



As the Garden Grows

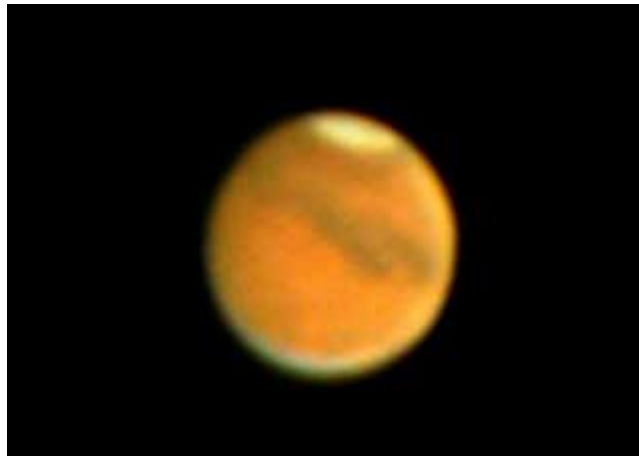


A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners

Gonzales, Texas October 2015 Volume 5, Issue 10

Gardening on Mars?

(Submitted by Gail Johnson)



So, I guess you heard the big news—there is flowing water on Mars. Not exactly the Guadalupe River but NASA scientists are really excited about it. It seems to flow seasonally. With a high concentration of salts. So, why should they get so excited about salty water? Well, nitrogen is a gas and it's light but water is too heavy to carry off of this planet in the quantities we would need. They already have carbon identified and if they have carbon and water, well, what could they do? The scientists say they can put up a greenhouse and grow plants! Because if they could grow plants, they could feed animals and people and if they could do that—well, make your reservations now and avoid the rush! On our planet, virtually all life depends upon the abilities of plants to take carbon and water and make sugar. And apparently we will have to have those capabilities to boldly go where. . .



Black Walnut Update

(Submitted by Gail Johnson)

The Black Walnuts program is starting to gear up and we are looking forward to another good year on the project. We have have a date with the 3rd grade for this year's seed planting on **December 14th**. We have pushed back the planting date since we are having another very warm fall and the walnuts are likely not to be ripe until quite late again this year. We had a low viability rate from last year's nuts probably caused in large part by the weird weather so perhaps a later date will help us this year. I hope all of you can set aside time for this project that

week because as those of you who have done this project before now, it is very labor intensive! We will need as many helpers as we can get the day of the class and we will need to fill planting pots and gather nuts ahead of time.

Since we have fewer trees this year to plant, the thought at the moment is that we will only be able to plant with the Gifted/Talented class this year but we have permission to plant the trees in the park—a long time goal of David's!

We'll keep you updated!

Tree Sale Update

(Submitted by Gail Johnson)

We had a long discussion about the tree sale at our last team meeting. As you know, the thought was to sell prepaid fruit trees this year but the fact was that when we really looked at the availability of trees and the profit margins, there just wasn't enough profit in this approach to make it work. And thankfully, we feel confident that we can make it on what we have in the bank until the next plant sale.



So we are deferring the Fall Tree Sale until next year when we can accomplish some additional goals:

1. We will be able to grow shade trees for next year. So we sure hope you will all get busy and start gathering nuts and seeds. We need a range of shade and ornamental trees. We have the pots to grow them and soil is available. With the lower cost for trees we grow ourselves, we will be able to make enough to make the project financially worthwhile. Combined with fruit trees, it will be a better event.
2. Members of the project team will be working to develop their expertise in specific trees. In the fruit trees, Carl will be our peach and pecan expert. Shirley will be our Grape Lady. Gail will specialize in plums and Donna will take on pears. David wants to be fig guy and Jo and Ron are interested in pomegranates. If you have an interest in one or more of these trees, why not

team up with another Master Gardener to learn more about that type of tree? And we need shade and ornamental experts too so let me know if you a particular tree in mind.

3. We plan to offer citrus trees at this year's Plant Sale since citrus will do better if planted in the spring. There are also some serious restrictions on the movement of citrus trees right now because of the Citrus Greening issue so we will have to source these trees carefully.

So, if you have a nice shade or ornamental tree and/or can help grow some trees, please let us know!

It Takes a Village.....

