



As the Garden Grows

A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners

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The Buzz

Welcome to the Buzz where you can find out what's happening in the Gonzales Master Gardeners and learn more about our activities as an organization. One thing for sure, we are always busy!

Buzzzz...Buzz...Buzz...

12/21/2017

Well, another year is nearly in the books and the highs and (ahem) lows of the gardens (at least MY gardens) are fortunately, soon to be forgot... For now, I am content to have this small break from canning more Salsa Verde from the veritable unending supply of green tomatoes, just to sit here and peck out this post.

I sure hope you had many enjoyable moments from your gardening ventures this year, and if you're like most of us, you learned a few things along the way.

Here at the Gonzales Master Gardeners, we had our Winter Social, which was.....

To find out how the story ends, go to our website: gonzalesmastergardeners.org to read all about it. Mike Ohlhavsen is the author and doing a great job. Thanks Mike.

Check out the monthly calendar if you forgot the dates for an event, meeting or educational opportunity. If you want to submit a recipe for "Recipes We Like" please submit it to Jo Swiger, web master, at jo.swiger@yahoo.com

2018 South Texas Home, Garden, and Environmental Show

(Submitted by Dr. Calvin Finch)

Mark your Calendar, the 2018 the South Texas Home, Garden and Environmental Show (STHGES) home for visitors from all over the Region. The show raises funds for youth gardening and classroom grants.

Programming in 2018 will again include the Last Chance Forever Raptor Show from 1 to 2 pm on both Saturday and Sunday and the Gardening South Texas Radio Show from noon until 2 pm both days. You can seek answers for your gardening questions directly from Dr. Jerry Parsons and Dr. Calvin Finch.

On Saturday, participate in the Plant Exchange Program. Gardeners bring their extra transplants, receive credit for the plants and then use the credits to “buy” other plants in the exchange. The new South Texas Plant Exchange is modeled after successful exchanges operated by the Gardening Volunteers of South Texas and the Devine Garden Club. Both organizations will assist with this event.

The Landscape School is offered on Sunday. It is one of the only programs that have a fee. Individuals participate for \$25 or 2 members from the same Household can participate for \$40. The fee includes several publications and an individual landscape counseling session in addition to lectures by landscape experts.

Gardening Classes in Tomato Gardening, Attracting Butterflies, Old-fashioned and Tough Modern Roses, and Gardening Floresville Style are back from 2017. New for 2018 is a class on Growing and Using Herbs.

Also new for 2018 is the Reptile Display. If the kids are game, they can handle some of our common reptiles as well as learn about both poisonous and non-poisonous snakes. There are a number of other youth activities including the Home Depot Birdhouse Building, and the Milkweed Planting. The Milkweed Planting includes information about how the youngsters can help restore the Monarch Butterfly population.

One of the most important parts of the Show is to recruit candidates for the new Master Gardener Chapter being organized in South Texas. The classes will begin in April and run for 14 weeks. If you are looking to learn more about gardening, participate in significant community projects and have fun gardening, check out the Master Gardener Exhibit.

If you are feeling lucky this year there is a new \$2 raffle with a custom-built hummingbird and butterfly garden as the grand prize. The income from the raffle and the popular silent auction help provide the funding for Classroom Gardens and Environmental Grants.

Attendees that stay overnight during the Show at Floresville Hotels or Motels will receive a \$50 rebate to spend at the Show. All attendees will also receive a choice of a 2018 Rodeo tomato, a milkweed or a zinnia seedling in a 3.5-inch container.

The South Texas Home, Garden and Environmental Show is sponsored by the Texas A&M Agricultural Extension Service, the Wilson County News, Milbergers Gardening South Texas Radio Show, San Antonio River Authority, Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District, the City of Floresville, The Master Gardener Chapters in Bexar, Comal, Guadalupe, and Gonzales Counties, and the Devine Garden Club.

