



As the Garden Grows

A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners

Gonzales, Texas September 2016 Volume 6, Issue 8

Welcome Class #7

On September 13, 2016 class #7 for Gonzales Master Gardener training program began. We look forward to meeting everyone and invite all GMG's to come and sit in on some of their class training. We can always use a refresher course now and then. We will have a few new speakers and some of our favorites will be back for you to enjoy and learn something new. So save this schedule or look it up on our website at www.gonzalesmastergardeners.org.

Planned Gonzales Master Gardeners 2016-2017 Class Schedule

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

- 9-13 **Introduction and Tour** - David DeMent, Gail Johnson, Fran Saliger, Gonzales Master Gardeners
- 9-27 **Botany** - David DeMent, Botanist, Gonzales Master Gardener, Chapter 1- Plant Growth and Development
- 10-11 **Field Trip to the San Antonio Botanical Garden and Children's Garden** - David Rodriguez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Bexar County Agent
- 10-18 **Plant Propagation**-Fran Saliger, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialist, Chapter 1-Continued
- 11-1 **Entomology and Integrated Pest Management** - Molly Keck, TAMU AgriLife Ext. Bexar County IPM Agent, Chapter 4
- 11-15 **Plants and the Underground Economy**-Gail Johnson, Gonzales Master Gardner Specialist
Chapter 2- Soils, Water and Plant Nutrients
- 11-29 **Drip Irrigation**-Jim Johnson, Gonzales Master Gardner Specialist
Greenhouses-David DeMent, Gonzales Master Gardner
Seed Starting-Jim Johnson, Gonzales Master Gardner Specialist
- 12-13 **Fruit Production**-Jim Kamas, Texas A&M AgriLife Horticulturalist-Pomology and Viticulture
Chapter 5 Home Fruit and Nut Production
- 1-3 **How to Plant a Tree and Tree Diseases**- Mark Petersen, SAWS
- 1-17 **Vegetable Gardening**- David Rodriguez Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Bexar County Agent
Chapter 6 Vegetable and Herb Gardening
- 1-31 **Landscape Concepts and Design**-Wendy Lovejoy, Landscape Designer at Lovejoy Gardens
Chapter 7-Landscape Horticulturalist
- 2-7 **Southern Gardens**-Bill Welch, Texas AgriLife Extension Horticulturalist

- 2-21 **Plant Pathology**-Kim Cochran Texas AgriLife Extension Plant Pathologist
Chapter 4-Plant Health Problems
- 3-7 **Turf Grass**-Dennis Hale, TAMU AgriLife Extension Wilson Co. CEA-AG, Retired
Chapter 8 – Lawn Care
- 3-21 **Container Gardens**- Liz Palfini, Botanist, Park Superintendent, Palmetto State Park, Texas Parks and Wildlife,
Earth-Kind/Texas Superstars-David DeMent, Botanist, Gonzales Master Gardener
- 4-4 **Rainwater Harvesting**-Brian Davis, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist
- 4-18 **Field Trip to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**-Austin-Tour and Native Plants in Landscape Design
- 5-2 **Ecosystems Management**-Baron Rector, TAMU AgriLife Extension Range Specialist
Chapter 3-Earth-Kind
- 5-16 **Field Trip and Class Graduation**

Leaf Castings Class

On September 6, thirteen GMG ladies met at the home of Fran Saliger to experience making concrete leaf castings with Pam St. John. It was a wonderful time together with everyone learning and visiting. A few days later, we met again to unveil the beautiful leaf castings. We all want to do it again and plan to make some for the Spring Plant Sale. Stay tuned for an upcoming date to make some more!

Leaf Casting is the process of turning plants with large leaves into concrete castings using cement and sand. They make beautiful bird baths, down spouts and decorations for your garden. After the curing process, they can be painted, making them beautiful pieces of art! The intricate network of veins is remarkably showy on the huge leaves of rhubarb, gunnera, hosta, ligularia, elephant ears, caladiums, to name a few. So be on the lookout for some large leaves for our next Leaf Casting Class.





Critters Need Water Too!

Greenhouse Tour for September 15

Gonzales Master Gardeners will be touring the Seville Growers commercial greenhouses in Flatonia, Texas on **Thursday, September 15**. Many of the plants grown for Lowes are grown in these greenhouses. Meet at PACE at 9:30 am to carpool to the greenhouses located just east of Flatonia, TX on Hwy. 90. We will end the tour with lunch at Roberts in Flatonia on I-10. Contact Shirley Frazier for more information.



