



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



President's Message



Dear Master Gardeners,

Summer is slowly creeping up on us. Those of us fortunate enough to have gardens have harvested tomatoes, squash, onions, cucumbers, zucchini and other wonderful vegetables to add to our healthy meals. My potatoes are almost ready to harvest. And, wonder of wonders, I haven't seen a single leaf-footed pest on my tomato plants! God is good!

Unfortunately, we are looking again for an Office Manager. Jan Potter has been offered a job she has been seeking for sometime so she is leaving us June 1st. If you know of anyone who is looking for a twice a week, part-time, no benefits (other than meeting lots of nice Master Gardeners) office position, please have them email me at bcmgjack@gmail.com by June 8th.

Summer gives a lot of us a chance to catch our breath, relax and, perhaps, travel a bit as there are few gardening events requiring our participation. Our two award-winning children's gardens have been put to bed for the summer but there are still some volunteer opportunities. Molly Keck and Ruby Zavala have Summer Camps and other children's activities requiring some assistance from Master Gardeners. So, check the VMS calendar and sign up wherever you can to lend them a hand.

As we end our fiscal year, we should pause to thank the hard-working team of Master Gardeners who have kept us informed all year through our various social media venues. **Lisa Nixon, Barbara Linick, and Shawn Bowers** provide our informative and interesting Facebook Group Page "Bexar County Master Gardeners". **Ann Vargas** manages our Google Calendar with education and volunteer opportunities as well as fun garden-related events. If you haven't looked at it you are missing a wealth of information and cross-sharing of gardening experiences. **Ann Marie Pease** diligently produces our weekly e-Blast, the *Leaflet*, to keep us informed with timely notices of volunteer and educational opportunities. In concert with **Keith Braddock, Kate Radomski and Chris McDermott** of Firecat Studios, Ann Marie also makes the changes that keep our website "bexarmg.org" up-to-date and functional. That team

President's Letter, Cont.

is closing in on introducing credit card capability to our website for annual dues and clothing purchase payments. **Kimber Briggs** does a superb job as Editor of our monthly *Scion* – the best monthly newsletter in the State – loaded with information and news of our fellow Master Gardeners.

Finally, we should all tip our hat and say a big “thank you” to **David Rodriguez**, County Extension Agent, who works so hard on our behalf.

Take Care –

Jack Downey, President
Bexar County Master Gardeners



REMEMBER TO ...

VOTE!

Election for the new BCMG 2017-2018 Board of Directors will take place at the monthly general meeting on:

JUNE 15 (1 – 3 PM)

NOMINEES

Pres. – Jack Downey
Vice Pres. – Jesse Valdez
Treasurer – Lori Bindseil
Secretary – Ann Marie Pease
Membership Dir. – Lisa Nixon

Members at Large
Marybeth Parsons
John Maldonado

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor

Congratulations to BCMG Class 61!



BCMG Class 61 Graduates



Interns from Class 61 who have completed their certification requirements: Debbie Faunce, Michelle Hobbs & Rosalie Iltis with David Rodriguez



Master Gardener of the Month

By: Ann Marie Caldwell, JMG 1



Mary Duffy, our **Master Gardener for the month of June**, is a very versatile individual, whose checkered career path shows only one invariable constant: her profound love of plants. This love comes from dormant roots in her ancestry, since Mary grew up in a household in Houston where no one gardened nor filled the interior of the house with plants. Mary's affinity for the soil goes back to her grandparents, German immigrants who became cotton farmers in Central Texas. There they raised their own food and lived off the land. The only contact Mary had with gardening was the times when her family, the city slickers from Houston, visited their country relatives on the farm. But that was enough exposure for Mary, who, from the time she moved into her own apartment, has

filled the interior of her dwellings with a wide variety of houseplants.

The call of the soil was to determine a good part of Mary's professional life as she fluctuated between jobs that took her away from the soil to those that pulled her back. Mary graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in nursing and, as might be expected, worked the next few years in a surgical nursing unit in a hospital in Houston. In 1980, she and her husband left the hustle and bustle of Houston for a more tranquil life in San Antonio. But Mary did not return to her nursing profession. Instead, she got a job at a local nursery just up the street from her home. Of all things, she was hired; to propagate plants! Did she know anything about plant propagation? No, but with training she found that she was a natural for the job. The roots of her gardening ancestors were beginning to make themselves more evident. In her new job Mary found that working with plants was a soothing balm after the stress of her years as a nurse.

When the nursery went out of business, Mary found a job working with Living Interiors, a business that rents out indoor plants to improve the décor of public buildings. Mary's job was to visit these establishments and maintain the plants. Although she had cared for the many plants that had always graced her homes, she had never had any professional training in interior plant maintenance. During the week-long on-the-job training she received, Mary found again that she had a natural ability in this area. According to Mary, this was the best job she ever had. However, after 6 years with Living Interiors, Mary resigned to care for her new baby, only to return some time later to another job working with indoor plants, this time at Milbergers in their interior plants division.

After 2 years at this job, Mary's restive spirit took over and she returned to her nursing profession, working as a nurse at various venues throughout the city until a personal tragedy propelled her onto an entirely new career path. After the sudden loss of her husband in a motorcycle accident, Mary

MG of the Month, Cont.

returned to school at St. Philip's College, where she earned two associate degrees, one in Hotel Management and the other in Hospitality Event Management. Her new training led to her final job at Hampton Inn downtown until her retirement in 2011.

Chance again intervened to lure Mary back to her true love: working with plants. Her oldest daughter married the son of a farmer and the young couple decided they wanted to raise vegetables to sell at Farmers Markets in the area. Mary agreed to let them plow up a half acre of her land, but neither the young couple nor Mary knew much about growing vegetables, Mary's daughter having trained to be a beautician and her son-in-law to work in construction. An advertisement for Bexar County Master Gardener Class 56 convinced them that this was one way to get the skills they needed for their new venture. Since Mary was retired, she was the designated person to enroll in the program.

What started out as a dream has turned into a prosperous venture beyond their wildest dreams! Mary's daughter and son-in-law are now full-time farmers on their own 3 acres of land, and they make a good living selling their produce at local Farmers Markets. And Mary has finally found the stability and happiness she had always been searching for. Her days are filled with pleasure and purpose working with plants. She works at the Botanical Gardens Greenhouse propagating plants, participates in their plant sales, mentors new Master Gardeners as they work their way through their training, and she is a regular volunteer at the rodeo and other volunteer events, especially her favorite, the Festival of Flowers. When she is not volunteering, Mary is working with the myriad of plants she has both inside and outside of her home on the outskirts of Bulverde and her home at Canyon Lake. Mary describes her yard in Bulverde as a jungle, a jumble of plants lovingly accumulated over the years, which are scattered about in a random fashion. The inside of her home is the same, with her houseplants crowding the interior spaces and spilling out onto her patio and tree-shaded yard. In the winter, the rooms of her house, her garage, and her greenhouse are crammed with all the plants that she has loved and cared for during the milder months of the year. And Mary is happy amidst all of this colorful confusion of plants, happier than she has ever been in her life because she has returned to her roots in the soil, where she has found purposefulness and peace.

