, thus combining the two passions into a single pursuit.

Oralia's first contact with the soil was as a seasonal worker picking vegetables and cotton in the fields surrounding her home in the Rio Grande Valley. She began this occupation as a child, using her summer time off from school to help supplement her family's income. Oralia was one of ten children. Disaster struck this large family when her father died, leaving her mother with the full support of the children, ranging in ages from one year to sixteen. Oralia was twelve at the time. Her mother worked full-time in the cold of winter and the heat of summer at a local canning

factory. Her grandparents, who lived next door, helped with the pre-school age children. However, when everyone was in school, the task of caring for the younger children and keeping the four-room home where they lived neat and clean fell to Oralia and her older brother and sisters. Sometimes bills got ahead of income, forcing Oralia and her older siblings to take periodic time off from school to go back into the fields to earn much-needed money. Although the work was hard for a young child, Oralia remembers feeling a fascination for the produce that grew from the soil, but she knew nothing about the cultivation process through which the food bearing plants emerged. This childish wonder about gardening was the motivation that eventually led Oralia to become a certified Master Gardener.

Although Oralia had frequent work-related absences during her school days, she was a good student who worked hard to maintain A's and B's in her classes. Her love of learning spurred her on to continue her studies in college, from which she graduated with a bachelor's degree in bilingual education and later a Master's degree in Counseling. Her first job with the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District in the Valley ignited her life-long passion for education. Oralia continued her educational adventure in Conroe and finally in San Antonio as she followed the

*MG of the Month, Cont.*

career path of her husband. Here in San Antonio, Oralia worked at Burke Elementary as a counselor. After thirty-two years in the education field, sixteen in the classroom and sixteen as a counselor, Oralia finally retired. She was then ready to thread together her childhood wonder at the magical process that the soil produces with her passion for educating the young.

Oralia first went to the Children's Garden as part of her curriculum as a Master Gardener trainee. From day one she was both intrigued and awed by the interaction of the young children and their parents with the gardening process. She was reminded of her own desire as a young child to learn how to grow what she was harvesting. The two passions to teach and be involved in the miracle of plant growth converged to make Oralia a Saturday morning regular at the Children's Garden, rising early as she had as a child to head for the gardens. There she uses her teaching experience to further motivate the children to learn. She creates checklists and booklets that reinforce and help organize the instruction that the children have received. She has bought magnifying glasses, sold at The Learning Zone where Oralia works part time, so that the children can better locate the pests that are eating their crops. She brings stickers and treats to reward the good efforts of the young gardeners. Under her care the children flourish and so does Oralia, who continues to learn more and more about the wonders produced by man's interaction with the soil while she observes firsthand

the wonders produced by one woman's dedication to educating the young.





## February Gardening Chores

*Tom Harris, Ph. D., BCMG Class 13*  
*"The Hill Country Gardener"*

[www.thehillcountrygardener.com](http://www.thehillcountrygardener.com)



**February** can still bring bitterly cold weather with freezes, so be very careful about planting perennials at this time.

If you plant seeds outside and severe weather is predicted, try to water all the plants in the yard and be sure to cover the newly emerged plants with old sheets or commercial row-cover of some type.

Now is a great time to start planning those new beds you thought about last year. I hope you made a few notes about that.

There are usually very few pest or disease problems this time of year. Continue to pull weeds as they emerge, though. The more you pull now, the fewer you'll have next year.

Armchair gardening now will pay off well next spring/summer.

### Color Plants

- Mid-February is rose-pruning time (Valentine's Day – remember?) Leave 4-5 pencil-width stems arranged around an open center. Reduce height to approximately 24-36 inches. Begin your insecticide and fungicide weekly sprays if your roses are prone to black spots and bugs.
- Fertilize with rose food or slow-release lawn fertilizer. This is also the time to plant new roses or move old

ones to new locations where they can be appreciated more.

- Do not cut back the daffodils until the leaves turn brown. However, it doesn't matter with tulips since they are an annual in the San Antonio area.
- Divide summer, fall blooming perennials, including cannas, mallows, fall asters, mums, coneflowers, and perennial salvias before growth begins.

### Other February Gardening Chores

- February is a good time to fertilize healthy trees. A simple calculation is based on trunk diameter: use one pound of a high nitrogen fertilizer (slow release type such as 19-5-9) per inch diameter of the tree trunk. Measure the distance around the tree about 4 feet above the ground and divide by 3.
- Spread the fertilizer evenly throughout under the canopy of the tree. Fertilize evergreen trees, such as live oak, at the rate of 1 to 3 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of root area. Fertilize deciduous trees (oaks, cypress) at the rate of 6 to 8 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.
- Prune trees and shrubs this month. Paint wounds larger than ¾ inch on

*Feb. Gardening Chores, Cont.*

oak trees only.

- Wait for a time period that will ensure temperatures above freezing or at least 48 hours to apply a dormant oil spray to euonymus, hollies, oaks, pines, pecans, and fruit trees that are prone to scale. To prevent damage, cover any actively growing flowering annuals or over-seeded lawn areas to avoid contact with the dormant oil spray. Follow label directions carefully to ensure good results without damage.

### **Fruits and Veggies**

- Prune fruit trees just before bud-break. Remember that peaches and plums need to be an open-bowl-shape after pruning.
- “Pot-up” your tomatoes and peppers into 1-gallon pots to maximize growth before stable weather arrives. For tomatoes, the “hot” named tomatoes do well in this area. Move the plants into cover if cold weather is predicted. Plant the potted-up plants in April. If you decide to plant a few tomatoes in the ground this month, don’t plant all of them. Save a few in case a “Blue-Norther” blows through and kills those in the ground.

### **Hope You’re Getting Ready!**

Why? Because gardening is about to get into full swing in 2-3 weeks. Then you’d better be ready to hit the ground running because all those things you didn’t do during the fall and winter are going to come back to haunt you.

Now don’t go out and fertilize the yard yet or anything dumb like that. It’s not THAT time yet.

I meant that you need to be sure of things like: your compost pile has turned into something that you can start using; the weeds are pulled out of all the beds; you changed the oil in the lawnmower and sharpened the blade; got the rust off the pruning shears and sharpened them; and you’ve done all the pruning you intended to do.

Remember: fruit trees are not pruned just for looks, but for better fruit production and easier picking. Remember, too, that pruning regulates tree height and stimulates new growth for next year’s crop (fruit forms on last year’s new growth).





Bexar County Master Gardeners are once again participating in *Birdies for Charity*® a fundraising program designed in 1997, to give participating charities and schools the opportunity to generate contributions through the Valero Texas Open. *Birdies for Charity*® is a no-cost program that gives 100% of the funds raised back to the participating organization.

