



# *As the Garden Grows*

*A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners*

*Gonzales, Texas September 2018 Volume 8, Issue 8*

## **MG Training Class #9-LAST DATE TO REGISTER!**

**There is still time to register for the current Gonzales Master Gardeners fall training class.** Classes started September 11, 2018 and will run through May, 2019. You must register soon, as the **very last day is September 24** and you must be present at the second class to be held on September 25. Classes are generally held every other Tuesday from 8:30 am-12:30 pm at the PACE building located at 623 Fair St, next to Gonzales Elementary School. Learn with the experts. Class topics include botany, plant propagation, soils, vegetables, fruit and nut trees, insects, fertilizers, rainwater harvesting, and many more. Download an application at <http://gonzalesmastergardeners.org> or <http://Gonzales.agrilife.org>. Contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at 1709 Sarah DeWitt, 830-672-8531 for an application and more information, or contact Fran Saliger at 830-672-2953.

### **Planned Gonzales Master Gardeners 2018-2019 Class Schedule**

8:30 am-12:30pm, at the Plantatarium: A Center for Exploration (PACE), 623 Fair Street, in Gonzales

*Dates & Speakers subject to change*

- 9-11 **Introduction and Tour**- Dwight Sexton, Extension Agent, David DeMent, Arline Schacherl, Gail Johnson, Fran Saliger, Gonzales Master Gardeners
- 9-25 **Botany**-David DeMent, Botanist, Gonzales Master Gardener, Chapter 1- Plant Growth and Development
- 10-9 **Field Trip to the San Antonio Botanical Garden and Children's Garden**-David Rodriguez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Bexar County Agent
- 10-23 **Plant Propagation**-Fran Saliger, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialist. Chapter 1-Continued
- 10-30 **Plants and the Underground Economy**-Gail Johnson, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialist Chapter 2- Soils, Water and Plant Nutrients
- 11-13 **Drip Irrigation**-Jim Johnson, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialist
- Greenhouses**-David DeMent, Gonzales Master Gardener
- Seed Starting**-Jim Johnson, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialist

- 11-27 **Entomology and Integrated Pest Management**-Molly Keck, TAMU AgriLife Extension, Bexar County IPM Agent- Chapter 4
- 12-11 **Fruit Production**-Gail Johnson, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialists, Chapter 5- Home Fruit and Nut Production
- 1-8 **How to Plant a Tree and Tree Diseases**- Mark Kroeze, Urban Forester, Texas A&M University
- 1-22 **Vegetable Gardening**- Larry Stein, Associate Head, Professor and Extension Horticulturist, Texas A&M University, Chapter 6 -Vegetable and Herb Gardening
- 1-29 **Southern Gardens and Landscaping**-William C. Welch, Professor and AgriLife Extension Horticulturist Texas A&M
- 2-5 **Landscape Concepts and Design**-Wendy Lovejoy, Landscape Designer at Lovejoy Gardens, Chapter 7
- 2-19 **Plant Pathology**-Carolyn Parratt, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialist, Chapter 4-Plant Health Problems
- 3-5 **Turf Grass**-Dennis Hale, TAMU AgriLife Extension Wilson Co. CEA-AG, Retired Chapter 8 – Lawn Care
- 3-19 **Container Gardens**- Liz Palfini, Park Superintendent, Palmetto State Park, Botanist
- Earth-Kind/Texas Superstars**-David DeMent, Botanist, Gonzales Master Gardener
- 4-2 **Rainwater Harvesting**-Brian Davis, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist
- 4-16 **Field Trip to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**-Austin-Tour and Native Plants in Landscape Design
- 4-30 **Ecosystems Management**-Baron Rector, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Range Specialist, Chapter 3-Earth Kind
- 5-14 **Field Trip and Class Graduation**

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## *The Hummingbirds Are Migrating*

(Submitted by Fran Saliger)



I've been seeing a lot of FB posts about all the hummingbirds in the area and others asking lots of question about this beautiful and fascinating bird. I have had 3-4 here at my place in Gonzales since last spring. Then a few more showed up several weeks ago and now there must be a dozen or more flying here and there. They are such fascinating birds to watch. I would have liked to get a photo of them, but my cell phone with camera died last week and it has taken a while to get it replaced!!

