



As the Garden Grows

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Volunteers Makes Gonzales Master Gardeners First Class

Why do we volunteer? The more we give, the happier we feel. Volunteering increases self-confidence. Your positive actions for others and the community gives you a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity. Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and make it a better place.

As a Gonzales Master Gardener, we are encouraged to volunteer our time and talents to reach our goal of educating the public and community about gardening and horticulture practices. This can be in an aggressive role or a less active role. There are many jobs that need to be accomplished in order for our organization to function and be a productive organization. All our members need to find a niche that fulfills their individual need while promoting the organization. As we develop programs for educating the community about gardening and horticulture, we need to volunteer our time to reach these goals. There are also behind the scenes work and other opportunities that need to be done in order to achieve the success of the whole organization. All are very important no matter how big or small the job. There is a job for everyone!



WE WANT YOU!

It is easy to say, "Let someone else do the work". As with any organization, there are a core few members that do the bulk of the work but if everyone contributes, the load is lighter and we can certainly accomplish much more. In other words, "WE NEED YOU!" So... If each of you can do just one small part, we can get it all accomplished. Our immediate needs include someone to lead the recruiting effort for the next MG training program and class assistants for the class starting in September. Our grounds at the building and our Children's Garden needs monthly maintenance to reflect the knowledge and skills we have as Master Gardeners. Our programs need volunteers to make them happen. Our group needs leaders to lead us to continue our goals. Some who have been in leadership positions want to "retire". Others need to step up to take the lead roles and bring fresh ideas to the table. We all enjoy a great time whenever we meet as a group to discuss business, share our knowledge and have fun. It takes someone to organize these events. What is it that you

can contribute to Gonzales Master Gardeners? Do you have a special skill that would benefit the organization? Do you like to work by yourself? Do you prefer working with others while sharing ideas with one another? There is a place for each one of you to volunteer to make this happen... take time to look for it and get your name on the list! Be open to other opportunities as you see them or are informed of them.

Volunteers are need for the following:

Recruiting for new MG training class

- This person would see that information gets placed in the newspapers, on our Facebook page and website, place signs out in town, handle the applications as they come in and take calls about the class.

Class Assistants for MG Training program

- Need at least two volunteers to help with MG training classes, could take turns at sessions so you are not needed for every class
- Consult MG Guidelines for specific duties

Landscape Maintenance at PACE

- Requires someone to take care of grounds around PACE at least once a month (see sign-up sheet at PACE)
- Weeding of flower bed
- Keeping grounds free of trash
- Contact board member of any problems

Children's Garden Maintenance

- Monthly weeding of garden beds
- Keep walkways between beds free of weeds
- Report any problems to Arline Schacherl

Lunch for Noon MG meetings

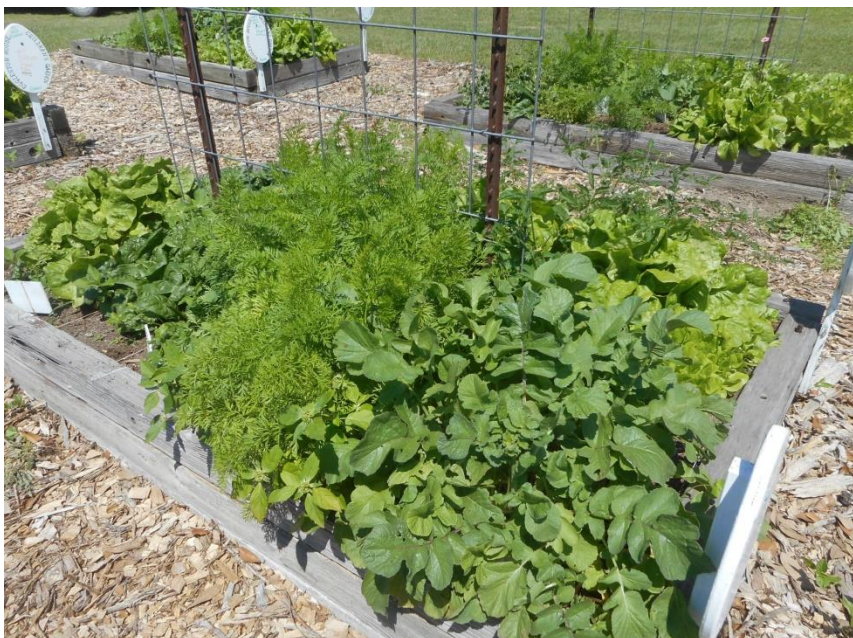
- Prepare lunch for 25 people for general monthly meeting (see monthly sign-up sheet at PACE)