*Birdies for Charity*® is like a walk-a-thon, but instead of donating per mile, participants make a pledge for every birdie made at the Valero Texas Open. The 2016 Valero Texas Open had 1,834 birdies made, so a pledge of \$0.01 yielded a donation of \$18.34. Donors also have the ability to make a one-time donation and flexibility to pay in advance or to be billed after the tournament. Donations are tax deductible.

*Birdies for Charity*® is the only fundraiser in which the Bexar County Master Gardeners participate. It is the only time we ask the members for financial help.

You will soon receive pledge forms in the mail, or you can make a donation online at <http://www.valerotexasopen.com/birdies/>.

Your contribution to *Birdies for Charity*® can make a real difference in how well BCMG will succeed in its efforts to continue to support the programs we provide to the San Antonio community.

If you have questions or you want more information or a pledge form, contact Barbara Lutz at 699-0663 or [bblutz@stic.net](mailto:bblutz@stic.net).

# Master Gardeners Out and About...

*BCMG Rodeo Meeting and Presentation January 19, 2017*  
*Photos by: Lou Kellogg*



*MGs Out & About, Cont.*



**Rodeo Construction**  
*Photos Contributed By: Barbara Lutz*



*MGs Out & About, Cont.*

**Rodeo Construction**  
*(Guadalupe Master Gardeners)*  
*Photos Contributed By: Barbara Lutz*



*MGs Out & About, Cont.*

*Photos Contributed By: Jack Downey*

**Rodeo Construction**



**Below:**  
David Rodriguez teaching a Saturday seminar  
on fruit trees at Milberger's Nursery



*MGs Out & About, Cont.*

*Schultze Cottage Clean-up  
Photos Contributed By: Jack Downey*



*Schultze Cottage - BEFORE...*



*Schultze House - AFTER...*

*The Hard Working Crew: (L to R)*

*Vicki Jamvold, Ginny Frederick, Mike Tayloe, Henry Brune, Grace Emery, Anna Vogler*





# San Antonio Council of Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges

Presents

## Perennials for San Antonio Tried, True & Maybe New to You

### A Special Horticulture Program with Guest Speaker Fred Spicer - Horticulturist

Mr. Spicer is the Former Executive Director of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, where he worked for 14 years. While there, he added over 46,000 plants to the gardens acreage. He has more than 25 years in practice as a public garden administrator, landscape architect and nurseryman

Fred is a graduate of the Landscape Architecture program at Cook College; Rutgers University earning a BS degree in 1983. He has studied at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University with Michael Dirr.

He has been featured in American Nurseryman, Public Garden and Birmingham Home and Garden. He has also appeared on Martha Stewart Living.

Fred is an energetic and humorous speaker who makes good use of his extensive collection of images to compliment his topics. His vast knowledge of landscape and planting information will be a treat for anyone interested in learning more about perennials.

Thursday, February 16, 2017  
5:00pm - Social Hour (Wine & Hors d'oeuvres)  
6:00pm - Speaker  
San Antonio Garden Center  
3310 N. New Braunfels Avenue

\$25 per person. Checks payable to San Antonio Judges Council,  
C/O Ginger Hodges, 148 Tower Rd, San Antonio TX 78223  
The receipt of your check is your reservation

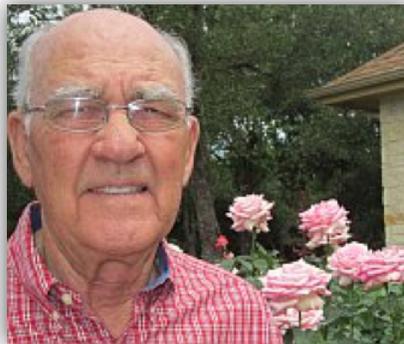
San Antonio Judges Council

For additional Info: Lisa Thurmond  
210-824-0949



*February Educational Seminar*

Thursday, February 16, 2017  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office  
3355 Cherry Ridge Drive Suite 208  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm



**Ed Bradley** is a **Master Gardener**, a champion rose grower and a **Master Rosarian** with the San Antonio Rose Society. He'll present a program on *"Growing Healthy Roses,"* which addresses the full spectrum of growing roses: types to plant, feeding, watering, spraying, etc. Since it is "pruning time" (Feb), he will discuss pruning and offer instructions on how to do it, and may do a demonstration. Ed is a life member of the American Rose Society (ARS), an ARS Master Consulting Rosarian, and a Certified ARS Rose Show Judge. He has won several ARS writing awards for his articles on roses. He and his wife's home rose garden include: 90 Hybrid Teas, 120 miniatures and 15 Grandiflora roses.

The Seminar is Free and Master Gardeners can earn 2 CEU's.





## AgriLife Advice



### Research shows Central Texas landscapes can go ‘thirsty’ but still thrive

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December 30, 2016

#### Study by Texas A&M AgriLife institutes says many plants can do well with half the recommended irrigation

Contacts: Amy Uyen Truong, 979-458- 3154, [Uyen.Truong@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Uyen.Truong@ag.tamu.edu)

Richard White, 979-845-1550, [rh-white@tamu.edu](mailto:rh-white@tamu.edu)

SAN ANTONIO — Many ornamental plants popular in Central Texas landscapes can still grow and thrive when watered using half or less of the usual recommended irrigation amounts, according to research results recently published by two Texas A&M AgriLife institutes.

A drought survivability study, conducted in San Antonio throughout 2015, investigated how 97 plant species common to the region fared when watered with varying amounts over a six-month period.

The study found when watered in small amounts most of the plants remained lush, meaning they had adequate moisture and new growth, and some remained stable even with zero irrigation, according to Amy Uyen Truong, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service assistant with the Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources and the Texas Water Resources Institute in College Station.

Truong co-authored the report with Dr. Richard White, Texas A&M AgriLife Research turfgrass management scientist; Forrest Cobb, IRNR research assistant, and Dr. Roel Lopez, IRNR director. Results were recently published in the Texas Water Resources Institute’s Technical Report-495, which can be found at <http://twri.tamu.edu/publications/reports/2016/tr-495/>.

“Based on this study’s findings, Central Texas landscapes can thrive on a lot less water than most people are using today,” Truong said.

In fact, she said, the study showed 21 percent of the plant species tested could withstand a 12-week drought in Central Texas without any supplemental irrigation or rainfall.

“And 54 percent remained stable and some were lush at just 20 percent potential evapotranspiration,” she said.

Potential evapotranspiration, or ETo, is the amount of water a plant loses every day, and 70 percent of this amount is the estimated average watering rate of residential landscapes in Texas, according to the Texas Water Development Board.

“This research provides a comprehensive evaluation of diverse ornamental plants that will help consumers make smart decisions to produce more sustainable landscapes,” White said.

Because of Central Texas’ variable weather and rainfall, and its history of prolonged periods of drought, it was important for the study to quantify how little water plants need to survive droughts or watering limits, Truong said.