Gonzales Master Gardeners Project Updates

Children's Garden: Teamwork Makes the Difference

(Submitted by Arline Sachacherl)

The plentiful rains in late spring and early summer created a beautiful display of zinnias and marigolds along with a variety of tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, pumpkins, and tomatillos in the Children's Garden. With a new school year approaching, it became apparent that it was time to clean up the jungle of foliage and give the raised beds a rest. Workdays to tackle the clean-up were scheduled for August 16, 23, and 30.



On the first workday, working from 8 to 10 a.m. in the coolest part of the day, MG volunteers Fran, Jacky, Cheryl, Cindy, Mike O., Carolyn P., Shirley, Sandy, and Arline removed lots of foliage from the paths between the beds and weeded the raised beds. The zinnias that had produced many beautiful blooms during the summer now were filled with seed heads. As these old plants were removed we noticed many tiny plants were sprouting from the seeds that had already dropped! Likewise, the marigolds also had many seed heads after a profusion of blooms. Many of the marigolds were trimmed while others were pulled up. Lots of nutsedge had taken over some of the beds on the east end. Bermuda grass also was taking hold around some of the beds and was encroaching the perimeter of the garden area.

MG MG volunteers Fran, Jacky, Carolyn P., Jennifer, and Arline continued the cleanup on the second workday. More refuse was added to the huge pile that was started the previous week near the street. The string grid was removed from the beds and irrigation lines were rolled up in the beds with no

remaining plants. Having completed a great deal in two work sessions, it was decided to cancel the third workday.

It was noticed that there is a leak at the faucet in the middle of the garden. Those who are skilled in repairing water leaks/drip irrigation hookup are encouraged to volunteer to check out this issue and make repairs. It was quite wet when we worked in August so the drip irrigation was turned off. Currently the water is still off in all beds and with no recent rain we will need to resort to the drip irrigation again. Please notify Arline or Fran if you are able to help with this repair soon.

About a week after the cleanup, Fran sprayed the perimeter of the garden and those areas where Bermuda grass was growing. In the future a maintenance workday will likely be scheduled monthly to keep the garden neat, clean, and healthy. September garden maintenance is scheduled for Wednesday, **September 21** from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. so that the garden will be presentable for Come and Take It weekend. More marigolds will need to be trimmed or removed, young zinnias need thinning, and there is always weeding to be done. Treated Bermuda is dying and needs to be removed. If anyone wants zinnias to transplant to your garden, please remove those seedlings sprouting in the pathways.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make a difference. Great teamwork!

Second Grade Learn the Parts of the Plant



Under the direction and leadership of Dee Sengelmann, the second grade classes will begin their study of the parts of the plant and what they do. They will learn about roots, stems, leaves and flowers in four sessions during the 2016-17 school year. The first session will be held on **October 13, 2016** at the PACE building. Since the second grade classes have moved to East Avenue this year, the students will be walking to PACE from there. It should be another great and fun learning experience. Stay tuned for more information from Dee about how you can volunteer.

Gonzales High School Life Skills Class

This is a new project for the fall of 2016. The Life Skills Class of 12-13 high school students will be learning about where their food comes from through the hands on learning experience of creating a vegetable/herb garden on the high school campus. Under the direction of teacher, Donna Horsley and GMG's Melissa Watson and Sandy Llewellyn, the students will get some great advice on how to garden. The students will then use the experience in the classroom setting creating graphs, charts, studying biology and collecting data. They will also prepare the produce they grow for consumption. As of now, they have met to decide on a plan of action. They are waiting for funding and the go ahead to start construction of the beds. The horticulture class will be helping the Life Skill Class with the construction of raised beds.



Fall Tree Sale Date Set

Our first Fall Tree Sale has been set for **Saturday, November 19, 2016**. Donna Bell and Gail Johnson have been preparing for this event with a few bumps along the way. We will be selling some fruit trees, grape vines, walnut trees, and a few more ornamental trees to the public. The event will take place on Texas Heroes Square starting at 8:30 until 1:00pm. Stay tuned for updates as they happen. Be ready to volunteer for the event.

Member's Monthly Meeting

Our next monthly lunch meeting will be on **October 6** beginning at noon. Donna Bell and Barbara Scott have volunteered to bring lunch. Come on out and enjoy a wonderful lunch and visit with your fellow MG's. Bring something to share in the door prize give away. *All new students are welcome to join us and meet the rest of the GMG's.*

GMG's, Are You Going to Be Recertified by January 2017?