Second Grade Program leader

- Looking for someone to work as leader for the 2nd grade program-"Parts of the Plant"
- Meet with GMG board, school administrators and teachers for input on the program
- Delegate and work with MG members to implement the program

Please contact Fran Saliger or Arline Schacherl if you would like to volunteer for any of these positions or have any questions.

First Graders at the Children's Garden



The first graders came to the gardens on April 25 to harvest their beautiful vegetable beds. It wasn't long before the harvest was completed and the helpers could step back and take a rest from the very excited little gardeners and hard work. Bags full of lettuce, spinach, carrots and radishes were taken home by each child.



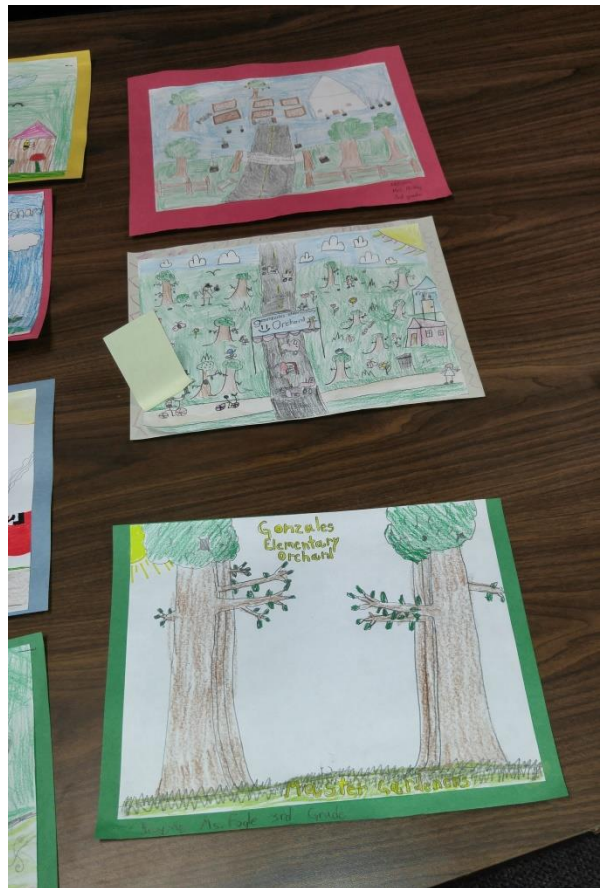
Gonzales Elementary Orchard

On April 20, Board members Fran Saliger, Arline Schacherl and David DeMent met with the Gonzales Elementary School Principal, Mr. Workman along with Dr. Stroizer, GISD Superintendent, and several other school representatives to judge the art contest held for the third grade students. The students were asked to draw a design for a sign to be placed at PACE where their walnut trees are growing. It would be titled the "Gonzales Elementary Orchard". One drawing was selected from each of ten third grade classes (approximately 220 students). The judges then had to choose one drawing that would be used to make a permanent 3 x 4 foot sign to be placed at the orchard. The winner was Layne Barnick.

Every year the third grade students help plant Black Walnut tree seeds in the fall so that the trees can be distributed to Gonzales community residents for restoration of this lost species in Gonzales County. The trees are cared for by Gonzales Master Gardeners throughout the year and distributed the following fall. This year GMG will donate 32 trees to the Gonzales Rotary Club to plant at Independence Park as one of their projects. The rest will go to Gonzales County residents.



Layne Barnick and Arline Schacherl



Winning Drawing



Contestant's Drawings



Judging of each class winner



Trip to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

On April 17, Class #8 students and other GMGs along with Dwight Sexton visited the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX on a beautiful sunny day. The time at the center was most enjoyable with the beautiful weather and beautiful surroundings. David DeMent did an excellent job of leading us through the grounds and talking about all the plants and features of the garden. If you haven't been in a while, there are new areas to explore. The owls have returned to nest at the entrance and raise their young. The young owls could be seen in the nest.