“These results can help not only those residents who want to reduce their outdoor water use without sacrificing an aesthetic landscape, but also business owners and professional landscapers,” she said.

The water board also estimates outdoor water use accounts for 22 to 50 percent of total residential use in Texas.

*AgriLife Advice, Cont.*

“So, reducing outdoor water use could make a huge dent in the state’s water demand, especially during drought when peak water demand is especially high,” Truong said.

The study was supported by AgriLife Research, San Antonio Water System, the cities of Austin and Georgetown and the San Antonio River Authority.

One of the reasons for funding this research project was to educate the public about plant performance during drought-like conditions,” said Christopher Charles, conservation program specialist for the city of Austin. “Plants purchased at local nurseries and home-improvement stores often do not come with specific watering instructions for our Central Texas region. We believe this study will help decrease the need for supplemental watering.”

The study consisted of a 5,000-square-foot demonstration site, divided into four plots, each filled with all 97 of the plants being studied. After planting, a three-month establishment period of watering at recommended levels ensured that the plants were healthy and established.

“This establishment period is key to drought-tolerant landscape success,” Truong said.

The plants in each of the four plots were subjected to four different drought treatments: no water, 20 percent, 40 percent and 60 percent of potential evapotranspiration.

The study used a large movable roof to make the zero ETo plot possible, Truong said, with the roof moved over that section used for the study when there was rain.

“The difference between the 0-percent ETo plot and the 20 percent ETo plot was striking,” Truong said. “Watering these plants with just 20 or 40 percent ETo, instead of the usual 70 percent, resulted in many plants remaining stable or lush and aesthetically pleasing.”

Truong said the study also showed no difference in appearance for stable and lush between the 40 percent and 60 percent ETo plots, even though the 60 percent plot received 8 gallons more water per plant over the 12 weeks.

“Multiply those potential water savings across the vast amounts of residential and commercial landscapes in Central Texas and the savings would be significant,” she said.

Plants such as oleander and anacacho orchid performed best in all four of the watering scenarios.

Truong and the study’s other authors recommend planting groups of plants that have similar reactions to water stress to help reduce water waste, avoid plant replacement costs and ensure aesthetic appeal.

“After an establishment period, plants such as cenizo, fall astar, gaura, oleander and Mexican feathergrass remained lush or stable with no additional water and could work well together in a water-wise landscape,” she said.

Truong said most utilities allow home or business owners to apply for “variances” in drought watering restrictions for landscapes being established and needing additional water.

More than 50 local volunteers, Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists helped make the study possible, Truong said.

While helping plant and weed the plots, the volunteers got to see firsthand how the plants were performing with little water, and many were interested in using more drought-tolerant plants in their own landscapes, she said.

For more information, read the study report or contact Truong at [Uyen.Truong@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Uyen.Truong@ag.tamu.edu).



The recent drought survivability study showed many plants native to Central Texas can fare nicely with half the recommended amount of irrigation. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo)



# Announcements



## ATTENTION MASTER GARDENER SPECIALISTS!

If you are interested in writing an article about your specialty to share your experiences and inspire other Master Gardeners, please contact BCMG President Jack Downey at: [bcmgjack@gmail.com](mailto:bcmgjack@gmail.com)

## **Help Needed & Orientation Scheduled for Children's Vegetable Garden (CVG) at Phil Hardberger Park**

A few Master Gardeners are needed to water mornings in the garden and for other gardening tasks on Tuesdays; set your own schedule depending on the weather. If you are interested in an overview of the program, come to the **CVG Volunteer Orientation** being held at the Voelcker Homestead, Phil Hardberger Park (13203 Blanco Rd, 78216 ) on **Tue, Feb, 14 from 9-10am**. **CEU Code 002**. The Spring 2017 CVG session @ Hardberger Park begins Tue, Feb 21 and continues thru Jun 6 (9am – Noon each Tuesday) for children ages 7 to 14. Email [Nancy Brown](mailto:Nancy.Brown@bcmg.org), or call 210-315-5015 for more information on volunteering or on the orientation.



## ALL BCMG!

Please visit the [Bexar County Master Gardeners website](http://www.bexarmg.org) 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](http://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](#)*



## **We're Having a Mandarin Orange Sale!! Order Plenty and Early!** (Supply Limited!)

These Texas [Superstars](#) are \$15 each, in one-gallon containers, and the varieties Include: [Miho and Seto Satsuma](#); most recent releases, [Orange Frost Satsuma](#) and [Artic Frost Satsuma](#); and, the unusually heavy-producer [Bumper](#). Monies from this sale support the Bexar County Master Gardener Scholarship Fund and Educational Outreach efforts. Please use [order form](#) on the BCMG website and mail your check ([payable to Bexar County Master Gardeners](#)) by **Mon, Feb 13**, or drop off your order with payment by Wed, Feb 15, not later than Noon to Angel or Nick at the Bexar County Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 212, 78230. **Plant pick-up: 12:30 - 3:30pm on Thu, Feb 16** at 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208, 78230. [Stay and attend the Rose Talk by Local Rosarian and Master Gardener Ed Bradley from 1-3pm!](#)

*Announcements, Cont.***UTSA Student Garden**

Our newest community garden will be comprised of six raised beds (40' x 5' in a 50' x 50' fenced enclosure. Over fifty UTSA students are working on the project and are seeking Master Gardener mentors and teachers. Two objectives: (1) Teach the students gardening practices from A to Z (with teaching in both the garden and classroom presentations), and (2) Involve the gardening students in our community projects so they experience working in the community. We need volunteers and, especially a Garden Leader, preferably with experience in our on-going community or children's gardens. Email [Jack Downey](#), for more information.

**SPEAKERS BUREAU**

We now have an easier way to check out speaking opportunities! Head over to the [BCMG webpage](#) for a look at the [Speakers Schedule](#). Here's the [direct link](#) to the Schedule! If you see RED, that means we need your help. Please email [Karen Gardner](#) or call 210-571-3903 if you can help.

It's a great way to knock out your  
volunteer hours!