Master Gardeners Out and About...

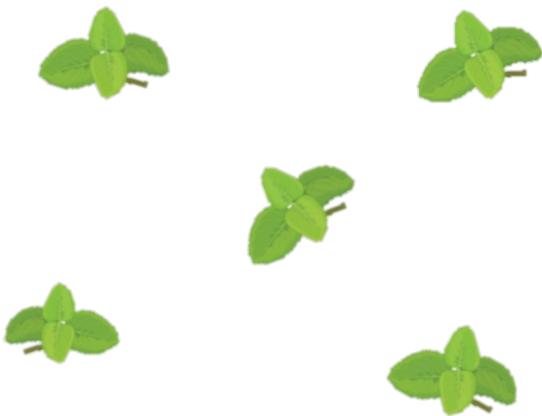
Basil Fest 2017

Photos Courtesy of: Rob DeRocher





Basil Fest, Cont.





June Gardening Chores

Tom Harris, Ph. D., BCMG Class 13

"The Hill Country Gardener"

www.thehillcountrygardener.com



Birds and Wildlife

- To attract butterflies, you can plant coral vine, blue plumbago, butterfly weed, lantana, purple coneflower, and yarrow. Yes, the critters will eat the plants, but the plants will come right back.

Color

- If you're looking for color for the hot part of the summer, consider periwinkles, esperanza, firebush, zinnias, poinciana, portulaca, purslane, or lantana.
- Plant vincas in full sun.
- Shade plants include coleus, caladiums, firespike, and begonias.
- Moss rose and purslane are showy all month long in full sun.
- Keep up the fertilizer on the roses.

Fruits and Nuts

- Peaches, apples, plums and blackberries with developing fruit must receive regular moisture.
- Figs are especially sensitive to dry soil.
- Prune out old blackberry canes (the ones that bore fruit this year) to make way for the new canes.

Shade Trees and Shrubs

- Newly planted trees need deep watering by hand when the soil dries to one inch.
- Remember to mulch 2-3 inches deep around new trees so that they don't have to compete with grass. Leave 6" clearance around the trunks.
- Use a weekly spray program to protect

your roses from insects and black spot. Keep fruit trees well watered if they're still producing.

- Prune hedges on an as needed basis, but avoid severe pruning.

Turf Grass

- June's warm soils make this an ideal time to establish or renovate the home lawn. Bermuda grass for all sun/no shade; St. Augustine for all sun/partial shade; and zoysia for all sun/partial shade.
- Irrigate the lawn grass only if it hasn't rained in the last two weeks.
- Raise the blade on the mower to 3.5 inches or more if you have St. Augustine. Continue to mow the Bermuda at 1-1.5 inch.

Vegetables

- Vegetables to plant now will include black eyed peas, okra, sweet corn, cucumbers, peppers, New Zealand "spinach" and squash.
- You can still plant eggplant and okra for mid-summer vegetables.
- Use Bt or Spinosad to control hornworms, fruit-eating pinworms, and other caterpillars.
- Pull non-producing plants—especially the tomatoes--before diseases and spider mites move in.
- Powdery mildew will probably take the vine plants this month. Pull them out and wait for fall.

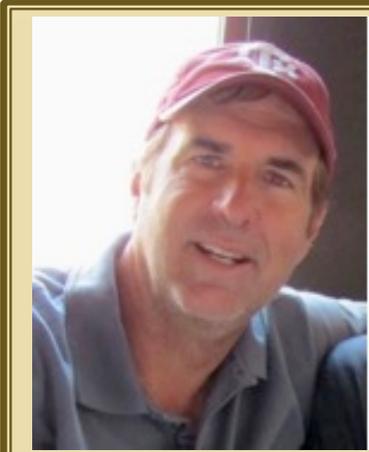


BEXAR COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS GENERAL MEETING

Wildroot Organic Concentrate and Plantsules will be available for sale at the meeting!!



- WHEN:** Thursday, June 15, 1 – 3 pm
- SPEAKER:** David Steinbrunner of **Wildroot Organic** in Boerne
- TOPIC:** “The Mighty Mycorrhizal” – Strong & healthy plants begin with the root system. Learn about how mycorrhizal fungi plays an integral role in healthy root development. 2 CEUs, Code 003
- WHERE:** Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office
3355 Cherry Ridge Dr., Ste. 208, 78230



David Steinbrunner, organic landscaping advocate and entrepreneur for more than twenty years, believes that strong and healthy plants begin with the root system. Drawing on his extensive experience and education in horticulture, David developed a proprietary blend of friendly fungi to enhance the root systems of plants by greatly improving both water and nutrient absorption. The result is stronger plants, more hearty blooms, luscious lawns, and greater crop yields.





MASTER GARDNER GARDEN STARS

Awards and Achievements of Our Fellow Master Gardeners



**Hurrah for the following Bexar County Master Gardeners who
have achieved**

Master Gardener certification for 2017!*

They have earned the 2017 cowboy boot pin by volunteering 30+ hours and completing 6 CEU hours, of which 3 hours must come from attending BCMG monthly meetings. The pins can be picked up at the monthly BCMG General Meetings. Contact Susan Noonan, susan.noonan@gmail.com for other delivery options.

Lorene Adkins

Barbara Linick

Donna Armstrong

Barbara Lutz

Betty Butler

Kit Miller

Liz Campanella

LaVunn Mims

Jane Cobb

Marybeth Parsons

Jan Craven

Sharon Pirttima

Jamie Daily

Mary Quandt

Jack Downey

Ted Ritchie

Mary Duffy

Marcia Rockne

Grace Emery

Melody Stramer

Karin Foote

Janice Wilson

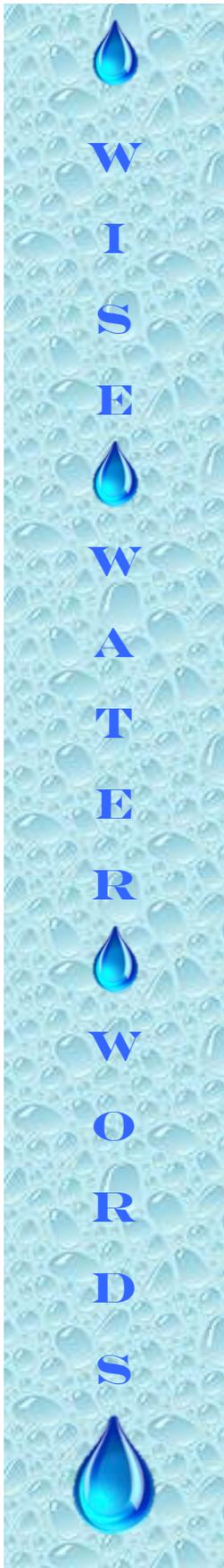
Wilson Grant

Stephanie Jones

Owen Keiser

Lou Kellogg

*Hours submitted through May 19, 2017



Hello fellow Master Gardeners,

I thought I would write this article to share some experiences with English country gardening that I was fortunate enough to see on my recent travels. We had the opportunity to stay with friends in Northern England and home gardening is a major point of pride for most homeowners here. From very small garden spaces to quite elaborate properties, the average English family takes great pride in the planning and care of their gardens. In fact, the yard itself is referred to as the garden.