NOTE: GMG were once again asked to participate in this event. At our January Lunch meeting, those present voted to help sponsor the event. We will be hosting the booth that will be selling Old-fashioned and Tough Modern Roses. While at the booth, we will be able to promote our Spring Plant Sale, Gonzales Master Gardeners organization and recruit prospective students for our next training class in the fall of 2018. Raffle tickets for the custom-built hummingbird and butterfly garden will be available for sale and purchase by GMG members. Besides going to a great event for the whole family, GMG will be eligible for a \$200 Classroom Garden grant. A sign-up sheet was circulated and a minimum of two people per shift was filled. There are two shifts per day. If you want to join the fun, contact Fran Saliger.

Third Grade Black Walnut Tree Conservation Program

On December 15, 2017, about 220 3rd grade children from Gonzales Elementary School came to PACE to learn about natural resources and conservation. Donna Bell, leader, explained to the children what a natural resource is and how they could help bring the Black Walnut Tree to Gonzales County. Arline Schacherl, Carolyn Parratt and Dee Sengelmann presented an informative skit about how we could restore the Black Walnut tree in Gonzales, Texas. After the presentation, each child planted two walnut seeds in pots with the help of many GMG present. The students will be able to watch the growth of the trees over the next several months, after they germinate in the spring. These trees will be distributed to the community sometime in the fall of 2018. Thanks to Gail Johnson and her team of GMG, a new drip line irrigation system is being installed in hopes of getting a better germination rate. The area to the south side of the PACE building will be set up to accommodate the 300 plus tree pots.



Preparing the Children's Garden for Planting

(Submitted by Arline Schacherl)

What a glorious day it was at the Children's Garden on Friday, January 5! The weather had warmed, Sandy L. had picked up and delivered a load of mushroom compost, and there were four willing volunteers ready to amend the raised beds. Fran, Dwaine, Sandy, and Arline began shoveling, hauling, and turning/mixing mushroom compost into the existing soil around 10 a.m.

While working, Fran commented that it sure would have been a good idea to contact ISF about working the compost into the soil and Arline agreed. We continued working and were pleasantly

surprised when the white ISF van pulled up and the sergeant asked if we needed assistance. All of us unanimously said, YES!" and gladly handed over our wheelbarrows, shovels, and rakes as we showed the men what needed to be done. The job was done rather quickly which pleased all the volunteers. The remaining compost was heaped in the center of the garden area so that the beds that still need to be repaired will get their fair share of compost. Thank you, God, for sending helpers. Yes, it truly was a glorious day!

On **Thursday, January 18**, we will continue the maintenance. Three beds marked with orange flags are needing repairs or rebuilding. Drip irrigation lines need to be checked and/or repaired before laying and securing them in the beds. Then the string grids can be put in place. The insulation around the pipes also needs replacing. If the weather is nice like what we are experiencing this second week of January, then we can probably begin around 9 a.m. We'll do as much as possible but anything not finished will be done on another maintenance day scheduled for **February 13**. Stay tuned for time.

The Children's Garden project gets underway at 9 a.m. on Thursday morning, **January 11**, for the introductory classroom session. Students will sign their names on the egg-shaped garden markers that Carl has prepared. The well-known story by Eric Carle, The Tiny Seed will be read to the students. The students will be given an assignment of drawing pictures of the plants on plant markers that will grow from of the carrot, lettuce, radish, and spinach seeds they will plant in February. Volunteers for the first session are Dwaine, Jan, Fran, Carolyn P., Robbie, Jennifer, Sandy, Nancy F. and Arline.

Classroom session #2 is scheduled for **Thursday, January 25**. Students will get the opportunity to see the inside of a lima bean seed and learn the parts of the seed. MG volunteers will help each team of students set up an experiment to watch what happens during germination. Signed up for this session are Dwaine, Fran, Shirley, Carolyn P., Jennifer, Nancy F., and Arline. Two more MG volunteers are needed for this session.