**Dues are Due!**

Pay your Annual Dues of \$25 (payable to Bexar County Master Gardeners; drop off, or mail to: 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208, 78230) before **March 1, 2017.**

**MASTER GARDENER SPECIALIST COURSES IN 2017**

If you are interested in attending, please email [David Rodriguez](#), Extension Agent-Horticulture, Bexar County. *BCMG CEU Code: 001.*

**VEGETABLE**, Feb 8-10, Dallas - See [TMGA website](#)

**HOME FRUIT - SOUTHERN TEXAS**, Feb 9-10, Gonzales - See [website](#)

**New! PROPAGATION**, Mar 24-25, Arlington - See [TMGA website](#) (*more details in this newsletter!*)

**RAINWATER HARVESTING**, Apr 10-12, Bexar County MGs, San Antonio

**VEGETABLE**, Oct 17-19, Bexar County MGs, San Antonio

**BCMG General Meetings**

**This Month:** Ed Bradley, "Growing Healthy Roses"

When: Thursday, February 16, 1-3 pm

Where: 3355 Cherry Ridge, San Antonio, TX

*Free - 2 CEUs - BCMG Code: 003*

**Next Month:** Dr. Dotty Woodson, "Creating Awesome Containers"

When: Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6-8 pm

Where: 3355 Cherry Ridge, San Antonio, TX

*Free - 1.5 CEUs - BCMG Code: 003*



# FEBRUARY



## ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### COMMUNITY GARDENS (Code 400)

**Green Space Alliance (Code 401)** Knowledgeable gardeners are wanted to regularly serve as garden mentors and occasionally help with special gardening projects.

**Contact:** Tia Moen, Community Outreach Manager at <mailto:tia@greensatx.org>

**Location:** Varies

**Website:**

<https://www.greensatx.org/upcoming-events/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities/> or <http://www.meetup.com/San-Antonio-CG/>

**Haven for Hope (H4H) (Code 402)** BCMGs have been helping to maintain the H4H vegetable and butterfly gardens. Also looking for a few individuals to assist with garden chores and who are available on Tuesday mornings between 8-11am. Additional times and dates are established as needed. There are two steps required to become a Haven for Hope volunteer as described at the website below. Please inform the staff you are a Master Gardener and are interested in helping in the garden.

**MG Contact:** Andrew Waring at [bcmg58@gmail.com](mailto:bcmg58@gmail.com)

**Location:** 1 Haven for Hope Way, San Antonio, TX 78207

**Website:**

<http://www.havenforhope.org/new/volunteers>

**Herff Farm (Code 403)** Volunteer to plant and maintain gardens used for inspiring the public to garden. Teach different ways to garden and how to do it organically. Workdays are Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings (email [Shanna Ciano](mailto:Shanna.Ciano) for exact times); Saturdays from 9am-1pm greet visitors and answer their gardening questions.

**MG Contact:** Shanna Ciano at [shannac@beecreek.net](mailto:shannac@beecreek.net)

**Location:** 33 Herff Road, Boerne TX 78006

**Website:**

[http://www.cibolo.org/difference/vol\\_section/](http://www.cibolo.org/difference/vol_section/)

**SA Food Bank Gardens (Code 404)** Help plant, maintain and harvest the gardens at SA Food Bank. For more information, check out the [SA Food Bank Guide for Garden Volunteers](#) at the website below.

**MG Contact:** Ted Ritchie at [tnritch@gmail.com](mailto:tnritch@gmail.com) or call: 210-744-4220

**Location:** 5200 W Old US Hwy 90, San Antonio, TX 78227

**Website:** <http://safoodbank.org/steps-to-volunteer/>

**Schultze Cottage (Code 405)** In past years, the Hemisfair Park Cottage was a centerpiece of Master Gardener demonstration gardening and a gardening gift shop. Consider rolling up your sleeves and working to renew and maintain our cottage

*Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities, Cont.*

as part of San Antonio's redeveloping Hemisfair Park.

**MG Contact:** Jack Downey at [bcmgjack@gmail.com](mailto:bcmgjack@gmail.com)

**Location:** 514 Hemisfair Park, San Antonio, TX 78205

**Wounded Warrior Gardens (Code 406)** Join the folks who maintain very special gardens for our seriously injured warriors. These gardens are designed to offer therapy as well as beauty.

**MG Contact:** Joyce Dare at [joyce\\_dare@satx.rr.com](mailto:joyce_dare@satx.rr.com)

**Location:** Warrior & Family Support Center, Bldg. 3628 Rawley E. Chambers Rd., Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234

**YOUTH PROGRAMS (Code 980)**

**Children's Vegetable Garden @ SABOT (Code 980a)** All interested and curious volunteers welcome for Fall and Spring programs at the San Antonio Botanical Garden CVG!

**MG Contacts:** Mary Fernandez at [fernandez.m1978@gmail.com](mailto:fernandez.m1978@gmail.com), or John Mayer at [JMayerUDRetired@yahoo.com](mailto:JMayerUDRetired@yahoo.com), or David Rodriguez at

[dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu) SABOT Contact: Volunteer Coordinator Nadezhda Garza at [ngarza@sabot.org](mailto:ngarza@sabot.org) or call 210-207-3261 or 210-536-1415

**Location:** 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209

**Websites:** <http://www.bexarmg.org/what-we-do/childrens-vegetable-garden-program/> <https://www.facebook.com/BexarCountyYouthGardensProgram> <https://bexaryouthgardens.wordpress.com/>

**Children's Vegetable Garden @ Hardberger Park (Code 980a)** The Phil Hardberger Park Children's Vegetable Garden is busy with

new classes of children planting delicious seasonal vegetables. The garden could use more volunteers in a variety of jobs. The Hardberger Park CVG works with the children on Tuesday mornings, and always needs MGs for the Watering Team.

**MG Contact:** Mary Cross at [mary.cross63@yahoo.com](mailto:mary.cross63@yahoo.com)

**Location:** 1021 Voelcker Lane, San Antonio, TX 78248

**Website:**

<https://www.philhardbergerpark.org/events/kid-friendly-events/childrens-vegetable-garden/1376-cvg-season-2>

**Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Activities (Code 980c)**

**MG Contact:** Ruby Zavala at [Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu)

**Location:** Varies

**School Gardens (Adopt-a-School) (Code 980d)**

**MG Contact:** Ruby Zavala at [Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu)

**Location:** Varies

**Terrarium Project (Code 980b)** Work with children on an age-appropriate, TEKS-based lessons, building a terrarium to keep, and touring the Conservatory. Training is provided.

**Contact:** SABOT Volunteer Coordinator Nadezhda Garza at [ngarza@sabot.org](mailto:ngarza@sabot.org) or call 210-207-3261 or 210-536-1415

**Location:** 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209

**Youth Speakers Bureau (Code 980g)** Take fun gardening activities (insects -- plants -- soils) to a youth garden class!

**MG Contact:** Ruby Zavala at [Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu)

**Location:** Varies

*Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities, Cont.***ADDITIONAL GARDENING OPPORTUNITIES...**

**MG Helping Hands (Code 304)** Help BCMG with mailings or other work at our office.

**MG Contact:** Holly Julian at

[khollyj@satx.rr.com](mailto:khollyj@satx.rr.com)

**Location:** Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 3355 Cherry Ridge Drive, Suite 208, 78230

**MG Hotline (Code 503)** The BCMG Plant Hotline answers phone and email questions daily. It is a very good way to learn about a variety of gardening topics. For those of us who don't tolerate heat well, it's great!