There are a large variety of plants that will thrive in England, and this is largely due to the deep, rich soil and the regular amounts of rain. And though the sun does not shine consistently, most plants are adapted with large leaves to make the most of it when it does. Many homes with gardens generally have at least one small greenhouse to protect tender plants and start seedlings.

Gardening is a large part of the culture; neighbors help each other and have friendly rivalries on who has the best garden. In the small town where we spent a few days, there is a small business that gives gardening classes similar to our own educational programs. Local county and town fairs feature horticultural exhibits, with many backyard gardeners commonly participating. The **Chelsea Flower Show** is a national landscape and garden event that gets national television coverage and sometimes visits from the Queen. There is also a Royal Horticultural Society that runs 4 public gardens and I was fortunate enough to have toured one of them the last time we visited England. It was a pleasure spending some time with fellow gardeners and enjoying all their lovely gardens. I have included a few pictures to share with you, I hope you enjoy them.

Conservationally yours,

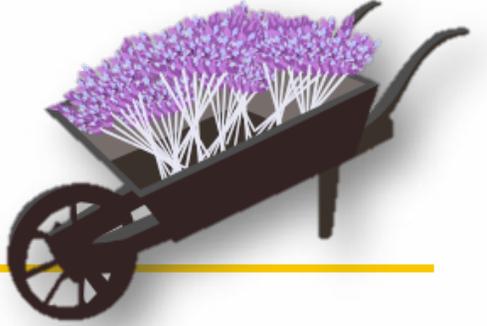
Anna Vogler

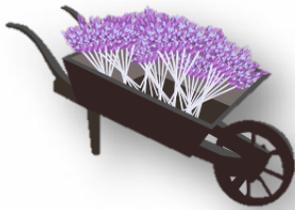
Water Conservation Coordinator

Wise Water Words, Cont.

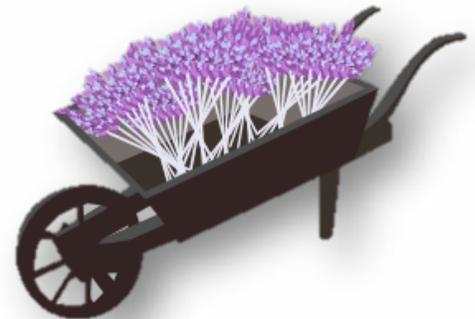
*A View into the
world of...
ENGLISH GARDENING*







Wise Water Words, Cont.





AgriLife Advice



Field trials help identify ‘top tomatoes’ for Texas producers, gardeners

April 25, 2017

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

Contacts: Dr. Larry Stein, 830-278-9151, larry.stein@ag.tamu.edu

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

SAN ANTONIO – For more than a half century, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, in collaboration with a Bexar County agricultural producer and others, has been involved in field trials to determine the best tomato varieties for Texas.

These trials provide AgriLife Extension horticulturists with valuable data they can share with commercial producers, the green industry and individuals trying to decide what tomatoes to grow or sell.

“These trials began about 50 years ago with Verstuyft Farms in Von Ormy,” said Dr. Larry Stein, AgriLife Extension horticulturist, Uvalde. “These are the oldest and largest of our tomato trials throughout the state. We started there because they grew a lot of commercial tomatoes, so it was mutually beneficial for them to help with our trials.”

Stein said the farm typically provides from 1-3 acres for the trials and participates in the testing of 20-30 varieties each year.

“We planted 40 tomato varieties this year, including some of the well-known standard varieties like Celebrity, which we use as a baseline for comparison,” Stein said. “If the new varieties do not perform as well or better than the popular standard varieties, they’re obviously not going to make the cut.”



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service horticulturist David Rodriguez gets tomato varieties ready to plant for this year’s tomato trial at the San Antonio Food Bank garden. (Photo courtesy of Andrew Waring)

There are both spring and fall tomato trials at the sites. Some of the performance factors used to determine which varieties are the best include fruit quality, yield and aesthetics, as well as plant health, including disease resistance. Some of the varieties that have performed well in past tests include Red Deuce, Tycoon, Solar Fire, Bobcat, Heat Wave and Surefire.

One of the other outcomes of these trials is the selection of the “rodeo tomato” which is introduced each year at the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo, usually held in February. Through field testing, a tomato is chosen among new and existing tomato varieties, based on performance and sensory characteristics.

“Show attendees are given the opportunity to be the first to purchase the tomato at the Little Buckaroo Farm tent on the show grounds,” Rodriguez said. “The money we get from the sale of this tomato and other plants during this 18-day event goes toward horticulture scholarships.”

The 2017 rodeo tomato was the Harris Moran 1823, a medium-sized tomato with good yield and fruit quality.

“We need data from two to three years of trials before we select one as a rodeo tomato,” Rodriguez said.

Stein said one of the primary factors for selecting tomato plants that will grow well in Texas is that the plant has a substantial enough canopy to shield the fruit from the harsh sun in many parts of the state.

AgriLife Advice, Cont.

"We test determinate plants that grow to at least 2-3 feet in height and have adequate foliage to protect the fruit from sunburn," he said.

Stein said some of the aesthetic and physiological aspects they look for in selecting the top tomatoes from these trials include fruit firmness and color, consistency and absence of "radial cracks" where fruit meets the stem end of the plant.

"We're more focused on the performance factors and aesthetics than taste in our trials," Stein said. "We do sometimes have taste panels, but we leave it up to those interested in a particular tomato to determine if it tastes as good as or better than a standard tomato. Taste is too subjective for us to assess through any definitive scientific means."

Stein said the San Antonio Food Bank and Children's Vegetable Garden at the San Antonio Botanical Garden are also participating in the tomato trials.



Dr. Larry Stein plants tomato varieties as part of this year's spring tomato trials. (Photo courtesy of Andrew Waring)

"The folks at the Urban Garden at the San Antonio Food Bank have been collaborating with us on these trials for about the past five years," Stein said. "This year they are providing us about a half-acre in the garden where we're testing the same 40 varieties as at Verstyft Farms. And this is the first year we are having tomato trials at the Children's Vegetable Garden."

Andrea Majemy, a nutrition assistant at the San Antonio Food Bank, participated in this year's tomato trials.

"(AgriLife Extension) collects the data from these trials and when the tomatoes are harvested, we share them with our food bank clients," Najemy said. "It's a win-win."

David Rodriguez, AgriLife Extension agent for horticulture, Bexar County, who has led Children's Vegetable Garden programs for several years, said he and program participants are conducting a small-scale tomato trial at the garden.

