



As the Garden Grows



*A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners
Gonzales, Texas
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MG Class #5 Learns about Plant Growth and Development

(submitted by Fran Saliger)



If you missed David DeMent's class on Plant Growth and Development, you missed a great one! David's enthusiasm in the classroom really gets everyone excited about learning botany. Our new students really seemed to have enjoyed the class as plants were chopped and waved in front of the classroom. Do you remember where the apical meristem is on the banana plant? If not, you better take the class again!

Note: the following Class 5 training schedule is a corrected version of the one posted in the September 2014 newsletter. The class on October 21 is the field trip to San Antonio Botanical Gardens. The class on Nov. 4 will be on Rain Water Harvesting.

Planned Gonzales Master Gardeners 2014-2015 Class Schedule

8:30am-12:30 pm. Fair Street Building, 623 Fair Street, in Gonzales.

- 9-9 **Introduction and Tour**-David DeMent, Gail Johnson, Gonzales Master Gardeners, Dwight Sexton, County Extension Agent-Ag, Gonzales County
- 9-23 **Botany**-David DeMent, Botanist
Chapter 1-*Plant Growth & Development*
- 10-7 **Plant Propagation**- Fran Saliger, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialist
Chapter 1-*Continued*
- 10-21 **Field Trip to the San Antonio Botanical Garden and Children's Garden**-David Rodriguez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Bexar County Agent
- 11-4 **Rainwater Harvesting**- Brian Davis, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist and Jim Mikulik, Gonzales Master Gardener

- 11-18 **Plants and the Underground Economy**-Gail Johnson, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialist
Chapter 2 – *Soils, Water & Plant Nutrients*
- 12-2 **Drip Irrigation** – Jim Johnson, Gonzales Master Gardener Specialist
Greenhouses-David DeMent, Gonzales Master Gardener
- 12-16 **Plant Pathology** – TBA
Chapter 4 – *Plant Health Problems*
Christmas Break
- 1-6 **Vegetable Gardening** – David Rodriguez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Bexar County Agent
Chapter 6 – *Vegetable & Herb Gardening*
- 1-13 **Fruit Production**- Jim Kamas, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulturalist
Chapter 5 – *Home Fruit & Nut Production*
- 1-27 **Southern Gardens**- Bill Welch, Texas AgriLife Extension Horticulturalist
- 2-10 **Landscape Concepts and Design** – Wendy Lovejoy, Landscape Designer at Lovejoy Gardens
Chapter 7 – *Landscape Horticulture*
- 2-24 **How to Plant a Tree and Tree Diseases**- TBA
- 3-3 **Home Food Production** - TBA
- 3-17 **Turf Grass**-Dennis Hale, TAMU AgriLife Extension Wilson Co. CEA-Ag, Retired
Chapter 8 – *Lawn Care*
- 4-7 **Entomology and Integrated Pest Management**- Molly Keck, TAMU AgriLife Ext. Bexar County IPM Agent
Chapter 4 - *Continued*
- 4-21 **Field Trip to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**-Austin- Tour and Native Plants in Landscape Design-Deedy Wright, Guadalupe Master Gardener
- 5-12 **Ecosystem Management**- Baron Rector, TAMU AgriLife Extension Range Specialist
Chapter 3 – *Earth Kind*
- 5-19 **Field Trips to Nursery and Class Graduation**

A Thought from Gail



At this next member meeting, we will start a new tradition with serving lunch. This is David's thought. He wants us to have the opportunity to spend more of our member meetings in fellowship rather than in labor. I like that thought. The reason we join Master Gardeners is usually because we like plants and would like to know more about them. We stay partially for that reason but also for the friendship and comradery that the group offers us. As a group, we have always had a tendency to bite off more than we can really chew and I've always been amazed at the group's enthusiasm for its projects. But as we have gotten to know our work better, we seem to be finding a little better balance with it. And none too soon on that! I, for one, look forward to this change of pace in our meetings. I hope you will too and will join us for lunch next meeting day.