**MG Contacts:** Jim Strong, [jrstrong44@gmail.com](mailto:jrstrong44@gmail.com) and Anne Goode, [buagoode@outlook.com](mailto:buagoode@outlook.com)

**Location:** Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 3355 Cherry Ridge Drive, Suite 208, 78230

**Website:** <http://www.bexarmg.org/what-we-do/bexar-county-master-gardener-hotline/>

**MG Speakers Bureau (Code 900)** The Speakers' Bureau needs your help! Join the speaker request notification list to volunteer as a Speaker (Codes: 902=preparation; 903=presentation; 904=tear down), or as a Speakers Bureau assistant to accompany each speaker on their engagement to manage handouts and sign-in sheets, and to return completed sign-in sheets to the BCMG office (Code 901).

**MG Contact:** Karen Gardner at [karen.gardner@bexarmg.org](mailto:karen.gardner@bexarmg.org) or call 210-571-3903

**Location:** Varies

**Website:** <http://www.bexarmg.org/what-we-do/educational-program/>

**MG Training Class (Code 202)** Tell Lou you would like to serve as a mentor for intern class participants!

**MG Contact:** Lou Kellogg, [bexarmg1@gmail.com](mailto:bexarmg1@gmail.com)

**Location:** Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 3355 Cherry Ridge Drive, Suite 208, 78230

**Websites:**

<http://www.bexarmg.org/about/35-2/>

and <http://www.bexarmg.org/get-involved/>

**Plant Trials (Code 950d)** Email David to be added to a list of MGs who will be contacted directly when help is needed for a project.

**Contact:** David Rodriguez at

[dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu)

**Locations:** Food Bank, San Antonio Botanical Gardens and others as identified.

**San Antonio Botanical Garden (Code 800)** Master Gardeners can participate in Plant Propagation (Code 801) working in the SABOT greenhouse under the direction of Mary Irish, or in General Gardens Help (Code 802) which includes various seasonal gardening chores (watering plants, cleaning up plants, dead leaves, deadheading, pruning, etc.).

**Contact:** SABOT Volunteer Coordinator Nadezhda Garza at [ngarza@sabot.org](mailto:ngarza@sabot.org) or call 210-207-3261 or 210-536-1415 for day and time information.

**Location:** 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209





## Tarrant County Master Gardener Association Propagation Specialist Class March 24 -25

Did you inherit your mother's prize begonia and would like to pass it on to your children and grandchildren? Or do you have lots of area to landscape and a limited budget for plants. Or you just want to learn more on how to make 10 plants from one!

The Master Gardener plant specialist course, March 24-25, at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington gives you two full days of hands-on learning a variety of propagation techniques:

- Seeds
- Air layering
- Stem cutting
- Soft & semi hardwood cuttings
- Root cutting
- Bulb chipping
- Division
- Simple layering
- Tree grafting

And more! You will come home with many starter plants.

Propagation experts and specialists will teach the course. Registration is limited to two MGs per county.

Cost is \$225, which includes: lectures, hands-on instruction sessions, field trip, propagation equipment, propagation book, thumb drive with resource materials, one dinner, two lunches and new enthusiasm for propagating a variety of plants.

The registration form is available on the Texas Master Garden website, [txmg.org](http://txmg.org). Click on the Specialist Training link on the home page and then choose Training Opportunities. Information includes the class schedule and topics. Deadline to register for the propagation course is March 1.

Participants are encouraged to stay at the Sheraton Hotel, the host hotel. The hotel has given us an excellent price and as classes begin at 8 a.m. each day, no commute is involved. Just off the major highway I30, it is easy to access. Information on registration at the hotel is included in the registration packet. Hotel reservations are due by February 24.



## SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN 2017 Class Schedule



### Gardening & Waterwise Classes In February and March

#### **Certified Arborist Prep Course**

FOUR FRIDAYS: **FEBRUARY 3**, 10, 17, 24, 9AM-4PM

This course prepares professional arborists for the ISA Certified exam. Topics: tree biology, identification, tree selection, installation, pruning and oak wilt, tree worker safety, and more. Course offered in partnership with the San Antonio Arborist Association and Alamo Forest Partnership.

Fee: \$250

#### **WaterSaver Walk: Explore the cycle of water conservation for landscapes in San Antonio**

**Guide: Linda Cace, Master Naturalist**

SATURDAY, **FEBRUARY 11**, 10AM MEET AT THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

Join Master Naturalist, Linda Cace for a tour of our WaterSaver gardens and learn about the cycle of water conservation in San Antonio.

Fee: Free with Admission

#### **Easy Roses for Our Busy Lives Class & Pruning Workshop**

**Instructor: Peggy Jones, Master Gardener and SA Rose Society**

SATURDAY, **FEBRUARY 11**, 12-2PM

Come join Master Gardener and SA Rose Society member, Peggy Jones as she discusses disease resistant roses, including Old Garden Roses and Earth Kind roses. Learn how to keep them healthy and what diseases and insects bug roses. This class is a workshop that will demonstrate how to plant and prune roses.

Fee: \$30 (\$27 members)

#### **Native Plant Walk: Texas Hill Country**

**Guide: Jessica Leslie, Master Naturalist**

FRIDAY, **FEBRUARY 17**, 10AM MEET AT THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

Explore our 11-acre Texas Native Trail with a focus on Texas Hill Country. This area has its own distinctive and diverse ecological region of Texas, varying in soil, plant life, topography, and weather. There are more than 250 plant species in collections that represent three ecosystems. In the East Texas Pineywoods, visitors find pines, sweetgum, sassafras, and other acidic soil-loving woodland species. The Hill Country area features live oaks, juniper, Texas mountain laurel, Eve's necklace, Blanco crabapple, Possum Haw, Hop-tree, Uvalde maples, and other limestone tolerant plants. In the South Texas region, dryland trees and thorny brush such as torchwood, Mexican olive, mesquite, Texas ebony, and huisache thrive.

#### **It's Time To Prune! Haircuts for Your Plants Workshop**

**Instructor: Tom Harris, Master Gardener and Author**

SATURDAY, **FEBRUARY 18**, 9:30-11:30AM

Late winter and early spring is the time to prune your plants. Pruning is one of those gardening tasks that most people just can't or won't do. The truth of the matter is, however, that plants actually need some pruning to help them bloom, set fruit, and/or generally prosper...believe it or not. And, they will respond according to how they are pruned. Join this hands-on workshop to learn what to do and what not to do.

Fee: \$30 (\$27 members)

#### **Gardening in South Texas**

**Instructor: Mary Irish, Horticulturist and Author**

SATURDAY, **FEBRUARY 25**, 9:30-11AM

Join horticulturist and author, Mary Irish, as she explores the conditions that drive gardening success in South Texas. Whether you're new to gardening or just new to gardening in South Texas, Mrs. Irish, is a wealth of knowledge. Class topics include soils, rainfall regimes, seasons, and strong emphasis on plant selections in all categories (trees, shrubs, perennials, bulbs, etc.). Mrs. Irish has written ten books, including Texas: Getting Started Garden Guide, Trees and Shrubs for the Southwest, Perennials for the Southwest, and Agaves, Yuccas and Related Plants.