"The Children's Vegetable Garden is a collaboration between AgriLife Extension and the San Antonio Botanical Garden," Rodriguez said. "We have spring and fall programs for youth interested in gardening and horticulture. They are provided their own plot and learn how to plant, tend and harvest their own fruits and vegetables. Working in the garden gives young people a chance to grow their own food, better understand where their food comes from and learn the importance of agriculture and preserving the natural environment."

He said youth participating in the mini-trial at the Children's Vegetable Garden are getting an opportunity to learn about some of the scientific aspects of agriculture, including how performance data are used by agricultural producers, commercial nurseries and individual gardeners to determine what to plant or sell.

To find out how tomatoes perform in other parts of the state, Stein and Rodriguez provide 6-week-old plants of the same varieties planted at the Bexar County area sites to different parts of the state.

"Our county agents in those areas collaborate with producers or other contacts to perform their own trials and keep track of the results," Stein said. "This year we sent plants to Fort Stockton, Tyler and Bellville so our agents could coordinate trials in those locations."

Stein and Rodriguez both said these trials are not only important in helping commercial producers determine what tomatoes to plant, but also which varieties home gardeners may want to plant in their home vegetable garden.

Announcements



Register By July 14th for Junior Master Gardener Adult Leader Training

Class 11 will be held July 26, 2017 thru July 28, 2017 at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208, 78230. This training is designed for teachers, educators, and volunteers in support of Youth Gardening. Educators will learn about "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences that will provide an appreciation for the environment and cultivate the minds of children. Participants will learn how to establish and sustain a youth garden and how to create a JMG program; be trained in the JMG curriculum; and, obtain CEUs for the three-day training.

Registration fee of \$100 is set with a generous grant provided by San Antonio Livestock Exposition and must be included with application (find it [online](#)). Fee is non-refundable. Email [Ruby Zavala](#) or call (210) 631-0400 for details.



*Join our
Master Gardener Group on
Facebook!*

[Click Here](#)



*Lawn & Garden Show
Podcast*

[Click Here](#)

ATTENTION ALL BCMG!

Sign-up for VOLUNTEER EVENTS can be done online using the Event Calendar in the [Volunteer Management System \(VMS\)](#). Find out the number of volunteers still needed, project codes and even request an event reminder!

How to Volunteer on VMS

Go to www.bexarmg.org and click on members, then click on the box that says report your hours and log in. Click on the calendar and find the event. (If it's not in the current month change the month at the top to the month you want and click go). Click on the event you want to volunteer for and scroll down until you see the box that says volunteer for event, click on the box and you are signed up!



NEED TO REPORT YOUR HOURS?

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

Announcements, Cont.

POSITION OPEN: SPEAKER'S BUREAU COORDINATOR

Any Master Gardener (or intern) interested in becoming the **Speakers Bureau Coordinator** should email Jack Downey at bcmgjack@gmail.com or telephone (210) 771-7312. The work can often be accomplished in one hour a week, but occasionally requires a few hours a week. This is a perfect position for a Master Gardener who has difficulty obtaining hours through other BCMG volunteer opportunities.

The Speakers Bureau Coordinator:

- Receives requests for speakers from gardening and other organizations that want to arrange a Master Gardener speaker for their meetings.
- Advertises each request via the Speakers Bureau schedule followed by an email to all Speaker Bureau participants.
- Responds via email to the requester when a speaker is scheduled to fulfill the request, and includes an info copy to the volunteer speaker so requester and speaker work details for the upcoming presentation.
- Ensures each speaker returns the sign-in list of attendees to the BCMG Office.
- Works with the Water Conservation Coordinator so all presentations that are eligible for billing SAWS are duly recorded and submitted.
- Plays a key role in the fulfillment of the Master Gardener education mission by ensuring speakers are available throughout our community when requested.
- Has an integral role in BCMG revenue generation by providing all completed presentation data to the Water Conservation Coordinator for SAWS billing.

BCMG GENERAL MEETINGS

THIS MONTH ...

David Steinbrunner of Wildroot Organic will be speaking on "The Mighty Mycorrhizal" on June 15, 1 - 3 pm.

NEXT MONTH ...

Rick Fink, Pres. of The Alamo Area Beekeepers Association will be speaking on "The Wonderful World of Bees" on July 20, 6 - 9 pm.





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

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

Location: 33 Herff Road, Boerne TX 78006

Website:

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 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

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

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, or John Mayer at JMayerUDRetired@yahoo.com, or David Rodriguez at

dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu SABOT Contact: Volunteer Coordinator Nadezhda Garza at 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: Nancy Brown at nan.bro@att.net or 210-315-5015

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

Location: Varies

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

MG Contact: Ruby Zavala at 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 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

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

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 and Anne Goode, 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 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

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

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 or call 210-207-3261 or 210-536-1415 for day and time information.

Location: 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209

From Our Friends at the Botanical Garden...



Class List June 2017

Gardening & Waterwise Classes

Butterfly Gardens: Beauty and the Benefits

Instructor: Drake White, Master Naturalist & Owner, The Nectar Bar

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 10AM-12PM

Learn the importance of butterflies for beauty and pollination. Through hands-on demonstrations, learn how to plan and plant a garden to attract butterflies with native host plants that different species need to survive. *Sponsored by SAWS*

Fee: \$20 (\$18 members)

[Click here to register](#)

Turn That Black Thumb Green with Herb Gardens!

Instructor: Mary Beth Wilkinson, Herbalist

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1-3PM

This interactive class will enlighten you on how to successfully grow herbs in the San Antonio climate. Whether you live in an apartment or have a yard! This class covers plant placement, maintenance and seed harvesting for a true sustainable garden. Leave prepared to start your own herb garden. Registrants will leave with seeds to start your own garden.

Sponsored by SAWS

Fee: \$20 (\$18 members)

[Click here to register](#)

Father's Day Bonsai Workshop

Instructors from the San Antonio Bonsai Society

SUNDAY JUNE 18, 1-4PM

Celebrate Father's Day with a gift of time and remembrance. This class invites adult/child pairs to create a real bonsai while cultivating new skills and new memories. Each couple will work together with an expert member from the San Antonio Bonsai Society. Sign up with your little potensai (bonsai in training) today!

Workshop is limited to 10 adult/child pairs. Tools will be provided for use during class.

Fee: \$100 (fee includes bonsai plant specimen & official bonsai container)

[Click here to register](#)

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Orientation

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1PM

Please RSVP to volunteer coordinator, Nadezhda Garza, ngarza@sabot.org

Citizen Science

Participate in San Antonio Butterfly Count at the San Antonio Botanical Garden!

TUESDAY, JUNE 13, 9 AM

Drop in to participate in scientific research in action!

The garden is pleased to partner with North American Butterfly Association (NABA) to host twice annual butterfly counts.

No prior knowledge is required, just a willingness to help in this citizen science project. There is no program fee and admission is waived, but a \$3 donation requested for NABA to cover costs of publishing results. This is collected by NABA at the time of the program, cash only please.