Here are a few facts about hummers that I would like to share with you:

- Leave your hummingbird feeders up as long as hummingbirds are visiting them and then a few weeks more.
- Put them back out in the spring.
- They know when to migrate because of their internal biological calendar, or *circannual rhythms*. Their bodies begin to store up fat that will fuel the journey south. When the urge to migrate begins, these biological rhythms take over. They are in tune with the changing day lengths.
- They leave their summer homes while their food source is still plentiful and head south, stopping along the way to feed and store up food for the long journey.
- Make your own source of nectar by boiling 1 cup of sugar in 4 cups of water to remove impurities. Cool before placing in your feeder. Do not add any red food coloring, honey or other additives to the water.
- Change the sugar syrup every couple of days, to keep the feeder clean and free from mold and fermentation which can be dangerous to the little birds.
- Flowers best adapted for hummingbird pollination are bright red blooms with a tubular shape. Hummingbirds instinctively watch for red things and investigate them. Try growing Turks cap, cypress vine, cardinal vine, flame acanthus, trumpet vine and salvia greggii here in Central Texas.
- Hummingbirds are territorial, meaning they will protect their source of food. Place several feeders in the yard or garden but place them so that they can't be seen from one another.
- These birds have a highly developed sense of memory and will come back to the same feeder year after year. Likewise, they will look for those same plants year after year. It may take a few years to get established, but don't give up.
- They also eat insects like gnats, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders that provide the protein these birds need especially during nesting season (year around in warm areas like ours).
- Many hummingbirds use spider web silk to build and anchor their nests. So allow the spiders to accumulate around your landscape.
- Provide woody shrubs near your feeders where they can perch and scope out the situation.
- Provide water for them in the way of misters or puddlers. They love to bathe in the water.



The late fall and winter would be a great time to plan your hummingbird garden for next year.





# Seguin Orchard Tour

(Submitted by Carolyn Parratt)

On August 14, GMG and guests were invited to a fruit tree orchard just outside of Seguin, Texas for a tour of the grounds. Nine people and nursery buyer, LeAnn Barton from Oklahoma (attending a convention in San Antonio) were present for the tour. Following a group picture, thank you Jeff Boatman, we headed to the original orchard area. The large jujube caught our eye and we sampled the fruit. We proceeded to the pear trees, loaded with fruit, on our way to the pomegranate and fig trees. Next some of us sampled the muscadine grapes which were very sweet.



In the newer, larger orchard the peach and apricot trees were doing well considering the summer drought. The Asian and Shinko pears were ripe. There were varying opinions as to their flavor and texture. The persimmon trees were also full of fruit. As the group made their way to the stone fire pit, they admired the large live oak tree

We were offered hot mesquite bean tea and cold water as refreshment. Our host, Elaine Zehner and LeAnn Barton were extremely knowledgeable and gracious.

This is a hobbyist orchard as they haven't really sold any fruit. Frank Zehner is the main man behind the orchard and his wife Elaine assists. Frank is still employed but Elaine is now retired. Elaine mentioned rolling large containers around the orchard to water. The Zehners do have some help from Alex who handles a lot of the heavy work for them. The orchard has not yet become a commercial business but we were invited to eat our fill of fruit during our tour and all present can attest to great tasting fruit!



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## Congratulations Gail Johnson



Congratulations to Gail Johnson on becoming a certified MG Home Fruit Specialist. Gail not only hosted the first class for Home Fruit Specialist Training in February of 2017, but took in all the lectures and completed her 20 hours of volunteer hours to become certified. She is a very talented woman and we as Gonzales Master Gardeners and the community have benefited from her knowledge.

