



As the Garden Grows



*A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners
Gonzales, Texas
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*Don't Be Bored!
Join Us for our
June 7th Summer Social!*

*Come join us for our first "Summer Social" on June 7, 2012
(in place of our regular Monthly Meeting).*

*Meet and Greet the Newest Gonzales Master Gardeners
from Class #2!!!*

*The MG Association will provide the meat and everyone else needs to bring a side dish (and
a copy of your recipe). Iced Tea will be provided.
Bring your spouse/companion to join in the fun.
See you at Noon at The Odd Fellows Lodge.*



It's all About Water



Dwight Sexton has been busy this month with Water Fairs at area schools. Assisted by Gonzales Master Gardeners, Dwight is teaching youngsters about aquifers and how they work. Of course, we all know that this is probably not the most exciting topic you can present to kids, even if it has become an Extension staple statewide. So what's the hook? Well, ice cream, of course!! Teaching the importance of aquifers and water conservation, the program includes having the kids build an aquifer—and then they get to eat it!!! Doesn't that sound like fun? Where was Dwight and the ice cream when we were in school? Wondering how they are similar? Ask at the next monthly GMG noon meeting on June 7.

Fall Rummage Sale???

Do you want to have One?

The Board is looking for someone to take the lead on this fundraiser event. Please let them know ASAP if you are interested. A lot of the groundwork was done last year!



Project Updates

WIC Garden Classes Every Friday



WIC Gardening Classes are being held every Friday from 9-10 am. When Gonzales Master Gardeners started the WIC project last October we committed to help WIC Nutritionist Cynthia Green offer classes for clients, focusing on vegetable gardening techniques and practices.

Cynthia's grant is based on the premise that the activities of growing and eating fresh vegetables will help clients and their families achieve better health. Come on out and share your knowledge of growing vegetables. You may even get to take home a few pickings of your favorite vegetable or learn something new

from Cynthia!

If you have any questions or want to select teaching dates, please feel free to contact Cindy Turner.

Adult Education Series

(Submitted by Carol Bond)

The next Adult Education seminar will be on **Thursday, June 28th (Corrected date)** at Gonzales City Hall council chambers starting at 6.30pm. The topic for June is 'Growing Herbs' presented by Elaine Dill (yes no pun here!) Elaine Dill has been gardening for the past 40 years and became a Master Gardener in 2005 after retiring from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. When not gardening, she likes to read about gardening, collect garden books, present gardening workshops, and visit all the local and area nurseries to feed her plant acquisition habit. Because many herbs like Central Texas growing conditions, and they contribute so much to our food palate, Elaine has a particular interest in these versatile plants. Door prizes will be awarded so add this date to your calendar for June.



Eggleston Children's Garden

The children will be harvesting their potatoes this month and checking out the tomatoes, squash, and corn. The children will be encouraged to come out to the gardens during the summer months to observe and harvest their vegetables. If you haven't seen the gardens lately, go by and see what's happening.

Construction to Begin at the Fair Street Exploratorium

By now you all know that GVEC has given the Fair Street project a \$20,000 grant from the Power Up grant program and that the Lower Colorado River Authority has given the project an additional \$25,000 from its grant funds. These two grants, combined with the other monies previously raised, puts the project over the top for the funding required to renovate the building. The City of Gonzales has made its in-kind contribution for the utilities. The drawings and specifications are completed.

So what are we waiting for? Well, we're waiting for school to get out so that the children will not be playing next to our construction zone. Even though this is not heavy construction, it is still better that

school not be in session while it is going on. We hope to have some site work done before we start on the building. You may have noticed--now that it's raining from time to time-- that there is standing water along the fence at the back next to the playground. To fix this problem, the fence will have to be temporarily removed, leaving the construction site open to the playground. And then the fun begins—our fun anyway!!!