[Click here to register](#)

Arts & Culture

Live Floral Arrangement and Design Workshop

Instructor: Francis McLamb, Artist

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 9:30AM-12PM

Learn basic floral design with instructor, Francis McLamb. Frances is an impressionist artist with almost 40 years of experience as a florist designer. In this workshop students will create a centerpiece in a terra cotta container to take home. Bring clippers.

Fee: \$40 (\$36 members) includes all materials

[Click here to register](#)

Class List June 2017

Mid-Summer Succulent Arrangement

Instructor: Don Clowe and Stephanie Jones, Master Gardener

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 9:30-11:30AM

Walk the succulent wall with experienced succulent grower, Don Clowe, and learn how to artfully display and successfully maintain containers of succulents. After the outdoor adventure, plant your succulent arrangement with Master Gardener, Stephanie Jones. *Sponsored by SAWS*

Fee: \$45 (\$40.50 members) includes materials

[Click here to register](#)

Paper Botanicals: Paper Making Class

Instructor: Jo Etta Jue, Southwest School of Art

DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1-4PM

Students will learn how to recycle paper into pulp, how to fashion a simple mold and deckle, how to pull a sheet of paper, how to transfer wet sheet to a drying surface. Students will take several sheets of paper home with them.

Fee: \$40 (\$36 members)

[Click here to register](#)

Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Series

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.

Biophilia and Restorative Spaces

Instructor: Desiree Salmon, Landscape Architect with THW Design

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 11:45AM-1:00PM

Join us for a lunchtime talk about biophilia and how designing with nature positively influences our well-being, and even restores balance in our lives.

Fee: \$15 (\$13.50 members)

[Click here to register](#)

Lunch and Learn Series

Preserving the Prairie

Instructor: Pat Merkord, Native Prairies Association of Texas

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 11:30AM-1PM

Come learn about Texas prairies, their immense diversity of native grasses, plants, insects, and wildlife – all which are important to improving things like soil and water quality. Hear why prairies matter and the efforts being made to preserve them. *Sponsored by SAWS*

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

[Click here to register](#)

Culinary Programming

Fork and Garden (Daytime Series):

Session II: Peach and Basil

Instructor: Chef Iverson Brownell, Owner, Fork and Garden

Chef Iverson returns for a demonstration and sampling session based on a classic combination of peach and basil.

Fee: \$35 (\$31.50 members)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2017, 11:00P-1:00PM

[Click here to register](#)



Class List June 2017

Can Survive Cuisine (Daytime and Evening Series):

Session II: Popular Diets

Instructor: Dr. Michael Wargovich, MD, and Chef Iverson Brownell, Fork and Garden

The popular duo returns with an informative and entertaining presentation on the health benefits of herbs, spices, and food preparation used in popular diets; with active demonstration and sampling.

Fee: \$35 (\$31.50 members)

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2017, 6:00PM-8:00PM - Popular Diets

[Click here to register](#)

Ayurveda at the Garden (Evening) Series:

Instructor: Andrea Meyer

Chopra Center-certified Ayurvedic lifestyle educator Andrea Meyer is bringing the first of her five-part series back to the garden for students who missed the first class. Students who attend all five classes receive a certificate of completion.

Fee: \$35 (\$31.50 members)

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017, 6:30PM-8:30PM - Encore Presentation of Part 1

[Click here to register](#)

arOMa – Aromatherapy-based Mindfulness: Meditation, Self-Care, and Culinary Demonstration

(Daytime Series):

Instructor: Carrie Edmond, MA, ONE Mindful Maven, and Chef Dave Terrazas, MA, Culinary and Wellness Program Specialist, SABOT

Carrie and Chef Dave will continue the popular series through the summer. Each class includes Carrie's meditation and self-care session, followed by Dave's culinary demonstration and sampling. Please bring a yoga mat.

Fee: \$18 (\$16.20 members)

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017, 10AM-11:30AM - Ginger and Lemongrass

[Click here to register](#)

Seeking Mindfulness in Art (smART) (Daytime Series):

Instructor: Stacey Morrison, Carrie Edmond

Wellness through art! This innovative series by artist and educators Stacey Morrison and Carrie Edmond combines art and mindfulness into an experience that will help attendees be their most creative while being present in the moment.

Fee: \$35 (\$31.50 members) Includes materials fee. Ages 9 and up

SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2017, 10AM-12PM: Crafting Sage Sticks [Click here to register](#)

SUNDAY, JUNE 25, 2017, 10AM-12PM: Building Dream Catchers [Click here to register](#)

Connecting with Your Creative Self – Art for Wellness (Daytime Series):

Instructor: Stacey Morrison

Join artist and educator Stacey Morrison to learn some basic art skills this summer. Stacey will guide you in discovering you "inner artist!"

Fee: \$35 (\$31.50 members) Includes materials fee.

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2017, 10AM-12PM: Shibori Fabric [Click here to register](#)

MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017, 10AM-12PM: Ansel Adams Styled Photography (Bring your own camera) [Click here to register](#)

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017, 10AM-12PM: Tie Dye (Bring your own t-shirt) [Click here to register](#)

MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2017, 10AM-12PM: Plein Air Painting [Click here to register](#)

The Green Plate – Healthy Cooking (Daytime and Evening Series):

Session I: All About Breakfast!

Instructors: Chef Mayela Ramos, Vida Mia Cuisine

Chef Mayela Ramos, Executive Chef of the popular Vida Mia restaurants promotes a healthy lifestyle that includes good nutritional choices, with a lean on delicious raw, vegan, and vegetarian cuisine. Includes demo and samples.

Fee: \$25 (\$22.50 members)

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017, 10AM-12PM

[Click here to register](#)



Class List June 2017

Greenie Foodie – The Great American Farmers' Market Road Trip (Daytime Series):

Chef Dave embarked on four cross-country road trips in 2015 and 2016, shopping at farmers markets, and cooking what he found. Dave is launching his blog, Greenie Foodie, chronicling his adventures; and sharing original recipes.

Fee: \$25 (\$22.50 members)

TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017, 10AM-12PM

[Click here to register](#)

Session I: The Tea and Honey Class – Flower Power!

Instructor: Chef Dave Terrazas, MA, Culinary and Wellness Program Specialist, SABOT

Dave opens the series remembering market days in Boston, Massachusetts, Celebration, Florida, Virginia Beach, Virginia, and here in San Antonio. Dave will sample floral teas and honeys alone, and in unique culinary applications.

Fee: \$25 (\$22.50 members)

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017, 11AM-1PM

[Click here to register](#)

Session II: The Coffee Class – Texan Innovation, Tasting Tutorial, and Recipes with Coffee

Instructor: Chef Dave and Guest

Chef Dave continues the series recollecting his time as a Texas A&M coffee research associate, providing attendees a Q Grader (cupping) coffee tasting tutorial with Tiny House Coffee (Austin, TX), and demonstrating recipes that include coffee.

Fee: \$25 (\$22.50 members)

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017, 11AM-1PM

[Click here to register](#)

Health and Wellness Programming

Torch! Tabata Workout in the Garden (Daytime Series):

Instructor: Jessica Evans, BA, Healthy Living Specialist, YMCA San Antonio

Keep your body guessing with high intensity interval training designed to get your heart rate up, improve fitness, and unleash your inner warrior. Jessica will track your progress on special days* with a weights and measurements check point.