Have you turned in your hours for last month? this year? Are you up to date? You still have time (3 ½ months) to earn the necessary 6 hours of Continuing Education and 20 hours of volunteer time to stay certified as a Gonzales Master Gardener. Contact Fran Saliger if you have any questions or concerns.

Upcoming Excel Class

Having difficulties getting your hours recorded in the excel form provided for reporting your volunteer/CEU's to the volunteer coordinator? No problem! Jo Swiger will be offering a class on "How to enter your hours in an Excel spreadsheet". With just a few instructions you will be on your way to being computer wizard. The class will be held on **October 18, 2016 at 1:30 pm**. Bring whatever device (lap top, iPad, notebook, etc.) you have to learn the basics of Excel in one hour! Don't worry, I will still work with whatever format you choose. It would just be easier for the record keeper. Thanks, Fran

Plant of the Month

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

Turnera ulmifolia.

Common Name: Buttercup, Yellow Alder

Family: Passifloraceae

This is a great plant for bees and butterflies. Blooms all summer, with blossoms opening in the morning and closing in the evening (will also close on a cloudy day). Individual blooms last only one day. Plants will get 24-36 inches tall and approximately 24 inches wide. Turnera can be propagated from cuttings or seeds. Plants do best in a well-drained potting mix and like intermediate temperatures of 60 to 85 degrees, but can take higher day time temperatures if shaded from hot afternoon sun. My turnera is in a large pot in full sun and I



found it necessary to water it daily in the hottest part of the summer. During the spring and early summer I fertilized it weekly with Peters. From past experience it would use less water if planted in the ground with afternoon shade. Some references recommend it for zone 9 and south but it is not reliably cold hardy in upper zone 9.



Area Events

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

Victoria: Saturday, September 17, 2016, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Victoria MG Fall Symposium. Topics include: Yes, You can Grow Roses and More!, Growing Grapes in Goliad County, Native Dave/Rebellious by nature, Sustainable Landscape with Native Plants, Big Tree Butterflies, Little Herds Farm/Austin, TX. Fee-\$30 before Sept. 10 or \$35 at the door. Lunch provided and tour of VEG garden. CEU's offered. Contact: www.vcmga.org.

San Antonio: Herbs Outside of the Box Work(ing)shop will be presented by Anne Macaulay, Garden Steward, Texas Master Gardener, 9 a.m.-noon, **September 17**, at High Country Community Garden, 16418 Cypress Park, San Antonio. Green Spaces Work(ing)shops always include a hands-on activity and are held at one of the 37 network community gardens. Participants get to try their hand at a useful gardening technique, witness an active San Antonio community garden, while gaining experience from San Antonio's local experts and community gardeners. Herbs are an amazing addition to the San Antonio garden. Many are drought tolerant, grow well from seed (often volunteering from year to year), and are very nutritious when added to your favorite dishes. Because they are so easy to grow in San Antonio, why not try them and then learn to create delicious and unique snacks, meals, and gifts that your family and friends will enjoy. Join Master Gardener, High Country Community Garden Guru and 2014 Green Spaces Garden Steward of the Year, Anne Macaulay, as she expertly presents fun uses of locally grown herbs.

Angleton: The September Fest Open House will take place 9:00 a.m.-noon, Saturday, **September 17**, at Brazoria County Master Gardner site-BEES, 585 County Road 443 (Hospital Drive) Angleton. Master Gardeners will give presentations for a successful Fall Veggie Garden and discuss Fall Landscaping to improve home landscape. A Plant Sale with heat-tolerant plants will be available. Demonstrations in the Enabling garden featuring low-profile raised-bed planters as well as garden tours emphasizing herbs and ornamental, Texas Star plants and composting will be show cased. Plant propagation techniques and building a rain drum will be demonstrated for the home owner/gardener. Free to Public and door prizes galore!

La Marque: "A Passion for Plumeria" with GC Master Gardener Loretta Osteen will be presented, 1:00-3:00 p.m., **September 17** at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., La Marque. Free. Participants must pre-register Ph 281-534-3413. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Further details at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>.

Houston: Open Garden Day, with Harris County Master Gardeners at Precinct 2, 8:30-11 a.m., **September 19**, at the Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Houston. Master Gardeners will be available to answer your gardening questions. FREE. Plants for sale every Monday in the Greenhouse. For more information, visit <https://hcmga.tamu.edu>.