Hospital Meditation Garden Dedication

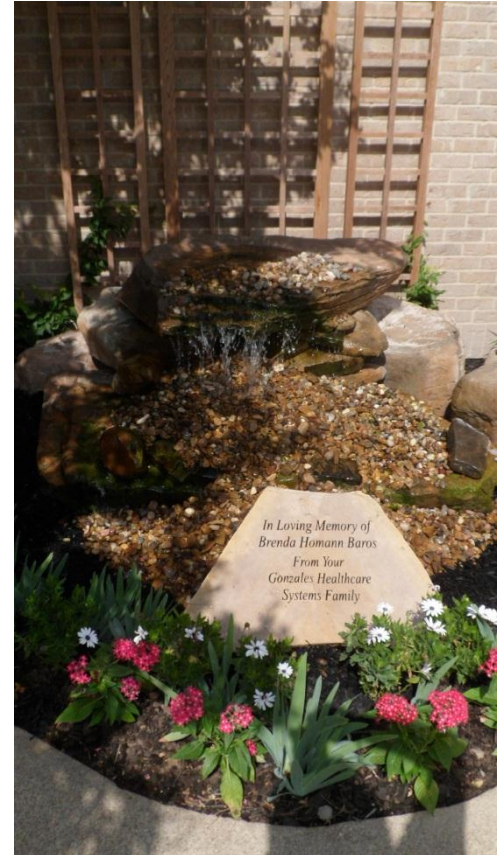
The John Fritz Memorial Meditation Garden was dedicated on May 1, 2012. This was a 2011 class project to design a meditation garden in the Gonzales Memorial Hospital atrium. Polly Coleman and her committee of other Master Gardeners designed a beautiful meditation garden that included a labyrinth, waterfall, bench seating, wooden arbors and latticework (to hide AC units), plants, mulch and drip irrigation. The Hospital Foundation funded the project.

John Fritz (March 9, 1945-February 11, 2010) was the first President of Gonzales Healthcare Systems Foundation and long-standing board member of Memorial Hospital. “The meditation garden is a fitting tribute to a man who truly knew the value of a good book; the joy of telling an entertaining story; the lifelong love of a wonderful woman; the pride of watching you children grow; the enjoyment that true friendship brings; and the power and the majesty of big, honest laughter.” Everyone is invited “to experience the abundance of nature, relaxation, healing, and the spirituality of the John Fritz Memorial Garden.”



The garden is in Memory of John Louis Fritz

The fountain is in memory of Brenda Homann Baros



Let's Fill Up the Class Room

Challenge Yourself to Recruit One Person

for the Fall Class!

Apply Now for MG Class #3

Applications are now being accepted for Class # 3 to begin on September 11, 2012. We need everyone out there recruiting for this next class. Classes will be held from 8:30am-12:30pm, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month (generally) at The Odd Fellows Lodge, 1405 Conway St. Gonzales, Texas. Application deadline is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, August 29, 2012. Payment of \$165.00 will be due with the application.

Call the extension office for more information (830-672-8531).

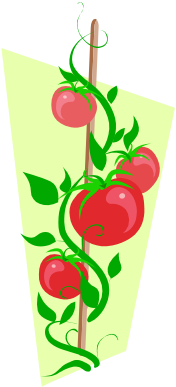
It's never too late to turn in your Volunteer Hours



Please e-mail them to Gail Johnson by the end of each month!

Tip of the Month

(Submitted by Carol Bond)



Many thanks to Roy Cook, the former president of Victoria Master Gardeners for this 'tip of the month'. Start saving your eggshells, wash them, crush them, and use them for tomato planting time. Put the crushed eggshells in your planting hole when you transplant your tomatoes into the garden! Why? Eggshells have lots of calcium and will help prevent blossom end rot on your tomatoes. Now that's a great idea! Thanks Roy.



Plant of the Month

(Submitted by Fran Saliger)



Common Name: Duranta, Brazilian, a Texas SuperStar™ Plant

Botanical Name: *Duranta erecta*

Foliage: somewhat dense evergreen foliage and lilac or sometimes white colored flowers; blooms from summer to first frost

Height: 12-15 feet in South Texas depending on pruning/zone

Width: spreading growth

Light: Sun or Shade-flowers heavier in sun

Water: Low water

Notes: A summer annual in zones 8 and colder; root hardy perennial in South Texas. Can be used as a container plant or an accent plant in a landscape.

Events in the Area

(Submitted by Juliana Hennig)

Victoria: Linda Hartman and Gloria Spell, Victoria County Master Gardeners, will be giving a presentation on “**50 Ways to be Water Smart**” at their Lunch and Learn with the Masters on **May 21** from Noon – 1 p.m. at the Pattie Dodson Health Center, 2805 N. Navarro, Victoria. Free to the public. Bring your lunch and drink.