Fee: \$18 (\$16.20 members)

SUNDAY, JUNE 11, 2017, 10:00AM-12:00PM [Click here to register](#)

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017, 10:00PM-12:00PM [Click here to register](#)

SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2017, 10:00AM-12:00PM [Click here to register](#)



Nia Fitness at the Garden Series (Daytime Series):

Instructor: Joanie Brooks

The garden offers a fun holistic fitness series that combines dance, martial arts and mindfulness into a toning workout that strengthens mind, body, and soul.

Fee: \$18 (\$16.20 members)

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017, 9:30AM-10:30AM

[Click here to register](#)

Mindful Living Series (Daytime Series):

Instructor: Sue Voe

Join Sue for a gentle, mindful living series inspired by Buddhist tradition. Sue's unique perspective will help guide you through a relaxing weekday morning class that includes meditation and creative visualization for self-care while being present in the moment.

Audit House and Patio

Fee: \$18 (\$16.20 members)

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017, 9:30AM-10:30PM

[Click here to register](#)

SA Botanical Garden, Cont.



Class List June 2017

Survival Saturday Series

What would you do in a post-apocalyptic or zombie filled world? Could you survive off the land? This program series will allow you to join herbalist and former Green Beret Sam Coffman as he demonstrates how to become a prepper and survive off the land.

Making a Friction Fire from Plants in Central TX (bowdrill fire)

JUNE 3, 9AM-12PM
 Fee: \$30 (members \$27)
[Click here to register.](#)

Tai Chi Series

Tai Chi 24 Form Level 1

Instructor: Ming Xie
 TUESDAYS, JUNE 6 – AUGUST 29, 9:30-10:30 AM (skip July 4th holiday)
 SATURDAYS, JUNE 10 – AUGUST 26, 9:30-10:30 AM Tai Chi uses gentle flowing movements to reduce the stress of today's busy lifestyles and improve health. Anyone, regardless of age or physical ability, can do it. Practice "meditation in motion" with Ming Xie, who has taught Tai Chi for over 25 years.
 Fee: \$120 (\$108 members)
[Click here for Tuesday 9-30 AM class](#)
[Click here for Saturday 9-30 AM classes](#)

Tai Chi Sword 32 Form Instructor: Ming Xie

TUESDAYS, JUNE 6 – AUGUST 29, 10:30-11:30 AM (skip July 4th holiday)
 Tai Chi Sword is primarily used as a weapon in the Tai Chi martial art, this class will teach the form which combines the characteristics of Tai Chi bare hand movements with the artistic and martial functions of the sword. This form will help develop your flexibility, strength, balance, health, and deepen your Tai Chi understanding. Whether you practice Tai Chi as a martial art or for health and enjoyment, you will find Tai Chi sword a wonderful addition to your overall Tai Chi regimen.
 Fee: \$120 (\$108 members)
[Click here for Tuesday 10:30 AM class](#)

Chen Style Tai Chi / Push Hands

Instructor: Ming Xie
 SATURDAYS, JUNE 10 – AUGUST 26, 10:30-11:30 AM
 Chen Style Tai Chi is the oldest among the 5 major styles. Students will experience Chen style's unique alternated speed and silk reeling technique to quickly enhance their balance, strength, and power.
 Fee: \$120 (\$108 members)
[Click here for Saturday 10:30AM class](#)

Yoga

Gardens and Yoga

Instructor: AC Power Yoga
 THIRD SATURDAYS, JUNE 17
 This class invites all levels, ages and sizes to enjoy a meditation in motion in the beauty of the Botanical Garden. Please join the AC Power Yoga team for a fun, active but relaxing yoga practice on the third Saturday of the month. Everyone is welcome.
 Fee: \$15 per person per class (\$13.50 members)
[Click here to register](#)

Class List June 2017

Professional Development

Growing Up Wild

Instructor: Emma Trester-Wilson & Tim Roan, San Antonio Botanical Garden Staff
 SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 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
[Click here to register for June 10](#) Registration deadline June 1st, 2017

Family Classes

The Art of Origami and Zen Doodling

Instructor: Carol Johnson, artist
 SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1-2:30PM
 Join Carol Johnson, origami instructor for the Southwest School of Art summer program and Art San Antonio, for this fun family class to create a paper flower, butterfly and critter origami. Learn some "zen doodling" techniques by decorating the origami with easy fun designs.
 Fee: \$30 per family unit (one adult and up to three children). Includes \$5 per person materials fee.
 \$10 per additional person.
 Age minimum: 8 years
 Please note: This is a family class, all children must be accompanied by an adult.
[Click here to register.](#)

Family Drop-In Programs (No pre-registration Necessary)**Saturdays from 10AM-12PM**

Join us for some hands-on family fun! Programming will vary but will include activities such as planting a seed to take home, creating a simple craft, taking part in garden exploration and/or a nutritional activity.

June 3 - National Rose Month: Rose Infused Water
 June 10 - Be-leaf it or Not: Fresh Fruits and Veggie Month
 June 17 - National Dairy Month: Fruit and yogurt parfaits
 June 24 - National Iced Tea Month: Mint and flower infused teas

Walks (pre-registration Necessary)

Native Plant Walks (pre-registration Necessary)

Explore our 11-acre Texas Native Trail with a Master Naturalist. 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 Piney Woods, 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. On this Walk you'll learn about the medicinal uses of native plants as well as their historical and cultural uses, and which are favored by birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Meet at 10 am at the Carriage House. Walk is free to members or with paid admission, but **registration is required.**

Saturday, June 17 - East Pineywoods. Guide: Paul Goldenbaum, Master Naturalist
[Click here to register](#)



Class List June 2017

WaterSaver Walks (pre-registration Necessary)

Looking for plants that grow best in San Antonio soils, the most efficient water users, good mulch, and materials to use for pathways that will still allow water to reach plants? Come and see! Explore our WaterSaver Garden and WaterSaver Lane (both are co-operative projects with the San Antonio Water System) with a Master Naturalist or a Master Gardener to learn the story of water and understand water-saving gardening in San Antonio.

The WaterSaver Garden demonstrates practical home gardening techniques that are the most water friendly, showcasing drip irrigation and "turf bubbler" watering techniques, samples of mulches and permeable paving surfaces, and plantings that perform well with San Antonio's climate and water requirements. WaterSaver Lane features six cottages that demonstrate different types of drought-tolerant landscaping, including one showing what not to plant! Find a variety of landscapes that minimize lawn and include more groundcover, perennial flowerbeds and herbs, native and adapted plants, and patio space.