Fee: \$20 (\$18 members)

**A Savory Taste of Texas****Instructor: Leslie Bingham, Horticulturist and SA Herb Society**SATURDAY, **MARCH 4**, 9:30-11AM

Join herbalist, Leslie Bingham, as she celebrates Texas' Independence Day with savory herbs. Leslie will present a history of the types of food available and raised in pre 1850's Texas, including a full menu with explanation of the food choices seen from the production point of view for the early Texas Pioneers. She will examine a typical menu of the period along with recipes for the main course, sides and desert, all of course with the addition of herbs.

Fee: \$20 (\$18 members)

**Native Plant Walk: South Texas****Guide: Jessica Leslie, Master Naturalist**FRIDAY, **MARCH 10**, 10AM MEET AT THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

Explore our 11-acre Texas Native Trail with a focus on South Texas. This area has its own distinctive and diverse ecological region of Texas, varying in soil, plant life, topography, and weather. There are more than 250 plant species in collections that represent three ecosystems. In the East Texas Pineywoods, visitors find pines, sweetgum, sassafras, and other acidic soil-loving woodland species. The Hill Country area features live oaks, juniper, Texas mountain laurel, Eve's necklace, Blanco crabapple, Possum Haw, Hop-tree, Uvalde maples, and other limestone tolerant plants. In the South Texas region, dryland trees and thorny brush such as torchwood, Mexican olive, mesquite, Texas ebony, and huisache thrive

**WaterSaver Walk: Explore the cycle of water conservation for landscapes in San Antonio****Tour Guide: Linda Cace, Master Naturalist**SATURDAY, **MARCH 11**, 10AM MEET AT THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

Join Master Naturalist, Linda Cace for a tour of our WaterSaver gardens and learn about the cycle of water conservation in San Antonio.

Fee: Free with Admission

**Japanese Gardening Experience****Instructors: Miyako Wallace & Stephanie Jones, Master Gardener**SATURDAY, **MARCH 11**, 1-3PM

Description: Celebrate Japanese culture by touring our Japanese Garden, Kumamoto En. Enjoy the peace and tranquility of the garden with a tea ceremony and demonstration of Ikebana floral design.

Fee: \$20 (\$18 members)

**Growing Up Wild****Instructor: Emma Trester-Wilson & Tim Roan, San Antonio Botanical Garden Staff**SATURDAY, **MAR 11**, 9AM-12PM

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education program that fosters children's interest in the nature around them, while offering a range of activities and experiences that are important to establishing a foundation of positive impressions about the natural world. This program provides lifelong social and academic skills to children all while exploring wildlife and the natural world around them. Recommended for pre-school to elementary educators.

Fee: \$25

**Harvesting Rainwater & Do-It-Yourself Rain Barrel Workshop****Instructor: Lou Kellogg, Master Gardener**SATURDAY **MARCH 25**, 9:30AM-12PM

Join Lou Kellogg for a rainwater harvesting class. Learn how harvesting rain water can reduce your water bills while providing a source of free water during drought conditions. This class is also a Do-It-Yourself workshop for your personal 55-gallon rain barrel that you will make and take home with you at the end of class.

Fee: \$55 (includes materials: 55-gallon rain barrel and spout)

### **Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Series In February and March**

Bring your appetite...to learn at the Garden. Held on the last Thursday of each month from 11:30am-1pm, this new series will offer expert presentations on a different topic each month.

#### **Lunch and Learn Series: Butterfly Babies**

**Instructor: Emma Trester-Wilson, San Antonio Botanical Garden Staff**

THURSDAY, **FEBRUARY 23**, 11:30AM-1PM

Butterfly babies—aka caterpillars—are found in the Garden if you know where to look! Discover what host plants are, and why they are needed in your butterfly garden. Join us for an indoor presentation followed by a walk to uncover butterfly host plants throughout the Garden. Leave with a host plant for the butterfly babies in your neighborhood.

Fee: \$15 (\$13.50 members) Bring your lunch

#### **Lunch and Learn Series: Revealing Fruit**

**Instructor: Dr. Kelly Lyons, Trinity Biology Professor**

THURSDAY, **MARCH 30**, 11:30AM-1PM

Plants use crafty strategies for getting their babies dispersed and into favorable environments. Join us as we eat our way through a lecture on the secrets of fruits.

Fee: \$15 (\$13.50 members) Bring your lunch

### **Family Drop-In Programs (No pre-registration Necessary) In February and March**

#### **Family Flashlight Night**

FRIDAY, **FEBRUARY 17**, 6-8:30 PM

Fee: Free with Admission

#### **Winged Wonders Family Drop-In Program**

Second Saturdays, 10 AM-12 PM

**FEB 11, MAR 11**

Join us for some hands-on family fun featuring pollinators! Programming will vary but will include activities such as creating a simple craft, playing a game, and taking part in a garden exploration activity.

Fee: Free with Admission

#### **Family Drop-In Programs**

Fourth Saturday 10 AM-12 PM

**FEB 25, MAR 25**

Join us for some hands-on family fun in the Garden! Programming will vary but will include activities such as creating a simple craft, playing a game, and taking part in a garden exploration activity.

Fee: Free with Admission

**PLEASE NOTE:** Additional information, including codes and CEUs, for those classes which qualify for BCMGs are listed on the **Master Calendar** on the Bexar County Master Gardener website: <http://www.bexarmg.org/members/>

## 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 January 19, 2017

#### Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Jack Downey, January 19, 2017, 4:01 p.m.
- Board Members present: Jack Downey (President), Ruben Lozano (Vice President), Lori Bindseil (Treasurer), Sherry Cantrell (Secretary), Inez Ornelas (Membership), Ann Marie Pease (Member at Large), Mary Beth Parsons (Member at Large).
- Other Attendees: David Rodriguez (CEA), Lou Kellogg (Director of Education), Anna Vogler (Water Conservation), Barbara Lutz (Past President).

#### **Approval of Minutes for November 2016 BOD Meeting and January 2017 Executive BOD Meeting**

- Motion to approve both the November and January minutes made by Jack; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ann Marie. Approved by unanimous acclamation.