Thank you for your support of the Children's Garden project. It is very encouraging to see the volunteer schedule filled up for all the garden sessions! If anyone else is able to help, please let Arline know by email or phone 830-857-0134. Willing adult hands are a precious commodity working with the excited first graders during all phases of this project. It is a learning experience for both young and old (I mean young at heart)!



Spring Plant Sale News!

The Gonzales Master Gardeners 8th Annual Spring Plant Sale will be held on Texas Heroes Square, Saturday, March 24, 2018 from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm.

Our grow teams are very busy growing plants that will be offered at the sale. The Vegetable team has begun the process of planting their tomato and pepper seeds along with many of your other favorite vegetables. The Herb team is busy getting their herbs planted so that they will be ready for

the sale. The Greenhouse is just about full with plants started last fall. They are looking great after the hard freeze we had in early January.

At our first organizational meeting held on December 12, various activities and sub-committees that are needed to host the event were discussed. We will meet again **February 1** after the noon GMG lunch meeting. Please attend and volunteer where needed.

Area Events

Seguin: Growing in Hoop Houses -- A hoop house is a temporary greenhouse you make with PVC pipe to protect tender plants and extend the growing season. Speaker: Dr. Tom Harris, The Hill Country Gardener. Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Mtg & Presentation Thursday, **January 18**, 6:30pm – 8:30pm. AgriLife Extension Services Building, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, TX 78155. The Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Meeting will begin at 6:30 pm followed by the speaker. Free and open to the public; see website: www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org or call: 830-303-3889

San Antonio: Topic: Fruit Tree Basics Seminar Sat, **January 20, 9am – 12pm**. Fanick's Garden Center, 1025 Holmgreen Road, San Antonio, TX. Instructor: Dr. Larry Stein. For more information, visit <https://www.fanicknursery.com/index.html> or call 210-648-1303. There will be a 20% OFF Everything sale this Saturday only for extra savings! This seminar is very popular so arrive early for best parking and seating. Dr. Stein, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will demonstrate how to properly prune fruit, nut, citrus, and grapes for maximum production. In this free seminar you will learn about the overall care of your trees before, during, and after harvest.

Austin: Tree Pruning Workshop-Sat, **January 20, 9am – 11am**. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Avenue, Austin, TX, 78739. Fee: \$30/person. For more information and to register, visit <https://17442a.blackbaudhosting.com/17442a/Tree-Pruning>. Topic: Tree Pruning Workshop: For every tree there's a tool and for every tool there's a technique! Trees give us so much — learn how to keep them healthy and happy with proper pruning techniques. Speaker: Coleen Dieter, landscaping expert, is founder of Red Wheelbarrow, helping to transform hundreds of yards in Central Texas. She believes in creating lush, sustainable green spaces – safer for families, neighbors, pets, and wildlife. Coleen has hosted many gardening segments for Spectrum News in Austin and San Antonio.

San Antonio: Citrus in San Antonio Series: Pruning and Long Term Care of Young to Mature Citrus Trees. **Sat, January 20, 12pm – 3pm**. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209. Fee: \$20; \$18, members. Register online at <https://22076.blackbaudhosting.com/22076/Citrus-in-San-Antonio--Pruning--Long-term-care-of-citrus-trees> Members: Please remember to click on the black Sign-In button in the top right-hand corner of the class registration page in order to receive your discount. The member discount will not appear until the Checkout Screen. Topic: Citrus in San Antonio Series: Pruning and Long Term Care of Young to Mature Citrus Trees Ben will help you feel confident in caring for citrus trees here in San Antonio. After an informative discussion, Ben will thoroughly explain and demonstrate the best techniques, and then attendees will actually get to practice those techniques on the trees in the Garden citrus grove. Instructor: Benjamin Ryan, Horticulturist, San Antonio Botanical Garden