New Braunfels: Minette Marr, plant conservationist at the Wildflower Center in Austin will be presenting “**Seed Collecting and Preserving**” at the New Braunfels Public Library in the Library Meeting Room located at 700 E. Common Street, New Braunfels on Wednesday, **May 23**, from 3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Free to the public.

San Antonio: Master Gardener Rainwater Harvesting Specialist Training, hosted by the Bexar County Master Gardeners, will be held Thursday and Friday, **May 24 – 25**, at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens, 555 Funston, San Antonio. Only 30 participant spots are available for this training, so please submit your registration forms as soon as possible. Registration is on a first come/first serve basis. Registration fee \$225. Payment and forms must be received by May 17, 2012. Contact Bryan Davis at [210.467.6575](tel:210.467.6575) or by email by-davis@tamu.edu

San Antonio: The 14th Annual Festival of Flowers, San Antonio’s premier gardening event, presented by San Antonio Water System and in cooperation with the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, will be held Saturday, **May 26**, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Alzafar Shrine Hall located at 901 N. Loop 1604 West, between Stone Oak Parkway and Blanco Road. The Festival of Flowers is San Antonio's most exciting gardening-exclusive event that includes a day of informative seminars and shopping for plants, landscape materials and gardening accessories. It's a time to swap plants and seeds at the City-Wide Plant Exchange — the largest exchange in the state. Discuss with the experts the latest in natural and organic gardening at the Organic Roundtable. Talk one-on-one with the area's most experienced gardeners at the "Ask the Expert" booth. Admission \$6 Adults, children under 10 free. Free Parking. For more information, go safestivalofflowers.com

Victoria: Mary Janak, Victoria County Master Gardener, will be giving a presentation on “**Crepe Myrtles: Lilacs of the South**” at their Lunch and Learn with the Masters on **June 11** from Noon – 1 p.m. at the Pattie Dodson Health Center, 2805 N. Navarro, Victoria. Free to the public. Bring your lunch and drink.

Austin: “**How to Rid Your Garden of Pesky Insects**” will be presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners from 10 a.m. – Noon, Thursday, **June 14**, at the Travis County AgriLife Extension Office, 1600 B Smith Road, Austin. Help your gardening by knowing more about the insects which live there. First, hear more about friend and foe in the insect world, and then learn the less toxic and usually less expensive methods to control harmful insects. You'll leave armed with insect identification literature to help improve your gardening.

San Antonio: Master Gardener Specialist Composter Training Class III will be held Wednesday through Friday, **June 13 through June 15**, at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston, San Antonio. **The Master Gardener Composter Specialist** program is designed to train and certify Master Gardeners to become part of a state corps of compost experts and educators. To become a certified Master Gardener Specialist-Composter, the Master Gardener is required to attend and complete the Master Gardener Specialist-Composter Training to fulfill training requirements and

subsequently meet service requirements described below. Training activities during the course will encourage Master Gardeners to complete these service requirements. In an effort to provide training, the Master Gardener Specialist-Composter Training was created as an intensive multi-day training that will empower Master Gardeners with knowledge and skills required to effectively support and multiply Texas AgriLife Extension Service efforts in Earth-Kind® educational programs. The class focuses on composting for the home gardener with insight to commercial compost production and recycling. Master Gardener Composter Specialists will volunteer 15 hours beyond their county's current volunteer obligation. A minimum of 10 hours must be in: (a) Youth and Adult presentations, (b) present information to at least three other groups, and (c) do a composting demonstration for Master Gardeners; a garden club; a neighborhood association or civic organization. Registration cost is \$225 per person. The training is limited to 30 participants, so please submit your registration as soon as possible. Registration is on a first come/first serve basis. **Registration form with payment is due no later than May 18.** For more information, contact David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent-Horticulture at (210) 467-6575 or dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu

Need Continuing Education Hours: (6 hours/year to remain certified as a MG)

San Antonio: For a list of various upcoming master gardener continuing education opportunities in the San Antonio area listed by date, please visit <http://www.bexarcountymastergardeners.org/master-gardener-s-corner/master-gardener-ceus>.

Attend the next Gonzales Master Gardeners Classes starting September 11, 2012-May 2013

Have a Great Summer!



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