Smithson Valley: The Lindheimer Chapter (Comal County) of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hold their monthly meeting on **September 20** at the GVTC Auditorium located at 36101 FM 3159, Smithson Valley. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Bob Fields, Landscape Photographer. Bob will speak on "Native Landscape Photography". The meeting is free and the public is welcome. For more information, call Martha Guethle, 830-438-5996.

San Antonio: "BEE Informed" will be presented Thursday, **September 22**, 6-8:30 p.m. at Texas AgriLife Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge Dr., Suite 208, San Antonio. Hear all about the Life of a Commercial Beekeeper as Lived by Randy Verhoek. Bexar County Master Gardner (BCMG) General Meetings are free to members and the public, The meeting will begin with a social time at 6 p.m. followed by the presentation at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact the BCMG President at President@bexarmg.org , call 210-631-0400, or visit: <http://www.bexarmg.org/come-bee-informed/>.

Canyon Lake: The NPSOT Linheimer Chapter will be offering The Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) Level1: Introduction to Native Landscapes on **Saturday, September 24**, at the Tye Preston Library, Canyon Lake. The Introduction to Native Landscapes course teaches the value of including and preserving native plants in landscapes, the differences between sustainable and conventional development, and an understanding of Texas vegetation regions and soils. Students will become familiar with 45 native Texas plants recommended for your landscape and 5 invasive

plants to avoid. The course includes a classroom session and a 2 hour outdoor plant knowledge walk. The Native Plant Society (NPSOT) offers two levels of certificates: Completion - attend the full day; Competency - attend the full day and pass a test at the end of the class. Students graduating with either certificate may progress to another class level. Registration cost is \$37 plus \$10 for lunch options from Jason's Deli. Visit <https://s08.123signup.com/event/details/ntknk> for registration and more information or contact the following: Registration questions: Meg Inglis, NLCP Coordinator, meg.inglis@npsot.org or 512-589-1316. Location and class specific questions: Sara Riggs, Host Chapter Manager, Riggs_571@msn.com, 571-236-8571.

La Marque: "T-bud Grafting of Citrus & Fruit Trees" with GC Master Gardener Sue Jeffco presenting this hands-on workshop, 9:00-11:30 a.m., **September 24**. NOTE: Class size is limited to 24 person participating. You must pre-register in order to participate. Others are welcome to observe. "Unusual Edible Plants" with Montgomery County Master Gardener Ed Naspinski will be presented, 1:00-2:00 p.m., September 24, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., La Marque. Fee/Free. Participants must pre-register: Ph 281-534-3413. Galveston County Master Gardener event. For additional information, visit details <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>.

La Marque: "Easy Butterfly Gardening" with GC Master Gardener Phyllis Koenig presenting, 6:30-8:00 p.m., **October 4**, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., La Marque. Fee/Free. Participants must pre-register: Ph 281-534-3413. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Further details <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>.

La Marque: "Bulbmania!" with award winning Houston Garden Club member Dodie Jackson presenting, 9:00-10:00 am, **October 8**, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., La Marque. Fee/Free. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Further details <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>.

La Marque: "Gardening for Jewels...Hummingbirds" with GC Master Gardener Deborah Repasz presenting, 1:00-2:30 p.m., **October 8**, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Building in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., La Marque. Fee/Free. Participants must pre-register Ph 281-534-3413. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Further details <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>.

San Antonio: How to Attract Pollinators into the Garden Work(ing)shop, **October.8**, at the Terrell Heights Community Garden, 670 Greenwich, San Antonio. Pollinators are a hot topic in San Antonio. Resident environmental groups, community organizers, teachers, policy makers and political leaders are passionate about creating local solutions. Come learn about how you can attract pollinators to your community garden or yard. Terrell Heights Community Gardeners have great experience to share about their plant selection process using native milkweed and nectar plants, site design and resource gathering for their Monarch Waystation. Participants will also learn about plants to attract hummingbirds, bats and lesser-known helpful pollinators.

La Grange: Texas Gardener Contributing Editor Patty Leander will discuss "Cover-cropping & Crop Rotation" at the Fayette County Master Gardeners monthly Lunch-N-Learn, 12:05-12:50 p.m., **October 11**, at the Fayette County ArgiLife Extension Service, 255 Svoboda Lane. For information, call 979-968-5831.