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## Board of Officers Election Coming Soon



**WE WANT YOU!**

Every two years a new board of officers is elected for Gonzales Master Gardeners. Please consider taking a position on the board. Each of you have something to offer to the organization. The nomination of officers takes place at the October General Meeting and will be voted in at the November meeting. They officially take office on January 1, 2019. If you want to take an officer position please contact a member of the current board.

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# **Gonzales Master Gardeners**



## **TREE & PLANT SALE**

**Sat., Oct. 20, 2018  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Texas Heroes Square  
Gonzales, TX**

*Fall is an Excellent Time to Buy & Plant:*



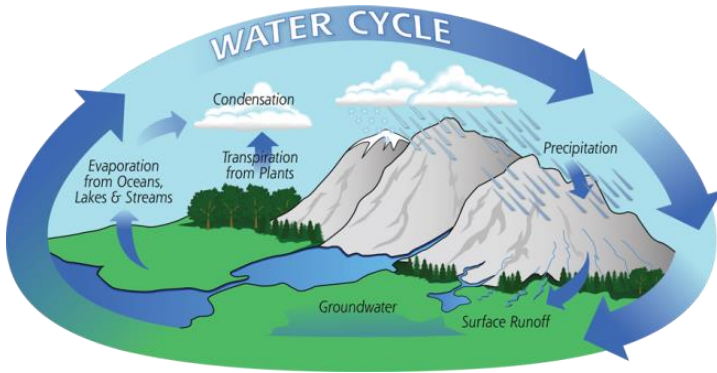
**Fruit Trees, Grapes  
Blueberries  
Blackberries  
Fall Vegetables  
Perennials  
Colorful Annuals**

**Contact Shirley Frazier or Donna Bell and let them know what you can do to help out with this fundraiser. All MGs are needed to volunteer for this event to be a success.**

**Come to PACE on October 10th @ 9:00am to DECORATE pumpkins for the Fall Tree/Plant Sale. Pumpkins will be provided but bring your ideas, paints, ribbons, decorating items, etc. to help decorate pumpkins. This promises to be a fun time.**



## Second Grade GISD Class Sessions to Study Water Cycles



The first session with the second grade children will be held on **September 20, 2018** starting at 7:30 am until noon at PACE. The children will be learning about water cycles. They will be making several terrariums to learn how plants use water. David DeMent will be giving the program. We still need a few more volunteers to help with the class on Thursday, September 20, 2018. Contact Fran Saliger if you want to help. Volunteers will set up the room with tables and supplies on **Wednesday, September 19** at 10 am.

## Projected Dates for Upcoming GISD Projects

Please make note of these dates for volunteer opportunities. Dates are subject to change and you will be notified via email of any changes.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Children's Garden

1/10/19 (alt 1/11/19) – Classroom

1/24/19 (alt 1/25/19) – Classroom

2/21/19 (alt 2/22/19) – Plant at Children's Garden

3/21/19 (alt 3/22/19) – Visit and harvest any produce that is ready

4/25/19 (alt 4/26/19) – Final visit and harvest

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Science Projects

9/20/18 (alt 9/21/18) – at PACE – Terrariums – 20 min sessions

11/08/17 (alt 11/09/18) – at PACE– Insect life cycles with Molly Keck

1/31/19 (alt 2/01/19) – at PACE – Plant Products-Make Valentine Card (paper mache))

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Black Walnut Tree Restoration Project

11/13/18 – Tentative Black Walnut tree give away

11/28/18 (alt 12/05/18) – Planting black walnuts at PACE

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## Noon MG Lunch Meeting

It was great to see everyone at our last General Meeting. Twenty eight members (2/3 of our total membership) were present. WOW!

Our next MG noon lunch meeting will be on **Thursday, October 4**. Come and enjoy a great lunch and visit with everyone. **All new students are welcome** to come enjoy lunch and meet other Master Gardeners. Dwaine Siptak, Jeff Lowe and Sandy Llewellyn will provide lunch. We look forward to seeing everyone. Bring a door prize!