(submitted by Arline Schacherl)



The old African adage that it takes a village to raise a child has a similar meaning for Master Gardener volunteers. On Tuesday, September 22 we proved that it takes a village of Master Gardener volunteers to build and plant a raised bed! The response of volunteers who helped with landscaping around the sign at the Children's Garden that morning and on days prior was truly amazing. Prior to the workday, David had contacted the City regarding location of water lines. Jim J. and Gail marked off the space where the trench should be dug and then David took care of the trenching. Jim and Gail installed the drip irrigation line and then it was time for other MG volunteers to help. In two hours on the workday, a

raised bed was constructed, filled with soil, and planted and mulched. Carl and MG students Mike and Carolyn did a great job constructing the raised bed. Cheryl, Jennifer, Shirley, Dee, Nancy S. and Arline helped with filling the bed with garden soil and potting soil that were mixed thoroughly before the space became home for Pride of Barbados, butterfly weed, bulbine, yarrow, and Mexican heather. The plants were provided by Jennifer, Cheryl, Arline, and Fran from their own gardens. Jury duty kept Fran from participating on Tuesday.

The other raised beds were also tidied up during the work session. The monstrous sunflower plants were removed, zinnias were deadheaded, and the tomato plant was removed. Someone was counting pumpkins some of which were becoming quite sizable and turning orange. I am not aware of what will be done with the pumpkins but if there are enough to share with each of the eleven first-grade classes, I think that would be a real treat for those kids to have a pumpkin grown in their own garden. Also the first grade teachers should be encouraged to take their students on a walking field trip to see the pumpkin patch.



Nancy F. stopped by on Tuesday morning as well and mentioned that she was really impressed with the beauty of the garden. Thanks for stopping and sharing your words of encouragement, Nancy! And thanks to our photographers of the morning, Jennifer and Cheryl, who photographed the busy morning's activity.

Thanks to the efforts from a village of MG volunteers the Children's Garden was certainly a pleasing sight during the Come and Take It weekend! What a great job, everyone!

2nd Grade Parts of a Plant

We will be working with the 2nd Grade again this year to learn about the Parts of a Plant and what they do! We're a little late being able to get our dates with the school but we're delighted to say that we have our first two sessions scheduled. We will be learning all about the 4 parts of a plant in Session 1 and getting our hands dirty with our student scientists starting **October 27** starting at 8:00am and ending around 2:30pm with a long lunch break. Then we will have Session 2 on **December 2nd**. Hope to see you there!

Growing Herbs

(Submitted by Gail Johnson)



Fall is pretty prime time to plant your perennial herbs. It's been horribly dry, I know but you need to get started. I have started my rosemary cuttings for the Plant Sale and as soon as I get some root, I will be starting some lavender for the Master Gardeners. For the last two years, we have had lavender for the sale but it goes so fast that none of the Master Gardeners ever get any—so I promised several of you that I would start some lavender just for you. It's been so hot and dry that I couldn't get it started this summer but with a little relief from the heat these days, I can get a chance to do this. Of course, I hope we will have some lavender for the public, too—but you guys are the priority this year!

I hope some of you will be interested in growing some herbs with me this year for the Plant Sale. I have learned a lot growing herbs for the sale. In fact, I really didn't know much about it until I decided that we needed some herbs at the sale and started growing for that reason. The Plant Sale isn't just our big fund raiser. It's a great way to learn about growing plants—all kinds of plants. So, let me know if you are interested in learning more about herbs. I've gotten rather fond of the topic and I bet you will too!

And don't forget that the San Antonio Herb Mart is this coming weekend, October 17. Last year was not as good of a show as days past but it's still worth the morning to go visit the old Pearl Brewery and see some of the best herbs that the area has to offer. It's also a great place to get your fall strawberries. You can get all the details on their website—just google San Antonio Herb Mart.



The Spring Plant Sale is Coming!

No, I haven't gone crazy yet! But, it is time to start planning for the 2016 Spring Plant Sale. A date has been set for Saturday, April 9, 2016.

A team meeting will be held on **November 17, 2015 at 1:30 pm** at PACE. There is a MG training class that morning, so this would be a great time for all students to get in on the beginning of this annual event.