San Antonio: Tower Gardening. **Sat, January 27, 10:00am – 11:30am.** Green Spaces Alliance, 108 E Mistletoe, San Antonio, TX 78212). Free. For more information, visit <https://greensatx.org/venues/green-spaces-alliance-of-south-texas/> or call 210-222-8430. Topic: Tower Gardening Tower Gardening is designed for small spaces such as apartment balconies, patios or any sunny space. Grow vegetables, herbs, flowers, and many fruits in less time than it takes in soil. The system is also designed to recycle nutrients and use less water than conventional gardening. Speaker: Debbie Burnham

San Antonio: Milkweed and Monarchs. **Sat, February 3, 8:30am – 10:30am.** Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, 10750 Pleasanton Road, San Antonio, TX 78221. Fee: \$10; \$5, non-members. Register online at <https://mitchell-lake-audubon-center.ticketleap.com/milkweed-and-monarchs/>. For more information, visit <http://mitchelllake.audubon.org/events> or call 210-628-1639. Topic: Milkweed and Monarchs. This program is aimed at teaching the benefits of planting milkweed and other pollinator plants, helping monarchs, butterflies, and other pollinators carry on their life cycles.

San Antonio: Plant a Texas-Style Cut Flower Garden -- San Antonio Garden Center. Wed, **February 7, 9:30am – 11:30am.** San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N New Braunfels Ave, San Antonio, TX 78209. San Antonio Garden Center Clubs invites you for coffee at 9:30am and speaker at 10am; meetings are free and open to the public. For more information go to <http://sanantoniogardencenter.org/monthly-meetings-2/> or call (210) 824-9981. Topic: Plant a Texas-Style Cut Flower Garden Growing Patio Citrus Part 1 of a two-part cut-flower series. We think that all of us would like to go out into our yard and snip a few blooms for a table arrangement. But we know that in Texas, we are limited to exactly what we can grow and when. Calvin has tips based on his own experience as growing cut-flowers in his San Antonio backyard garden. Speaker: Dr. Calvin Finch, Horticulturist and co-host of the Gardening South Texas show that originates from Milberger's Nursery every Saturday and Sunday.

San Antonio: Gardening with Natives That Attract Butterflies and Birds. **Sat, February 10, 10:00am – 12:30pm.** San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209. Fee: \$20; \$18/members. Register online at <https://22076.blackbaudhosting.com/22076/Gardening-with-Natives-that-attract-butterflies-and-birds> Members: Please remember to click on the black Sign-In button in the top right-hand corner of the class registration page in order to receive your discount. The member discount will not appear until the Checkout Screen. Topic: Gardening with Natives That Attract Butterflies and Birds Is it possible to have low maintenance and beauty too? Jana will show popular native plants that attract butterflies and birds. She has replaced her traditional landscaping with natives and can help you see how to do the same! She will take us on a little walk to see the natives right here on site! Instructors: Jana Gibbons, Native Plant Society of Texas

Victoria: Lunch and Learn with the Masters. Once again this year, certified master gardeners and the Victoria County Extension Agent will present programs on the second Monday of the month (except in May - on the first Monday) from noon to 1 p.m. at the Dr. Pattie Dodson Public Health Center, 2805 N. Navarro St., in Victoria. Bring a lunch and drink if you wish.

This year's schedule

- **Jan. 8** - Virginia Ruschhaupt and Joe Moore will present "Growing Peach Trees in the Victoria Area." Since we have received many requests for this information, what these two specialists have to offer will be very timely. No doubt they will share the peach varieties that do well in our climate.