#### **CEA Report – David Rodriguez**

- David received a request from County Commissioner Sergio Rodriguez to provide free plants for giveaways at the 1st Annual Bexar County Rodeo Breakfast, to be held Saturday, January 28, 9:00 a.m., at 3505 Pleasanton Road. He recommended we approve this to keep good relations with the County. Approval was provided by unanimous decision. David agreed to handle the appropriation of the plants but stated he would need some volunteer help with distributing the plants the morning of the breakfast.
- David brought up his concern regarding the high percentage of total volunteer hours attributed to the Botanical Gardens greenhouse, which, last year, totaled over 1600 hours. In reviewing these hours, he also discovered that a small number of members active at the greenhouse reported no other volunteer activity for other BCMG events or projects. This problem also extends to those reporting volunteer hours for Community Gardens. A discussion ensued regarding our organization's mission of engaging and educating the public about gardening and whether involvement with the Botanical Gardens and Community Gardens is inline with our mission. While a few suggestions were made on how to

address this, no decision was reached on what to do going forward. David indicated the suggestions made have all been tried in the past but were not successful. So, unless changes are made to better define what qualifies for valid volunteer time, the problem remains. Another point made in the discussion was the impact this issue can have on other BCMG activities. With so many volunteer hours dedicated to activities not related to our mission, there is sometimes a shortage of volunteers to support our public education events. The bottom line is this: David would like our members to be more engaged with activities that support our organization's education mission.

- David will bring citrus trees to the Rodeo to sell. He will also advise the members at this evening's monthly meeting that trees may be purchased in advance and picked up at the February 16 meeting. Several varieties of orange trees are available and the cost is \$15.00 per tree.

#### **Youth Program Coordinator Report – Ruby Zavala**

- Ruby reported she is in full "Rodeo mode" and plans are going well. She is busy with a number of volunteers making decorations for the youth garden display. Materials are presently being moved out of storage and construction begins on Monday.
- She is also busy with finishing up grant reports.
- Better Living for Texans (BLT) will be funding the LGEG program.
- Spring Youth Gardens Educator Training is gearing up for February 2. To date, 60 have signed up; registration closes February 27.

#### **Water Conservation Report – Anna Vogler**

- Anna reported the SAWS rain barrel event went very well, with over 5,000 barrels given away. At this time, she does not know if SAWS will do the program again.

#### **Education Report– Lou Kellogg**

- Lou reported that 45 have registered for the spring class but enrollment will be limited to 30. He is changing the classroom setup so that 5 interns

will be seated together at a table. This arrangement is expected to improve communication among the interns.

- He suggested we no longer consider establishing a PayPal account. Instead, he recommends we investigate similar services offered from banking institutions. Costco was also suggested; they are holding a seminar on their service on the 26th.
- A few spots remain for Fruit Tree Training, February 8–9, in Gonzales.
- He is planning to do a presentation on the BCMG organization the first day of the new class.

#### **Membership Report– Inez Ornelas**

- New reporting codes to distinguish the two children’s gardens were requested. Inez proposed the following codes: 980a1 for SA Botanical Children’s Garden and 980a2 for Phil Hardberger Garden.
- He advised that a total of 1,052 hours were reported last year with no codes assigned. Changes to the system that could prevent this, along with other changes, have been requested, but there is no estimate on when these changes will be implemented.

#### **Treasurer’s Report – Lori Bindseil**

- Lori reported our losses increased significantly due to some large bills recently paid (accident insurance, copier, and accountant bills). This was anticipated in the budget.
- The SAWS profit is also substantially lower from last year.
- Ruben provided an update on the CD laddering plan. He recommended an offering from San Antonio Credit Union (SACO) that is a combination CD/Money Market account that allows withdrawals twice a year. After some discussion, Ruben made a motion to open the SACO account with \$50,000 and leave the remaining money as is; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ann Marie. Approved by unanimous acclamation.
- Approximately 1/2 of the members have paid their dues, but more are expected to pay at tonight’s meeting.

- Lori advised we need to officially establish the approval process regarding allowance monies for David, Mollie, and Ruby. Ann Marie made a motion to give the approval authority to the Treasurer and that the Treasurer will then report any approvals given at the following month's BOD meeting. Approved by unanimous acclamation.

### **Old Business**

- In regards to the upcoming election, Ruben reported he has only received one name (for Member-At-Large).
- Barbara provided copies of the write-ups for 5 of the 8 annual awards. The paperwork for two of the remaining three awards are in progress and close to completion. She is waiting on data for the research award. The The deadline for submission is January 31.
- Jack thanked everyone for helping make the Christmas party a success. David suggested a daytime Christmas party for next year, which could improve attendance, as some members do not like to drive at night. Barbara will look into availability for a Sunday afternoon.

### **New Business**

- Jack presented the proposed change to the bylaws to establish an electronic means for voting by the Board of Directors when deemed necessary by the President of the Board of Directors or a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Paper copies of each individual vote would be retained by the Secretary and attached to the next monthly meeting minutes as a permanent file. This Presidential authority would be used sparingly so as to not preclude effective and thorough board discussion of issues. As described in the previous Executive Board Meeting held earlier this month, this would allow board members to vote on issues when they might otherwise not be able to attend a meeting. Rules governing this are outlined in the Texas Non-Profit Model Corporation Act. This proposal will be published in the Scion and eBlast, after which a vote of the general membership will be done at a monthly meeting.
- Jack was approached by two members for financial help regarding dues payment. To protect the privacy of special circumstances related to

individual members, all agreed to give the President the authority to review and handle special need cases.

- Master Gardeners for the months of February and March were selected. February: Aurelia Quiroz. March: John Maldonado. No motions were made but approvals were given by unanimous acclamation.

#### **President's Report (Jack Downey)**

- Jack advised he was contacted by a UTSA professor regarding a student garden at the University. The University has given the Professor approval to establish a 50'x50' enclosed garden space with 6-40'x5' gardens. He is asking BCMGs to assist with educating the students and, in return, he is offering help from the students with our events and projects.
- Jack reported that repairs are needed at the Schultz house. To pursue the needed repairs, he is trying to locate any document from earlier years that shows the city gave us permission to be there.

#### **Upcoming BOD Meeting**

- Date for the next BOD meeting is February 16, 2017.

#### **Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned, 5:23 p.m., by Jack Downey, January 19, 2017.

Sherry Cantrell

Secretary

Jack Downey

President

# ATTENTION

## **Proposed By-Law Change**

### ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors may vote by electronic means (i.e., email) when it is deemed necessary by the President of the Board of Directors or a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Paper copies of each individual vote will be retained by the Secretary and attached to the next monthly meeting minutes as a permanent file. This Presidential authority should be used sparingly so as to not preclude effective and thorough board discussion of issues.

### **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.

**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

**BCMG Board of Directors  
Meeting**

**Thurs., Feb. 16, 3:30 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](mailto: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.