Board Elections and Leadership

(Submitted by Gail Johnson)

The floor was formally opened for nominations to the board at the last member meeting. Our bylaws require that the board nominate a slate of candidates. Those names are placed in nomination at our October meeting every other year. Our officers are elected to a two year term. The call for nominations will remain open until the November meeting to allow other members who may have an interest in serving an opportunity to be nominated. Nominations will be closed at the next member meeting and our elections will be held.

Serving on the board is usually not the thing that everyone is just dying to do. In volunteer organizations such as ours, folks usually do not actively seek that duty. But as I have said on several occasions, if we want this organization, and if we believe in the organization's mission, then we have to be prepared to step forward and take our turn doing the parts of it that most of us are not eager to do. If no one will agree to lead, then the organization will simply fade away.

So, with that in mind, I am grateful to the following members who have volunteered to serve on the board for the two year term beginning with the December member meeting: David DeMent, President; Fran Saliger, Vice President; Pam St John, Treasurer; and Shirley Frazier, Secretary. I will, of course, serve as Past President. I hope each of you will thank them when you see them for their willingness to serve. I also encourage any other members who are interested in serving to make their willingness known.

This issue of leading extends to all of our leadership positions. And we have had several members step forward to take leadership roles recently. Sue McCorkle is leading WIC Garden and the Succulent Grow Team. Jo Swiger has taken on the website. She along with husband Ron and Sandy Llewellyn are serving as class assistants this year. Sandy in partnership with Jim Milkulik is leading the Vegetable Grow Team. Dee Sengleman is co-leading the 2nd grade program with Gail and Cheryl Hillman is co-leading the first grade garden program with Arline Rinehart. And Fran, who always seem to have the time and the will do one more thing, is once again taking on the Plant Sale and Rummage Sale. Please celebrate their willingness to take these leadership roles because many hands make light work and we appreciate their hard work.

gonzalesmastergardeners.com

Keep up to date on events by reading about it on our webpage and checking the Monthly Calendar. Project leaders can look at the monthly calendar and plan meetings and programs without conflicts. Jo Swiger is doing a great job of keeping the site up to date. Thanks Jo.



2015 Black Walnut Programs

(submitted by Nancy Foster)

Hello Master Gardeners – members interns and students! Next month we will be following up on last year's very successful third grade Black Walnut Seed Project by letting these same students, fourth graders this fall, plant those trees. Last year's program was developed so the third grade students could enjoy taking part in the history of Gonzales and conserving what used to be a natural resource. Kari Hines, of the Texas A&M Forest Service, will inspire this year's third grade classes who will be planting black walnut seeds November 7. On November 14, Linda Drabek (also from Texas A&M Forest Service) will remind this year's fourth graders of last year's program, and help them plant some of the seedlings that grew over the past year.

Last year, the Master Gardeners had a wonderful outing to Maurice Armstrong's Waelder pasture to collect seeds - thanks to Arline Schacherl's husband Leon for locating the source! We thoroughly enjoyed our breakfast in Waelder, the beautiful weather, and the experience of collecting the black walnut husks from the ground underneath the enormous, stately old black walnut tree.



Eighteen master gardeners and interns made last November's program work so well. They purchased special tree seedling pots; filled the pots with soil, strategically designed and built an outdoor tree stand to hold the pots, and set up everything for the scheduled day. The day of the event, all third grade classes each had approximately half an hour for the program, starting at 8:30 in the morning. The students participated in a background presentation by PowerPoint, planted the black walnut seeds, and viewed both a huge uncut slab of black walnut (shown by Carl Bauer) and a tree "cookie"/ tree slice

showing the annual rings (presented by Kari Hines and Linda Drabek). The Master Gardeners did a splendid job of making the whole process possible bringing pots and seeds in crates from outdoors into the Fair Street building and moving them to the student teams at the tables. Then the planted pots were moved back to the tree stand at the south end of the greenhouse.