Meet at 10 am at the Carriage House. Walk is free to members or with paid admission, but **registration is required.**

June 9 - Wildscape and Spanish Courtyard Design. Guide: Randy Baker, Master Naturalist and Master Gardener

[Click here to register](#)

Bird Walks (no pre-registration necessary) on hiatus until cooler September weather

Classes Qualifying for BCMG CEUs and Codes can be found at:

<http://www.bexarmg.org/calendars/>

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 May 18, 2017

Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Ruben Lozano, May 18, 2017, 4:02 p.m.
- Board Members present: Ruben Lozano (Vice President), Lori Bindseil (Treasurer), Sherry Cantrell (Secretary), Ann Marie Pease (Member at Large), Marybeth Parsons (Member at Large).
- Absent Board Members: Jack Downey (President), Inez Ornelas (Membership).
- Other Attendees: David Rodriguez (CEA), Lou Kellogg (Director of Education), Barbara Lutz (Past President), Ruby Zavala (Youth Gardens), Jan Potter ((Office Manager/Bookkeeper).

Approval of Minutes for April 2017 BOD Meeting

- Motion to approve the April minutes made by Ann Marie; 2nd by Lori. Approved by unanimous acclamation.

CEA Report – David Rodriguez

- David reported it has been a busy month, especially for Denise and Jan in their new positions. He would like the two to meet soon to work on event reporting procedures. Jan advised she and Denise plan to meet, along with Anna, after Anna returns from vacation. David emphasized the need to focus on format simplicity and consistency of reporting for the speakers. This would assist Denise, who has to prepare a master report.
- David asked if there was a replacement for Karen Gardner who is stepping down from the Speakers Bureau effective June 1. No one knew if anyone had volunteered yet

Youth Program Coordinator Report – Ruby Zavala

- Ruby was congratulated on receiving the Marva E. Beck Award for outstanding JMG Leader of the Year (part of the TMGA Awards Program). The Youth Program (LGEG) was also recognized as the Best Youth JMG Program. Ruby expressed how pleased she was with the success of the Learn Grow Eat Go program, which, over the course of the project,

impacted 700+ children in the Bexar County area. The Phil Hardberger Park Children's Vegetable Garden Project also received a first place award. David added that BCMG took a number of awards in the Extra Large Association group.

- Ruby reported the Viva Botanica event, held April 22, went well, despite the wind and cold temperatures that day. Approximately 100 families were in attendance.
- The NISD Environmental Fair was a huge success, with over 800 5th graders in attendance. She and her volunteers provided four activities for about 200 of those students. The park used for this event is going away, so if there is to be a fair next year, a new location will need to be found. David suggested the Botanical Gardens be considered.
- School gardens are closing down, with the harvesting at Heritage Elementary recently completed.

Water Conservation Report – Anna Vogler (absent)

- Prior to the board meeting, Anna sent a written report of her activities to board members. Highlights from her report are, as follows:
 - o HOA Special Project has been approved by SAWS. BCMG will be paid \$500 for the initial coordination and work with each HOA Board of Directors to determine their level of interest and to develop the overall plan for the community outreach. BCMG will also be paid at the event contract rate for educational events for the HOA residents and these events will be used to determine if the residents are interested in having us come back to do a morning (or two) of workshops on a variety of horticultural topics. For each workshop we give the HOA, BCMG will be paid the contract rate according to actual attendance. Residents will also have the opportunity to sign up for a landscape consultation with Master Gardeners. For each consultation we give, BCMG will be paid \$60. (For more detail, see Anna's full report, filed separately with minutes in office).
 - o Fall Educational Seminar will be September 16, 2017, at First Church of the Nazarene, 10715 West Avenue, SA 78213. Request

for Approval has been submitted to SAWS. A planning committee has been established and is working on the initial phase of coordination. Proposed plan is to hold 9 classes offered at 3 different times on a variety of topics, i.e. Rainwater Harvesting, Composting, Understanding Your Irrigation System, Fall Vegetable Gardening, Texas Super Star Plants, Building a Raised Bed, Turfgrass, and Drip Irrigation. Charge will be \$10 per class per person or \$15 for a couple taking the same class; or, \$25 for a single individual taking 3 classes or \$40 per couple taking 3 classes. A few select vendors will be invited to participate. Concessions may also be included to service attendees and provide some additional revenue. The church also has a large event room where various organizations/vendors can set up tables to promote their individual organizations, or where they can have demonstrations.

- o Roseheart HOA Landscape Consultations were done with 3 residents May 8, by Anna, Andrew Waring, Bill Swantner, Amy Stubbs and Susan Hudnall. With each resident, they walked the individual landscape. Consultations were approximately 45 minutes, and included the following: how the resident wanted to use their particular space and what issues they were having; pointed out the positives and offered suggestions for the challenges; developed a check list to keep the consultation focused and to use for making notes and suggestions. Consultations were extremely well received and the residents could not thank us enough. Andrew Waring and Marybeth Parsons are coordinating additional consultations.
- Anna provided an update on the Roseheart HOA project. Residents are excited about having MGs provide one hour consultations on their individual properties. Each consultation will address irrigation, what is not working and suggestions of what would work. She expressed she will need two volunteers for each consultations. Once she submits a proposal to SAWS on the structure of a consultation and receives approval, we can begin scheduling consultations. SAWS will then reimburse us for each consultation completed.

- Barbara reported we will receive \$2100 from SAWS for the entryway for Festival of Flowers.

Education Report– Lou Kellogg

- Lou advised the last class session for the new intern group is this coming Wednesday. Thirty interns will graduate; Ruben advised he will attend. Lou does not know how many interns, if any, have completed their hours for MG status, as he is waiting to hear back from Inez. Lou would like to have admin access to the system so he could check the hours himself. Ruben agreed to discuss the subject with Jack.

Membership Report– Inez Ornelas (not present)**Treasurer's Report** – Lori Bindseil

- Lori reported the financial picture is not as bleak as it may appear, due to a number of transactions not yet reflected in the numbers. She and Jan are still working through a lot of Carol's paperwork.
- Ruben reported the CD implementation (with Randolph Brooks CU) is still in the works. He expects paperwork will be ready next week.
- Ann Marie reported that Kate Radomski has set up the Square credit card payment processing account, and Lori has provided BCMG banking information, which was still being verified. We should be ready for event sales soon. The next step will be an "online store" to receive donations, dues payments, etc.

Old Business

- Since the last board meeting, the board is recommending a bylaw change to **increase the maximum number of consecutive elected terms from two to three for the President, Vice President, Secretary, and At-Large Members**. This bylaw change recommendation came about because no one had yet stepped up for the position of President. If the bylaw is approved by the general membership, Jack is willing to place his name on the candidate slate. The general membership will vote at the BCMG monthly meeting following today's board meeting. The votes to proceed with the bylaw change were cast by Board members via email,

and a paper record of those votes will be filed and maintained in the office, with a copy of the approved minutes.