Grow Teams are forming now. Gail has agreed to lead the Herb Team, Sandy Llewellyn-Vegetables, Fran-Perennial/Native plants, Shirley-Houseplants, but we still need a team leader for Trees and Succulents/Cacti. Sign Up sheets are on the bulletin board at PACE.

Contact Fran Saliger, SPS Chairman, for more information.

Perennial/Native Grow Team

(Submitted by Fran Saliger)

The Perennial/Native Grow Team will meet on **Thursday, October 22, 2016** beginning at 8:30 am. We will continue propagating plants in the Greenhouse. Bring any cuttings or transplants you may have to share. Now is the time to divide those plants that bloom in the spring, like, Irises, Daylilies, Cannas, etc. Does anyone have any Oxblood lilies, aka School House Lilies, to share? Do you have something different to share with us as we are always looking for plants that aren't so common but do well in our area?

Congratulations to Gail and Jim Johnson!

Gail won the blue ribbon in the Herb Category for her Thai basil at the 2015 Guadalupe County Fair and Jim won 2nd place for peppers for his Big Berthas.



Noon Master Gardener Meeting-November 5, 2015

Come join us for a fun time talking about our gardens, sharing plants and information. Meeting begins at noon. Come early to visit. Lunch Provided.

The End of the Year is Approaching!



Just a reminder that all certified MG's should earn 20 Volunteer Hours and 6 Continuing Education Hours by the end of December, 2015 to maintain your status as a Certified Master Gardener. Those MG's from Class 5 do not need to concern themselves with this until 2016. However, continue to turn in your hours.

Associate Membership is offered to members who for specific reasons are unable to meet the necessary requirements for certification or recertification and who are committed to staying with the GMG program. There is more information on this policy in the "Membership" policy of the GMG. Contact me if you need more information.

If you have any questions about your hours, please contact Fran Saliger at: fsaliger@gvec.net

September 2015 GMG Report

Seventeen MG's reported 160 Volunteer hours for the month of August. There were 22.5 CEU's turned in.

Class #6 began with eight students enrolled.

A new flowerbed was installed and planted at the Children's garden.

Volunteer leaders met with the Gonzales Elementary School Principle to discuss the 2nd- 4th grade programs.

Plant of the Month

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)



Flowering Maple, Chinese Lantern

Abutilon x Hybridum
Malvaceae

Abutilon is a tender perennial here in south Texas. In my experience, they do best if grown in pots so they can be protected from a freeze. However, I have read that they grow well in the ground in dappled shade around the Austin area. They prefer morning sun (no hot afternoon sun) and moderate watering, and should be fertilized monthly in spring and fall. They should be pruned lightly after they flower to keep them nicely shaped. They come in various colors... I have 3 plants, one yellow, one orange and one light pink.

Area Events

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

Austin: John Dromgoole, founder and owner of The Natural Gardener, will discuss spiritual gardens including the historical background and ceremonial uses of specific plants as well as creating sacred spaces in your garden, Monday, **October 12**. The Austin Organic Gardeners' Club meets at the Austin Area Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Rd, in Zilker Botanical Gardens. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the opportunity to meet, mingle, and ask questions with local gardeners; club business begins at 7 p.m., followed by the guest speaker's presentation. For more information, visit www.austinorganicgardeners.org.

Schertz: "Lawn Care" will be presented by Marvin Borth, Master Gardener, noon-1 p.m., Monday, **October 12**, at the GVEC Service Center Community Room, 908 Curtis Street, Schertz. Topics include: Turf Grass Types, Proper Maintenance, Fertilization, Weeds, and Pests Control. Free and attendees are welcome to bring a lunch. For more information call 830-303-3889, AgriLife Extension Office or visit quadalupecountymastergardeners.org.

San Antonio: "Trees, Trees, Trees!" presented by Mark Krotze of the Texas A&M Forest Service, 103 p.m., **October 15**, at 3355 Cherry Ridge Dr., San Antonio, will focus on trees in the local area and all you need to know about providing proper tree care. 2 CEUs for MGs. Free. Bexar County Master Gardener (BCMG) Educational Seminars/General Meetings are held on the afternoon of the third Thursday every other month at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, Suite 208. For more information contact Jack Downey, President@bexarmg.org, or call 210-699-0663.