It was great fun to see those students learn to recognize key words and concepts by learning about the black walnut lumber and furniture, which were so important to the late 1800s community of Gonzales. The children learned about black walnut seeds and trees, resource conservation, and plant/human oxygen/carbon dioxide exchange. They saw a huge slab of black walnut wood, before it was changed into lumber or furniture. They learned that tree cookies were amazing, even though they are inedible. And it meant a lot to both Master Gardeners and students to realize they were developing their own special tradition, since this class was the first to have participated in the Eggleston Garden as first graders. In May of this year, each class came back to learn a "Tree Rap", visit with Maurice Armstrong, and see how their seeds had grown into beautiful seedlings!

Please contact Nancy Foster if you would like to participate in the November 7 and 14 programs.

WIC Garden News

(Submitted by Suetta McCorcle)

The WIC Grow Your Own Food Garden is in the fall planting mode! Carrots, kale, broccoli and swiss chard seeds were planted in the first half of September. The carrots were planted at the edges of the beds as the children really love to pull them out of the garden when it is time to harvest.

Volunteers are still need to help with the interaction of client and MG. We are there to just talk with them and share our knowledge of gardening. If you would like to help out, contact Sue McCorcle or sign up on the sheet at the FSB. The meeting time is each Friday from 9-10am through the month of November. From December through March, the time changes to 11 am-noon.

November Fall Rummage Sale!



The Fall rummage Sale will be held **November 1, 2014 from 8am-1 pm. at 623 N. Fair St. in Gonzales.** We will set up for the event on Wednesday, October 29 thru Friday, October 31 from 9 am till noon. Drop off your donations at that time. **There are volunteer sign-up sheets on the FSB bulletin board or contact Fran. Everyone is needed to help with the event.** Please let us know where you can help. Time working on the event (excluding collecting sale items) counts toward your volunteer hours needed for the year. If you need a place to store the stuff contact Fran at 830-672-2953 (she has a storage shed for all the stuff-just pack it in boxes or plastic bags). Save plastic bags and boxes for customer's purchases. There will be

a meeting, on **Tuesday, October 14 at 1pm (note change of date)** to go over the details of the event. Everyone is welcome.

2015 Spring Plant Sale

The 2015 Spring Plant Sale held their first meeting on September 23, 2014 with a great turnout of 15 interested Master Gardeners and new students. A tentative date is set for March 21, 2015 pending approval from the City for holding the sale at Texas Heroes Square.

Sub-committees were formed as follows:

- Budget-Nick Wentworth
- Advertising and Publicity: Julie Fairchild and Jo Swiger
- Signage: Charlotte Knox
- Plant Procurement: _____
- Grow Teams
 - Herbs: Gail Johnson
 - Vegetables: Sandy Llewellyn & Jim Mikulik
 - Perennials/Natives: Fran Saliger
 - Houseplants: Shirley Frazier
 - Succulents/Cacti: Sue McCorkle
 - Trees: _____
- Plant Identification: Cheryl Hillman
- Silent Auction: Arline Schacherl and _____
- Children's Activities: _____
- MG Booth: Jo and Ron Swiger
- Food Booth: Joyce Soefje
- Vendors/Non-profit groups: _____



This is a great start but as you see, we have a few committees that still need a leader. If you are interested, contact Fran, Chairperson for the event.

Nick challenged us to make \$1000 more than last year's event!! The best way to do this is for everyone to propagate more plants. So....check with the Grow Team leaders to find out what is needed for the sale. Remember, for every hour worked propagating you earn one hour of volunteer time as well as learning about plants.

The committee is looking forward to another great Plant Sale. We hope that everyone will get in the spirit of things and make this the best Plant Sale so far! This is our fifth year to do this event!

Perennial/Native Grow Team

(submitted by Fran Saliger)

I hope you have had time to check out the spreadsheet emailed to you in September about when to propagate Texas perennials. Better yet, have you got any of these plants in your landscape. The Grow Team would like to have some cuttings/transplants of these for our Propagation Party on **Monday, October 13 from 9am till noon** (or later if you can stay). Bring your gloves and pruners and let's get growing! Contact Fran if you have any questions.