New Business

- Master Gardener for the month will be Mary Duffy.
- The speaker scheduled for June's BCMG meeting is David Steinbrunner, and the topic is Mycorrhizal Fungi. He will make his presentation following the completion of the General Election.
- Lou asked whether Firecat Studio was continuing to support the BCMG website with recurring maintenance and security updates. Ann Marie explained she could not find a current contract with Firecat Studio, but that Chris McDermott, Technical Producer at Firecat Studio, had continued to support the site with security and maintenance updates and plugin updates as required. Billing is on an hourly basis.
- The Basil Fest will not have plant sales; only give-aways.
- Marybeth advised that those who complete the four sessions of the Landscape Design Program offered by A&M will be able to use a designation with their name.
- David made a suggestion we consider establishing some committees to be in charge of plant sales, meetings, set-up, etc..
- Barbara mentioned volunteers are still calling, rather than volunteering electronically. Marybeth wondered if a demo at a monthly meeting would be helpful.

Upcoming BOD Meeting

- Date for the next BOD meeting is June 15, 2017, immediately following the afternoon BCMG monthly meeting.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned, 5:07 p.m., by Ruben Lozano, May 18, 2017.

Sherry Cantrell
Secretary

Ruben Lozano
Vice 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

**BCMG Board of Directors
Meeting**

Thurs., June 15, 3:30 - 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.

**BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

President

Jack Downey
President@bexarmg.org

Vice President

Ruben Lozano
vp@bexarmg.org

Treasurer

Lori Bindseil
Treasurer@bexarmg.org

Secretary

Sherry Cantrell
Secretary@bexarmg.org

Membership

Inez Ornelas
Membership@bexarmg.org

Members-at-Large

Marybeth Parsons
Member1@bexarmg.org
Ann Marie Pease
Member2@bexarmg.org

Immediate Past President

Barbara Lutz
PastPresident@bexarmg.org

To Send an E-mail to the entire Board
board@bexarcountymastergardeners.org



**H E L P
W A N T E D !**



Our recently-hired Office Manager has a new job opportunity and has submitted her resignation.

Consider this position for yourself, or please forward to someone who might be interested!

Bookkeeper/Office Manager

for

Bexar County Master Gardeners (BCMG)

Support the BCMG and the Board of Directors by working as the primary administrative focal point for the BCMG.

Applicants should have working knowledge and experience with Word, Excel and QuickBooks. Responsible for all correspondence, filing systems, accounting for all revenue/expenses and membership support associated with the work of the BCMG.

Current work schedule is two half-days a week: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am to 2pm. Hourly wage with no benefits.

Email resumes to the BCMG President, [Jack Downey](#) by **June 8, 2017.**

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

A few weeks ago I was volunteering at the San Antonio Botanical Garden and my supervisor had something "special" to show me. As is usually the case, her opinion of "special" in the natural world mirrored mine when she showed me some very cool looking pipevine swallowtail caterpillars. These were a little different than what I was used to seeing since they were red and orange instead of the usual Halloween colors of black and orange. The red ones were also hanging out on (but not eating) a tropical milkweed plant rather than the usual Dutchman's Pipe. (Note: A 29 page article on Pipevine Swallowtails I found on a University of Florida website stated that the red color may be due to increased temperature variations – see: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in1170>). I then came across the "usual" (black and orange) caterpillar on a pipevine plant and enjoyed seeing him/her munch, munch, munch away. That reminded me that I now have my own Dutchman's Pipevine plant that I started from seed, nursed through the winter indoors and then moved outside in the spring. When I got home, I checked on it and saw that it was producing its first flower! Unfortunately, it didn't bloom completely, which I am attributing to the unusually highly humid days we've had this past week? Nonetheless, I thought it might be fun to share some new photos of the caterpillars, my (sort of) blossoming plant and an updated version of the article I wrote about Dutchman's Pipevine in 2015. Enjoy – and please consider sharing some photos with your fellow MGs of what you've discovered in your garden this spring! Please send them to: briggskm@yahoo.com with a story or brief explanation.

The variety of Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia fimbriata*) that I have has an unusual bloom shaped like Sherlock Holmes' smoking pipe, which attracts pollinating flies with an odor similar to the smell of rotting meat. The leaves are a round-heart shape with a white marbled veiny appearance. It is suitable for gardens in USDA zones 7a - 11 and prefers sunny to partially sunny locations, although it will tolerate shade. Unlike a lot of *Aristolochia* species, which require a vertical structure (like a trellis) for support, *A. fimbriata* only gets to be about two feet long and acts like a ground cover, but can be allowed to cascade from a container with proper pruning. In other species of *Aristolochia*, plant height is generally 15-30 ft. and can spread 15-20 ft.. Flowers bloom late spring to early summer and late summer to early fall. During the Victorian Era, climbing versions of this plant were popular for providing shade in arbors and porches due to the thick canopy of leaves that certain larger species will provide in a single season. Additionally, due to the pipe shape of the flower, it was thought to look similar to a human fetus, and so was used medicinally as an aid for childbirth – hence it's other common name of "birthwort."

Besides providing a cool respite from a hot sunny day, or acting as an attractive ground cover, Dutchman's Pipe also plays an important role in being one of approximately 11 U.S. native varieties of pipevine (*Aristolochia*) which are the host plant for the Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly (*Battus philenor*). Part of the joy of tending to this plant recently was watching the development of the Pipevine caterpillars that remind me of aliens from a distant planet. They are VORACIOUS eaters (similar to the appetites of human teenagers), so be prepared to watch them munch through quite a lot of foliage (it is recommended to grow multiple vines!). However, the payoff is a garden full of beautiful Pipevine

From The Editor, Cont.

butterflies! As an added bonus, our area is part of the Pipevine's favored range, with three or more broods produced seasonally. According to an article reproduced from American Butterflies magazine (Vol. 9: No. 2, Summer 2001) on the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) website, although Pipevine Swallowtails had quite a large range during Victorian times when Dutchman's Pipe was a popular garden plant, like many other species of butterfly, its range has decreased over the years. The NABA, through its "Pipe-dream Project" would like to increase both the numbers and range of the Pipevine Swallowtail by encouraging gardeners to plant pipevine (similar to the push for planting milkweed for the Monarchs). There are several pipevine species that can be found in a variety of areas in Texas: *Aristolochia tomentosa* (Wooly pipevine); *A. Serpentaria* (Virginia pipevine); *A. pentandra* (Marsh's pipevine); *A. reticulate* (Texas pipevine); *A. erecta* (Swanflower pipevine); *A. coryi* (Cory's pipevine) - a Texas species found in the Trans-Pecos and Edward's Plateau; and, *A. wrightii* (Wright's pipevine). Obviously, it is encouraged to plant native varieties of pipevine to get the best results in growth, however, *A. fimbriata* is an Argentinian variety that I started from seed that has done quite well for me (in a container).

As gardeners we're ultimately looking for beauty, so to me there is nothing more beautiful than a butterfly that has alighted onto an equally beautiful favorite plant. I hope this might encourage some of you to plant some Dutchman's Pipe (or any butterfly nectar or larval host plant) to attract some additional beauty into your garden.

Your Editor,
Kimber Briggs



Top L-R: My container *A. fimbriata*, new bud, and flower

Bottom L-R: *B. philenor* chrysalis, two color versions of *B. philenor* caterpillar, Pipevine Swallowtail adult butterfly

Photos: Kimber Briggs