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## Lunch & Learn Event



Gail Johnson will present information about growing and when to plant stone fruits, like peaches and plums. This is just in time to purchase some peaches and plums at the Fall Tree & Plant sale on October 20. The event will be on **October 11, 2018**. A free lunch will be served at noon followed by the presentation.

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## Area Events

**Come Join The  
Caldwell County Master Gardeners  
High Tea Lavender Social**

**Sunday Sept. 30th  
2-4pm**

**Hosted at Luling Lavender Fields**

Join your Caldwell County Master Gardeners & Luling Lavender Fields for an afternoon of everything lavender. This High Tea Lavender Social event is being hosted at the Luling Lavender Fields (5 Arrow Lane, Luling) with FREE lavender tea & light snacks being donated by Luling area businesses & Master Gardeners. The event will be open to the public, so bring a friend. **(Sunday September 30th 2-4pm)**

If you are interested in finding out more information about our upcoming Winter Certified Master Gardener Class, this social would be a great time to visit with local Master Gardeners.



Let us know if you plan on attending, by selecting that you will be going on our Facebook page. Look forward to seeing you at our social!

**Austin:** The 25th Annual Texas Bamboo Festival, Celebrating the Wonders of Bamboo, will be held **September 15-16**, at Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin. The festival will be open Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The Annual Texas Bamboo Festival brings bamboo enthusiasts together to share their passion and love of living and working with bamboo. There will be fun and wisdom for all. Credit cards accepted from most vendors. The festival is free with admission to Zilker Botanical Garden. \$1 for children (ages 3-12) & seniors (age 62 & over); \$2 for adults, Austin resident (ages 13-61); \$3 for adults, non-resident (ages 13-61); cash or check for Zilker Admission. For additional information, visit <http://bamboocentral.net/festival25.html>.

**Katy:** Harris County Master Gardeners Green Thumb Series: Roses: Planting, Growing & Upkeep - 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., **September 15**, Maud Smith Marks Library, 1815 Westgreen Blvd., Katy. Free. For more information, phone (713) 274-0950.

**La Marque:** "Fall Bulbs," with Margaret Cherry, bulb and colorscape expert, presenting, 9-10:30 a.m., **September 15**, at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com); for additional details <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html>. Free, but pre-registration required.

**La Marque:** "Kitchen Gardening," with Mary Demeny, Galveston County Master Gardener presenting, 1-3 p.m., **September 15**, at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com); for additional details <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html>. Free, but pre-registration required.

**Athens:** As part of the Henderson County Master Gardener Association's Library Series, Bob Erickson, an HCMGA Master Gardener, will present "Fall Efforts to Prepare Your Garden for Spring" on Tuesday, **September 18**, at 5:30 p.m. at the Clint W. Murchison Memorial Library, 121 S. Prairieville, Athens. Bob, who has been a Master Gardener since 2013, will talk about how to prepare garden beds, whether for a late fall or spring garden. He will also demonstrate how to sharpen and care for your tools so they will perform for many years. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 903-675-6130, send an email to [hendersoncmga@gmail.com](mailto:hendersoncmga@gmail.com) or visit [txmg.org/hendersonmq](http://txmg.org/hendersonmq).

**Houston:** Harris County Master Gardeners Green Thumb Series: Roses: Planting, Growing & Upkeep - 6:30-8:30pm, **September 18**, Spring Branch Memorial Library, 930 Corbindale, Houston. Free. For more information, call (713) 274-0950.

**Houston:** Harris County Master Gardeners Green Thumb Series: Roses: Planting, Growing & Upkeep - 6:30-8:30pm, **September 20**, Freeman Branch Library, 16616 Diana Lane, Houston. Free. For more information, call (713) 274-0950.