Herb Grow Team News

The Herb Grow Team will kick off **October 18 with an education program about Twenty Great Herbs for South Central Texas** at 10 am at Fair Street. Gail will be discussing herbs that grow well in this area, how to grow them, how to propagate them and how to use them. Over the last three years, she has had some experience with growing herbs for the Plant Sale and will share those experiences—good, bad and some just ugly!

Immediately following the program, there will be a Grow Team meeting and a cutting swap so if you have herbs to share or are interested in joining the Herb Grow Team, please plan to be there.

Volunteer Hours Due Now!

To maintain your MG Certification, 20 hours volunteer hours and 6 hours of Education are needed by the end of the year-December 31, 2014. This does not apply to Class 4 students who graduated in May of 2014.

Did you turn in your volunteer hours last month? There's still time!



September 2014 Monthly Report

(Submitted to Dwight Sexton, on a monthly basis)

Fifteen Gonzales Master Gardeners turned in 120 hours for the month of September

Nine students began their training for Gonzales Master Gardener's Class #5.

Preparations are underway for the 2015 Annual Spring Plant Sale. Working in Grow Teams, groups are propagating various plants for the sale.

New Twist to Monthly GMGs Meetings



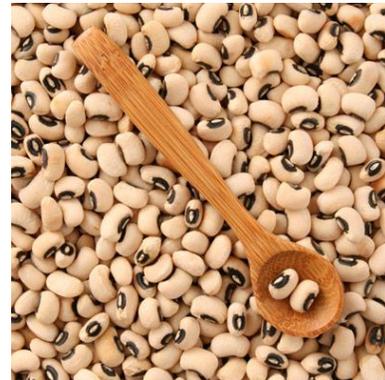
On **November 6, 2014**, there will be a business meeting for GMGs. **LUNCH will be served at noon!!!** At the last meeting, it was voted on to serve lunch at all meetings (up to \$60.00 will be refunded to those who signed up to bring lunch). Keep it easy and simple. for the 2015-2016 term. There is a sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board. We hope all of you will try to make this meeting. There will be an election of new board members

Cooking What We Grow

(submitted by Sandy Llewellyn)

Fresh or Frozen Black Eye Peas or Cream Peas

- 2 slices of bacon cut up and fried till crisp
- 1 medium onion chopped medium
- 1 quart frozen or fresh peas
- 1 large garlic clove chopped
- ½ cup chopped green pepper
- 1 large stalk celery sliced with leaves
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro
- 1 cup canned tomatoes or home grown ones
- 1 tsp or more of salt to taste
- 1/2 tsp pepper



Sauté onion, garlic, pepper, celery in bacon fat, add about 2 cups water, add peas , salt, pepper and herbs provence. After boiling turn down to medium or low and cook slowly about 20-30 minutes until peas are tender, adjust seasoning. After cooking 15 minutes add chopped cilantro. Let sit 10 minutes or so to let flavors mingle.

We have some very cooks in Class #5! These were served at the last class on October 7, 2014 and were a great hit. Thanks, Jennifer Hensley.

Icebox Butter Cookies

Makes: 8 to 10 dozen

Bake 8 min. for a soft and chewy cookie or up to 12 minutes for a crisp cookie.

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 ½ cups granulated sugar

- 1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
- 2 Large eggs
- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt

1. Beat first 4 ingredients at medium speed with an electric mixer until fluffy. Add eggs 1 at a time, beating just until blended after each addition.
2. Stir together flour and next 3 ingredients, gradually add to butter mixture, beating just until blended after each addition. Add stir-ins (see below) at this time.
3. Shape dough into 4 logs (about 2 inches in diameter), wrap each long with plastic wrap. Chill 8 hours up to 3 days.
4. Pre-heat oven to 350. Cut each log into 1/4 inch thick slices, place on parchment lined baking sheets. Bake 8 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove from baking sheets to wire racks and cool completely (about 20 minutes).