Two Baby Owls

ANNUAL SUMMER SOCIAL

The GMG will hold their annual Summer Social on **June 7** at noon. Have no fear; Baker Boy's is cooking brisket and chicken. Everyone is asked to bring a Side Dish. If you want to let everyone know what you are bringing so we don't have too many duplicates, please send an email to everyone. Tea and Ice will be provided. Bring your partner and have a great time. Bring a door prize to add to the fun.



FALL TREE/PLANT SALE

Our Fall Tree/Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, October 20. Donna Bell and Shirley Frazier are leading this fundraiser. Fall is a great time to plant perennials and trees to allow the roots to get established over the winter months instead of the hot summer months we experience in Gonzales.

There will be peach and plum trees and blackberries along with a variety of citrus trees for sale. Selections are based on the number of chill hours for our area and what grows best for our area. Peaches have a chilling requirement of a certain number of hours of cold winter temperatures between 32° to 45° F to break dormancy and induce normal bloom and vegetative growth. If varieties are chosen that have a chilling requirement that is too low, there is a greater probability that they will bloom early and be more subject to frost. If the chilling requirement is too high, they may be very slow to break dormancy and abort fruit. In Gonzales, 450-600 chill hours are required. For more information about growing fruit and nut trees visit <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>.

Stay tuned for more information about upcoming planning sessions or contact Donna or Shirley if you want to help with this event.



Plants to Grow for Summer Color

The following are some of Neil Sperry's favorite summer flowers for color in you landscape:

- ❖ **Trailing lantana.** Flowers in shades of white, orange, orange-red, yellow and lavender. New Gold and trailing lavender are the two most popular. It's a perennial in southern half of the state.
- ❖ **Wax begonias.** Best in morning sun, afternoon shade. Bronze-leafed types are more tolerant of sun. Green-leafed types need almost total shade. Flowers are red, pink or white. Dragon Wing hybrids are large-leafed, large-flowering types.
- ❖ **Fanflowers.** Blue or white flowers on trailing plants. This plant is great for bed edgings and containers.
- ❖ **Pentas.** New hybrid types stay short and bloom non-stop all summer and fall. Shades of red, pink, white and lavender. Grow to 12 to 16 inches tall. Great "filler" plants for patio pots.
- ❖ **Angelonias.** Occasionally referred to as "summer snapdragon" because the plants and flowers bear some resemblance. Nice in pots where it can be the "thriller" (upright plants in centers), also massed in beds.
- ❖ **Firebush.** Great for flowers and, as weather cools in fall, for bronze foliage. Blooms non-stop in sunny settings. Very popular with hummingbirds. Perennial in southern half of state except perhaps in really cold winters.
- ❖ **Coleus.** My all-time favorite foliage plant for the summer. There seem to be almost endless new hybrids coming into the market. Choose types that are slow to flower. Blooms stop production of new growth and must be pinched off. Nice in beds and large patio pots. Grow to 24 to 36 inches tall and wide. Some tolerate more sun than others. Best color comes from morning sun, afternoon shade.
- ❖ **Copper plants.** Can be used in massed plantings. Stands up to full, baking sun. Grows to 24 to 36 inches tall. Pinch out growing tips to keep plants compact. A great, sun-loving plant.
- ❖ **Purple fountain grass.** Another fine "thriller" plant for patio pots. Best color and plume formation when grown in sun. Good in backs of beds as well. Not winter-hardy in most of Texas, but perennial in Deep South Texas.
- ❖ **Crotons.** This is often considered to be houseplants. Grow this plant in large pots that go into the greenhouse in winter, but you can also start with 2- or 3-gallon pots in spring and use

them as lovely summer and fall annuals. Best color comes from sun, all but mid-afternoon in the summer.