Houston: The 74th annual Bulb & Plant Mart, sponsored by The Garden Club of Houston (GCH), will be held **October 13-15**, 2016 at St. John the Divine Church, 2450 River Oaks Blvd., Houston, Texas. The Mart will open Thursday, October 13, 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. for Early Bird Shopping with a Party on

the Patio featuring Live Music and Lite Bites (Admission \$20). Nearby stores will be offering discounts to Bulb Mart shoppers. Sales continue Friday, October 14 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 15 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. All sales are tax-exempt. Admission and parking are free. More than 500,000 top-quality bulbs from domestic and international suppliers from Amaryllis to Zephyranthes (Rain Lily) will be available at the Mart including over 200 varieties of Tulips, Iris, Daffodils and Hyacinths as well as small bulb favorites: Anemone, Crocus, Freesia, Ranunculus, and Watsonia. Shop NOW for your dazzling spring blooms. More than 100 different bulb varieties can be pre-ordered before the Mart. All pre-orders will receive a 10 percent discount and are sales tax free. Orders must be received by September 15. Photos and planting information are also included. For additional information about the Bulb & Plant Mart and GCH, visit www.gchouston.org.

Hitchcock: "Galveston County Master Gardener Annual Fall Plant Sale." Presale presentation of sale plants by GCMG John Jons, 8:00 a.m.-8:50 a.m.; Sale 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., **October 15**, at Galveston County Fair Grounds in Jack Brooks Park - Rodeo Arena, located at Hwy 6 and Jack Brooks Road, Hitchcock. For details and updates, visit <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>.

San Antonio: October 15, 2016. Fall is a wonderful time to plant or add to your garden and the San Antonio Herb Market Association hosts a day dedicated to all things herbal. You can purchase herb plants for your fall gardening; pick up hand crafted gifts for yourself or your family and friends. You have a chance to learn about herbs that grow well in this region; learn about the Herb of The Year; and visit with our gardening experts who can answer your general gardening questions as well as those herbal. Our popular cooking demonstrations feature local celebrity chefs who create recipes highlighting the Herb of The Year as well as other herbal fare. And after the demonstrations, you have a chance to taste the new creations. So join us on the Third Saturday of October beginning at 9:00 am at the Historic Pearl Brewery

San Antonio: Harvest Blitz National Food Day, **October 22**, at the St. Therese Community Garden, 906 W. Kentucky Ave., San Antonio. Green Spaces Alliance Community Gardens Program is hosting its annual event to celebrate National Food Day from 5:30-9:00 p.m. Gardeners, foodies, and healthy-eating advocates are invited to attend and enjoy the time-honored tradition of sharing food as a community. The event will feature the Chef led demonstrations, nutrition experts encouraging tastings, garden gurus sharing cultivation tips, and fun, informative films to cap off each evening. Activities will be offered for the entire family.

New Braunfels: 6th Annual Spring Seminar 2017. **Friday, February 17, 2017**, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Texas Heirlooms and Superstars. Speakers include Greg Grant, Florence Oxley, David Rodriguez, and Cameron Campbell. Contact for more information and registration form: <http://txmg.org/comal/events/seminar>

Austin Area Events-for more events in the Austin Area, go to <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/>

San Antonio, Texas- for events in the San Antonio area go to <http://www.bexarcountynergardeners.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 11	12	13 GMG Class #7 Orientation 8:30 am-12:30 pm Tree Sale Mtg- 1:30 pm	14	15 Greenhouse Tour-9:30 am meet at PACE	16	17
18	19	20	21 Cleanup day Children's Garden	22	23	24
25	26	27 GMG Class #7 Botany 8:30 am-12:30 pm	28	29 Board Mtg. 9:30	30 Volunteer Hours Due	OCTOBER 1
2	3	4	5	6 GMG Noon Lunch mtg.	7	8
9	10	11 MG Class Field Trip SA Botanical Garden 8:00 am	12	13 2 nd Grade Class Session 8am-2pm	14	15
16	17	18 MG Class Propagation 8:30 am to 12:30 Excel Class 1:30 pm	19	20 ??Ag Day- JB Wells GH Propagation 9:30 am	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Board Mtg. 9:30 am	28	29
30	31 Volunteer Hours Due	NOVEMBER 1 MG Class Entomology-IPM 8:30-12:30	2	3 GMG Noon Lunch Mtg.	4	5

PACE: 623 N. Fair Street-next to Gonzales Elementary School

Children's Garden: Corner of Moore and St. Louis St.-next to Eggleston House

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