Stir-ins:

1. Rosemary-Berry

Stir in 1 cup finely chopped sweetened dried cranberries; 2 Tbsp. minced fresh rosemary and 2 Tbsp. orange zest.

2. Lemon-Basil

Add 1/4 cup finely chopped fresh basil, 2 Tbsp. lemon zest and 2 Tbsp. poppy seeds

Plant of the Month

(submitted by Brenda Thompson)

Sorry, Brenda's on Vacation this month!

If you have a special request about a particular plant contact Brenda Thompson.

Area Events

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

Rockport-Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners 2014 Schedule—Brown Bags, Seminars, Classes & Events. Public Horticulture Education Series. Learn More on Our Website: aspmastergardeners.org. All events held at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension-Aransas County, 892 Airport Road, Rockport, Need more information, Call 361-790-0103 or Website: <http://Aransas-tx.tamu.edu>

Tuesday, October 21 -BROWN BAG—"Native Grasses", Ellen Reisinger, Master Gardener, Ray Kirkwood, Master Naturalist, Noon–1:00 P.M.

Tuesday, November 18 -BROWN BAG—"Container Gardening - Plants and plant combinations for great container gardens for south Texas", Carol Krank & Deanna Baumgartener, Noon - 1:00 pm

San Antonio: October 18, 2014-Mitchell Lake Audubon Center' Hoot 'n' Harvest Fall Festival and Native Plant Sale – 9am to 4pm. [For more information:](mailto:mlac@audubon.org) mlac@audubon.org or call 210-628-1639

National Plant Society of Texas:

The Native Landscaping Certification Program has announced its fall class schedule, with offerings in **Georgetown and San Antonio**. This is the first time the popular classes will be offered in the Central Texas area. Classes have been offered in San Antonio and the North Texas area for several years. **For a complete list of class dates and or to register visit** npsot.org/wp/nlcp. The program will announce classes later for the North Texas area, including a first-ever class in Tyler. For more information or to complete a mail-in registration send a request to nlcp@npsot.org or call Meg Inglis at 512.589.1316.

San Antonio: Mary Dunford, owner of Nature's Herb Farm and co-founder of the SA Herb Society, will speak about drying and arranging herbs for holiday use at the San Antonio Herb Society October meeting, **Thursday, October 16**, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels. Free and open to the public. For additional information, call 210-826-6860 or email mbelisle@satx.rr.com.

Seguin: The Guadalupe Master Gardeners will meet on **Thursday, October 16**, at the Justice Center, 211 Court Street, Seguin. Kirby Fry will speak about "Food Forests: Perennial Forest Gardening Systems." Fry has been a permaculture teacher and design consultant for more than 15 years, having studied permaculture under Bill Mollison and studied conventional agriculture and forestry at Texas A&M. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. after a social function starting at 6:30. For further information visit www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org or call 830-303-3889.

Huntsville: Walker County Master Gardeners 5th Annual Butterfly Festival and Fall Plant Sale will be held from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., **October 18**, at 102 Tam Road, Huntsville (2 miles north of the Pilot Truck Stop on Hwy. 75N). Find out how butterflies are tagged and released at this annual event featuring a variety of activities for children and adults including: face painting, guest speakers, videos and displays on the migration of Monarchs, a treasure hunt, insect identification, learn about bees and how they make honey, etc. At the plant sale, find an extensive selection including natives, fruit and nut trees, roses, perennials, shade loving varieties, herbs, daylilies and a wide variety of seeds. For additional information, contact Brenda Lichtman at 936-435-2426 or hpe_bxl@shsu.edu, or Reggie Lepley at 936-435-2426 or r-lepley@tamu.edu.