**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

**President**

Jack Downey  
[President@bexarmg.org](mailto:President@bexarmg.org)

**Vice President**

Ruben Lozano  
[vp@bexarmg.org](mailto:vp@bexarmg.org)

**Treasurer**

Lori Bindseil  
[Treasurer@bexarmg.org](mailto:Treasurer@bexarmg.org)

**Secretary**

Sherry Cantrell  
[Secretary@bexarmg.org](mailto:Secretary@bexarmg.org)

**Membership**

Inez Ornelas  
[Membership@bexarmg.org](mailto:Membership@bexarmg.org)

**Members-at-Large**

Marybeth Parsons  
[Member1@bexarmg.org](mailto:Member1@bexarmg.org)  
Ann Marie Pease  
[Member2@bexarmg.org](mailto:Member2@bexarmg.org)

**Immediate Past President**

Barbara Lutz  
[PastPresident@bexarmg.org](mailto:PastPresident@bexarmg.org)

**To Send an E-mail to the entire Board**



## 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*

### "A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME..."

Although February is not "officially" the month of the rose (that honor belongs to the month of June), there are a number of events in February that involve roses. For one, it is recommended that we prune our rose bushes in February, using the rose infused holiday of Valentine's Day as our reminder. Since one of our own BCMGs, Master Rosarian Ed Bradley, will be covering the topic of "Growing Healthy Roses" at our February Educational Seminar on February 16<sup>th</sup>, I thought this would be a great opportunity for me to share some other interesting facts about roses.

As I mentioned, one of the biggest rose events is Valentine's Day! As one of the more popular holidays, the rose comes in a close 2<sup>nd</sup> only to candy as one of the two top gifts given on Valentine's Day. Approximately 220 million roses are produced for the holiday, with red roses being the time-honored way to say, "I love you." Which got me wondering about the meaning of some of the other colors...

Briefly, a pink rose is given to show admiration and appreciation; white roses are associated with marriages and new beginnings; orange roses are representative of enthusiasm, passion and gratitude; and yellow roses are the traditional symbol of friendship. That's as far as I'm willing to go since there are more variations in the color of roses than hues in a rainbow!

Despite my best efforts, I know very little about roses. I have one rose bush that I do not know the name of other than to call it my "red rose bush" and even though I have practiced some pretty severe pruning techniques on it, it miraculously continues to flourish. So in an attempt to gain some "rose knowledge" I attended a meeting of the San Antonio Rose Society a couple of years ago. I remember it as a wonderful experience and I would highly recommend to anyone wanting to expand their rose knowledge to go to one (or more) of their meetings (for more information on upcoming meetings and topics: <http://www.sarosesociety.org>). Meg Ware, a Master Rosarian, opened the meeting with a five minute fun quiz recalling off the top of your head roses named after U.S. Presidents and First Ladies (there are a lot!) followed by a PowerPoint program with a lot of helpful information. According to a handout I picked up, there are many varieties of roses:

- Hybrid Teas - Basically the traditional long stem rose.
- Floribundas - A medium sized compact rose with medium sized flowers mostly borne in clusters.
- Grandifloras - Falls between the hybrid tea and the floribunda. Large flowers borne in clusters rather than a single stem.
- Climbers - May be trained to grow to achieve a special function or unique look.
- Miniatures - Grow 24 - 30 inches.
- Shrubs - Free blooming plants with differing flower sizes and forms.
- Antiques (Old Garden Roses (OGRs) or Heirloom Roses) - a class of roses introduced prior to 1867.

And, within these varieties, there are even more “sub-categories,” and then of course there are MANY different varieties within each category. Confused? Try taking a look then at the NAMES of the varieties, which read like a list of movie stars at a Hollywood Oscar night or a garden party at Buckingham Palace: Neil Diamond, Barbara Streisand, Elizabeth Taylor, Marilyn Monroe, Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth, Lady Gardener, and Archduke Charles. Then, there are some just plain strange names: Alakazam (a “Mini Flora”), Coconut Shrimp, Contrary Mary, Wanderlust, and Wing-Ding. And yet there’s more - cook’s names (Julia Child), holidays (Memorial Day), slogans (Easy Does It), even mystery (Intrigue). Yet, learning about all these different varieties of roses filled me with the enthusiasm to try to grow one or two of these beauties. Just being able to tell someone that I am cultivating a “Sexy Rexy” would pique anyone’s interest, don’t you think?

Finally, I can’t discuss roses without mentioning “The Queen’s Garden,” which was a KLRN special that basically went into the “backyard” of Buckingham Palace and gave a tour of the 39 acre garden that is divided into three areas: The Rose Garden, Harrisons, and The Yard. The Garden is home for two and a half thousand of Britain’s insect species, 350 varieties of wildflowers and 83 bird species. The Rose Garden is immersed in historical significance. In the NW corner of the grounds there is a 15 foot Waterloo vase from the Napoleonic Wars, a summer house from the 18th century, and 25 flower beds - each with a different variety of rose. The ages of the beds range between a blushing 20 years old to an incredible 100 years old. Many of the roses have a royal connection. For example, there was a red rose created for the birth of the Duke of Cambridge called the “Royal William”. A funny fact (at least to me) was reference to a garden pest that was “the bane of every gardener in summer”: the “Queen Fly,” a.k.a. an aphid! To handle garden pests that ravage the Queen’s Garden, including The Rose Garden, the Queen prefers gardeners not to use pesticides, instead they use water infused with garlic powder, or benign insects such as the Lady Bug. There was a lot of interesting information in this one hour special, even composting was discussed and apparently the Queen has the best organic compost around due to the “Green Methods” used by her gardeners.

If you are interested in taking part in some rose activities or learning more about roses this month, mark your calendar for the following:

- **February 11, 12 - 2 pm** - “Easy Roses for Our Busy Lives: Rose Care and Pruning Workshop” at the San Antonio Botanical Garden (555 Funston Pl., San Antonio)  
Instructor: Peggy Jones, a member of the San Antonio Rose Society and Master Gardener. Fee: \$30 (\$28 Members). MGs can earn 2 CEUs, (Code 002)
- **February 13, 7 - 9 pm** - “Pruning Roses for Beautiful Blooms” at the San Antonio Garden Center - 3310 North New Braunfels Ave., San Antonio. Presented by the San Antonio Rose Society and consulting Rosarians, Meg Ware and Murry Warner. Free and open to Non-members. MGs can earn 1 CEU (Code 002).
- **February 15, 9 am - 12 pm** - Pruning Roses at the San Antonio Botanical Garden (Hands-on pruning clinic) at 555 Funston Pl., San Antonio. MGs can earn 3 CEUs (Code 002).
- **February 16, 1-3 pm** - BCMG Educational Seminar “Growing Healthy Roses” w/Master Rosarian Ed Bradley, Free and MGs can earn 2 CEUs (Code 003) 3355 Cherry Ridge Dr., Ste. 208

More details for the above events can be found on the Bexar County Master Gardener Member’s Calendar: <http://www.bexarmg.org/members/>

Your Editor,  
*Kimber Briggs*