- **Feb. 12** - Victoria County Extension Agent Matt Bochat will once again bring us the very informative and fun program, "What's This? - Volume III?" Volumes I and II presented in previous years were greatly enjoyed by everyone. It will be a surprise for all of us to see what he comes up with in this unique interactive program.
- **March 12** - "Keyhole Gardening: Innovative Raised Vegetable Beds" will bring to you information on a unique, raised bed system that originated in Africa. Presenter Brian Serold has built several keyhole gardens in Victoria and Bloomington to support the Healthy South Texas Initiative that Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has rolled out in South Texas. Learn how you can build a keyhole garden on your property. Sandi Coleman, another presenter, is a vegetable specialist and will share how she has incorporated the keyhole garden in the Victoria Educational Gardens (VEG) vegetable area.
- **April 9** - Lupe Cook will present "Plant Propagation." Lupe has been instrumental in growing new plants in the VEG greenhouse for our plant sales for several years and has been a propagation instructor for several of the master gardener training classes. She will share some specialized techniques she has experienced in her years of plant propagation, especially the "what-to-dos" and "what-not-to-dos."
- **May 7** - The program "Begonias: Varieties, Care and Propagation" will be presented by Jean Knowles. Because begonias are a favorite of Knowles, she has been growing them for some time. She has quite a collection of varieties and will help you start your own. Make note this program is on the first Monday in May.
- **June 11** - Virginia Ruschhaupt is back, and this time, she will share her expertise with her presentation, "The Joy of Growing Daylilies." Her membership in The American Hemerocallis Society has given her insight into the love of this plant. She also works in the daylily section of Victoria Educational Gardens.
- July 9** - As mentioned earlier, this author isn't a prognosticator of weather, but I'll just bet it will be hot for sure and probably dry. Debbie Krueger will offer some suggestions in "Xeriscaping: Drought Resistant Plants." Learn which plants to incorporate into your landscape to ease up on your water bill and be pretty as well. There are many plants besides cacti that fit into the xeriscape category.
- **Aug. 9** - Our final program of the year will help you prepare for autumn when leaves start falling - and you want to do something with them besides put them in bags for the city to pick up. Jack Goodwin will present, "Composting: Building and Maintaining a Compost Pile." Composting is a way you will be able to recycle something that you would ordinarily throw away into a valuable, nutrient-rich commodity for your own landscape.

Austin: The annual plant sale/fundraiser for Sunshine Community Gardens, 4814 Sunshine Drive, Austin, will be held **March 3**, 9:00 a.m.- 2 p.m. Sunshine Community Gardens are the largest community garden in Austin with the largest community garden plant sale. Available will be organically grown tomatoes (126 varieties), peppers (80 varieties), eggplants, tomatillos, herbs, natives and ornamentals, plus compost to help them all be healthy and happy. For more information, visit sunshinecommunitygardens.org.

Check out www.txmg.org for events around the state

New Braunfels area: <http://txmg.org/comal/events>

Austin Area: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/>

San Antonio, Texas- <http://www.bexarcounnymastergardeners.org>



DATES TO REMEMBER: (Check elsewhere in newsletter for details)

**Unless otherwise noted, all meetings/classes are at
623 N. Fair Street (Plantatarium: A Center for Exploration-aka PACE)**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15	16	17	18 Children's Garden Workday 9am	19	20
21	22	23 MG Class- Vegetable Gardening – Dr. Larry Stein 8:30-12:30	24	25 First Grade- Class Session #2 Board Mtg.	26	27
28	29	30 MG Class- Landscape Concepts and Design – Wendy Lovejoy 8:30-12:30	31 Volunteer Hours Due	FEBRUARY 1 Noon MG Lunch Meeting SPS Meeting 1:30	2	3
4	5	6 MG Class Southern Gardens – Dr. Bill Welch, 8:30-12:30	7	8 Plant Pathology Specialist Training	9 Plant Pathology Specialist Training	10
11	12	13 Children's Garden Workday 9am	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 MG Class Plant Pathology – Dr. Kevin Ong, 8:30-12:30	21	22 Children's Garden- Planting-Noon Board Mtg. 9:30 am	23	24
25	26	27	28 Volunteer Hours Due	March 1 Noon MG Lunch Mtg	2	3 STHGES event Floresville
4 STHGES event Floresville	5	6 MG Class Turf Grass - Dennis Hale 8:30-12:30	7	8	9	10



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