San Antonio: October 21 is the evening to learn all about **Home Aquaponics**. Join David Rodriguez at 6:30 p.m. when he introduces Steven Sumrow from Aquaponic Systems USA at Texas A&M AgriLife Ext Svc, 3355 Cherry Ridge, San Antonio. During this two-hour presentation, learn how to create your own Home Aquaponics to grow plants and vegetables in a water environment along with aquatic fish. Aquaponics is a system of aquaculture in which the waste produced by farmed fish or other aquatic animals supplies nutrients for plants grown hydroponically, which in turn purify the water. No chemicals or soil needed, thanks to its automatic recirculating system, Aquaponics does not require much monitoring or measuring. 2 CEUs for Master Gardeners and Interns. Fee: \$10. RSVP to Angel Torres at 210 467-6575 or matorres@ag.tamu.edu.

Bryan, TX, Saturday, October 25, 2014, 9:00am-3:00pm. Town and County Garden Tour. Brazos County Master Gardeners. Tickets are \$15 per person and allow visitors into six gardens. Tickets will go on sale on September 25 at the Brazos County Extension Office or on the day of the

tour at any of the garden sites (cash or checks only). To find out more about these six fabulous gardens, please visit their website.

The Texas Plant Conservation Conference will be held **November 5-8, 2014** at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in **Austin, Texas**. This year's conference is co-hosted by the Wildflower Center, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. See the TPCC page at www.wildflower.org for more information or to register.

Austin-Raising Backyard Chickens-Thursday, November 6, 2014, 10am – noon
Travis County AgriLife Extension Office

For our final class on Backyard Basics, Master Gardener and blogger Ally Stresing will share her love of backyard chickens in this informative talk on the care and maintenance of the home flock. From constructing a predator-proof coop, to choosing proper feed, to handling boredom and the pecking order, Ally will guide you through the ins and outs of caring for happy, healthy hens. Part of the Texas AgriLife Extension Backyard Basics Series. Register at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty> or by phone 979-845-2604. \$10 fee, \$15 late and on-site. Class is limited to 40 people.

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

Dripping Springs-The Hill Country Alliance 2014 Rainwater Revival

Saturday, Oct 25, 2014 10am - 4pm, Dripping Springs Ranch Park, 1042 DS Ranch Rd Dripping Springs, TX. The festive day will be filled with informative and entertaining presentations by professionals and users of rainwater, water conservation-related business vendor booths, rainwater system displays, and plenty of experts to provide guidance and services; as well as food booths, shopping, live music, plus much more!

Details at <http://rainwaterrevival.com/>

San Antonio, Texas- for events in the San Antonio area got to <http://www.bexarcounnymastergardeners.org>



DATES TO REMEMBER: (Check elsewhere in newsletter for details)**Place in a handy place to keep up to date on GMG events****Unless otherwise noted, all meetings/classes are at 623 N. Fair Street (Fair Street Building)**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OCTOBER 12	13 Propagation Perennial Grow Team 9 am at GH	14 Rummage Sale Mtg. 1pm	15	16 2 nd Grade Class Session 8am-	17 WIC garden 9 am	18 Adult ED HERB Program 10 am Herb Grow Team mtg (after program)
19	20	21 MG Class- Field Trip to SA Botanical Gardens 9:30 am	22	23	24 WIC garden 9 am	25
26	27	28	29 Rummage Sale Set-up 9 am-noon	30 Board Mtg.- 1 pm Rummage Sale Set-up 9 am-noon	31 WIC garden 9 am Rummage Sale Set-up 9 am-noon Volunteer hours due	NOVEMBER 1 RUMMAGE SALE 8-1 PM
2	3	4 MG Class Rainwater Harvesting 8:30-12:30 Election Day	5	6 Noon MG Mtg. Lunch to be served!	7 WIC garden 9 am	8
9 Newsletter Articles Due	10	11	12	13	14 WIC garden 9 am	15

Fair Street Building: 623 N. Fair Street-next to Gonzales Elementary School**Children's Garden:** Corner of Moore and St. Louis St.-next to Eggleston House**WIC Garden:** 228 St. George St.- downtown

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TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

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