**San Antonio:** Growing Good Kids with the Bexar County Youth Gardens Program will be the topic of the next Bexar County Master Gardener (BCMG) Educational Seminar on Thursday, **September 20**, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208, San Antonio, TX 78230. This seminar is Free and Open to the Public. Ruby Zavala, Youth Gardens Coordinator at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, will speak about the innovative program in Bexar County which strives to create an environment to bring together the community in order to educate urban youth about horticulture, staying healthy, developing interpersonal skills and promoting

community involvement. For more information, contact the BCMG President: [President@bexarmg.org](mailto:President@bexarmg.org) or visit the BCMG website at <https://www.bexarmg.org>.

**La Marque:** "Composting," with Galveston County Master Gardener Jim Gilliam presenting, 9-11 a.m., **September 22**, at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com); for additional details visit <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html>. Free, but pre-registration required.

**La Marque:** "A Passion for Plumeria (Frangipani)," with Galveston County Master Gardener Loretta Osteen presenting, 1-3 p.m., **September 22**, at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com); for additional details visit <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html>. Free, but pre-registration required.

**Kemah:** Kemah Garden kids, A Junior Master Gardener Group, will present its second "Vegetable and Flower Show" **Sept. 29, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.** The Kemah Community Center 800 Harris Avenue (near Hwy 146), Kemah. See youth-grown vegetables, herbs, flowers, crafts and more. For more information, call 281-334-7529 or visit [www.Kemahgardenkids.org](http://www.Kemahgardenkids.org).

**Arlington:** Native Plant Sale hosted by the Native Plant Society of Texas - North Central Chapter, Saturday, **September 29, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**, at River Legacy Park - Elm Grove Pavilion, 701 NE Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington. Sale plants have been grown organically from local seed by members. Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and offer tips. Groomed by Mother Nature to thrive in our climate, native plants have minimal water needs, don't need pesticides or fertilizers, and benefit birds, butterflies and the overall ecosystem. The event raises funds for outreach, including training, education and demonstration gardens. For a list of species with photos, visit [www.txnativeplants.org/plantsale/index.php](http://www.txnativeplants.org/plantsale/index.php).

**La Marque:** "T-bud Grafting of Citrus & Fruit Trees," with Galveston County Master Gardener Sue Jeffco presenting, 9-10:30 a.m., **September 29**, at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email [galvcountymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountymgs@gmail.com); for additional details visit <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html>. Free, but class is limited to 24 participants, you MUST pre-register to participate. Others welcome to observe.

**Check out [www.txmg.org](http://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
September 9	10	11 MG Class Orientation 8:30 am-12:30 pm	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Set up for 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade class session 10 am	20 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade Class Session 7:30 am -noon	21	22
23	24 Last day to register for MG class	25 MG Class- Botany 8:30 am-12:30 pm	26	27 Board Meeting 9:30 am	28	29
30 Volunteer hours due	OCTOBER 1	2	3	4 Noon MG lunch meeting	5	6 Come & Take it Parade
7	8	9 MG Class- San Antonio Botanical Gardens Field Trip	10 Pumpkin Decorating 9:00 AM	11 Lunch & Learn- Peaches & Plums-Gail Johnson- Noon	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Plant Sale Preparation	19 Plant Sale Preparation	20 FALL TREE & PLANT SALE 9AM TILL 1PM
21	22	23 MG class Propagation 8:30 am- 12:30 pm-	24	25 Board Mtg. 9:30 am	26	27
28	29	30	31 Volunteer hours due	NOVEMBER 1 Noon MG lunch meeting	2	3



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**Editors:**

Fran Saliger  
[fsaliger@gvec.net](mailto:fsaliger@gvec.net)  
Charlotte Knox  
[lotteknox@aol.com](mailto:lotteknox@aol.com)  
Carolyn Parratt: Photographer

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office

1709 E. Sarah DeWitt Drive  
Gonzales, TX 78629  
Phone: 830-672-8531  
Fax: 830-672-8532  
E-mail: [gonzales@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:gonzales@ag.tamu.edu)

Web pages:

<http://gonzalesmastergardeners.org>

<http://gonzales.agrilife.org>



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