Area Events

San Antonio: San Antonio Festival of Flowers, Saturday, May 26, 2018, 9am – 5 pm. Austin Highway Event Center, 1948 Austin Highway, San Antonio, TX 78218 between Eisenhower and Walzem Rd. Adults \$7.00 and Children under 10 free. For more information: <http://safestivalofflowers.com/>

Austin: The Travis County Master Gardeners Association is sponsoring free public seminars on the second Saturday of each month from May to September. The seminars include: **May 12** - Gardening with Cacti and Succulents; **June 9** - Easy Composting with Worms; **July 14** - Container Gardening Success; **Aug. 11** - Permaculture: Sustainable Design; **Sept. 8** - Fall Vegetable Gardening. On May 12 learn how cacti and succulents can add an appealing and compelling look to your garden. These water-wise plants work well together and share low-maintenance growing conditions. In addition, their wide range of leaf colors and structure add visual interest and drama to any setting. Join members of Austin Cactus and Succulent Society, Andrea Wakefield and Jeff Pavlat, as they share their expertise and suggestions on all of these matters. Each seminar will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Austin Area Garden Center at the Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Spring Road, Austin. A park entrance fee is required. Fees are \$2 per adult, \$1 per child (ages 3-12) or seniors (age 62 & over), and \$3 for non-Austin Residents. Cash or check accepted.

New Braunfels: **May 15** @ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. GVTC Auditorium (36101 FM 3159, New Braunfels, TX 78132; Topic: Native Tree Selection and Planting Speaker: Robert Edmonson. Free. The Lindheimer Chapter of NPSOT (Comal County) meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm. Meetings are open to the public and new members are welcome. For more information, visit <http://npsot.org/wp/lindheimer/>

La Marque: "Home Orchard Tours," 3 fruit tree orchards and vegetable gardens available to tour, orchard owners and Galveston County Master Gardeners at each site to guide and answer questions. Visit sites in any order, 9 a.m.-noon, **May 19**, rain or shine. Locations: Wilson and Renee Hillman's Fruit n Such Orchard, 6309 Avenue U, Dickinson 77539; located off Bowerman Road and FM 517; ph. 832-443-6733. Galveston County Master Gardener homeowner at 5202 Highland Road, Santa Fe 77517. Galveston County Master Gardener Discovery Garden orchard in Carbide Park, 4102 Main Street (Hwy 519), La Marque 77568. Registration not needed. For additional details visit <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html>. Free.

Austin: NEW: Birds & Blooms — **LBJ Wildflower Center. May 19** @ 8:00 am - 10:00 am
Birds & Blooms Family Bird Walk Fee: \$10/adult; \$5/child. Space is limited and registration is required. Early birds of all ages can join Travis Audubon's Young Birders Club and Wildflower Center gardeners on a nature walk to observe flowers and feathered friends in our gardens.

College Station- June 15 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Official Grand Opening of the Leach Teaching Gardens, The Gardens, Texas A&M University. For more information, visit <https://gardens.tamu.edu/>
Grand Opening Leach Teaching Gardens Friday, June 15, 2018



Save the Date! Saturday, September 8, 2018. 8 am – 2 pm. At the University of The Incarnate Word, Dr. Burton E. Grossman International Conference Center (ICC)
847 E. Hildebrand, **San Antonio, TX 78212.** 12 1-hour Workshops (\$).Mini-Demonstrations throughout the day! Ask an Expert (1-2 pm)
featuring...David Rodriguez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent –

Horticulture ... and if it grows, he knows! Natalie Cervantes, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent – 4-H and Youth Development ... and all things insect related! Mark Peterson, Conservation Project Coordinator for San Antonio Water System... and all things forestry and arborist related! Children's Gardening Activities. Interactive Expo/Vendor area. Dr. Tom Harris, "The Hill Country Gardener," Dr. Harris will be sharpening gardening hand-tools so bring yours with you! (donations accepted). Drawing for prizes! And More!

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.bexarcountymastergardeners.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
MAY 13 	14	15 MG Graduation 8:30-12:30	16 Workday at PACE 9 am	17	18	19
20	21 Smiley Water Fair	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 	29	30	31 Board Mtg. 9:30 am	JUNE 1 Volunteer hours due	2

3	4	5	6	7 Summer Social-noon 	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Board Mtg. 9:30 am	29	30 Volunteer hours due
JULY 1	2	3	4 	5	6	7

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