Huntsville: A Texas Pollinators Garden Symposium will be held 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., **October 16** followed by a Butterfly Festival and Fall Plant Sale **October 17** at the Veterans Conference Center, 455 Hwy 75, Huntsville. Speakers include Felder Rushing, Henry Flowers, and Dotty Woodson. Registration: \$75 until September 15; \$95 after September 15. For additional information, visit www.walkercountymastergardeners.org or call Duane Robinson at 936-355-8215.

La Marque: "Buried Treasures...Bulbs & Other Hardy Perennials for Gulf Coast Landscapes," presented by GC Master Gardener Anna Wygrys. 9-11 a.m., **October 17**, at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email reservations to galv3@wt.net, further details see www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston. Free.

La Marque: "The Joy of Daylilies," presented by with Nell Shimek, 6:30-8 p.m., **October 20**, at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email reservations to galv3@wt.net, further details see www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston. Free.

St. Francisville, Louisiana: The Southern Garden Symposium, offering prestigious speakers amid gracious surroundings, will be held **October 23 & 24**, in St. Francisville, La. No other gardening program brings together top quality speakers and historic plantation settings as well as the Southern Garden Symposium in St. Francisville, La. The Southern Garden Symposium - now in its 27th year - has become an annual tradition for garden enthusiasts from across the south. While the symposium's workshops and lectures provide ideas and inspiration for the gardener, the social activities surrounding the event are classic southern elegance at its best. From the home-baked breakfast breads served in the morning, to the sumptuous fare of the evening gala and the delightfully relaxed Saturday afternoon tea, not a single detail of southern hospitality is overlooked. Located about 45 minutes north of Baton Rouge, La., St. Francisville was established in 1809. Set in a unique location on a bluff of the Mississippi River and often described as a town "two miles long and two yards wide," the quaint community offers southern hospitality, fantastic shopping, and breathtaking scenery. Symposium events are held at several historic and picturesque locations, both public and private, including Afton Villa Gardens, Rosedown Plantation, Grace Episcopal Church, Wildwood, Underwood Cottage, and more. For complete program information and registration forms, visit www.SouthernGardenSymposium.org, call 225-635-3738, or email luciecassity@bellsouth.net. For information regarding overnight accommodations in St. Francisville, visit www.stfrancisville.us or call 225-635-4224, toll free at 800-789-4221. Seating is limited and hotel rooms can be scarce in St. Francisville in October, so register now!

Bryan/College Station: The Brazos County Master Gardeners' Association will host the 3rd Annual Garden Tour, "Beyond the Garden Gate," on Saturday, **October 24**, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.. Ticket Information: Tickets may be purchased between September 1 and October 22, on-line at www.brazosmg.com, at Brazos Natural Foods, 4303 S. Texas at Rosemary, Bryan, or at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, 2619 Hwy. 21 W, Bryan. They may also be purchased on-site at any of the five gardens on tour day. Tickets are \$15 for adult admittance to all gardens. Tickets purchased at the Extension Office or those purchased on-site at any garden on October 24 must be paid by cash or check only.

San Antonio: OCTOBER 17, 2015. 24th Annual San Antonio Herb Market again this year at the Historic Pearl Brewery! 9:00am - 3:00pm

Victoria: Victoria County Master Gardener Association will hold its 2015 "Garden Tour: Nature's Beauty Beyond the Gate" featuring six home locations in Victoria **Oct. 24-25**. For more information, call 361-575-4581.

Tyler: "Providing Winter Care for Wildlife" will be presented at noon, **November 3**, in the IDEA garden at the Tyler Rose Garden, 420 Rose Park Dr., Tyler. An informative lecture covering seasonal gardening topics held on the patio of the IDEA garden, the program begins at noon. The lecture is approximately 30 minutes with a Q&A session following. Seating is limited; please bring a chair for you comfort. In case of inclement weather, program will be held in Rose Garden Center. For more information, visit <http://txmg.org/smith/coming-events/> or call 903-590-2980.

Austin: "Bold and Beautiful Edibles" will be presented, 10 a.m. to noon, **November 12**. Learn about edible plants with ornamental potential for Central Texas landscapes. We're talking artichokes, asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries, herbs and more. Some are perennials, some are annuals, but all will beautify your landscape and satisfy your appetite. Master Gardener Patty Leander is a writer for Texas Gardener magazine and grows vegetables year round in her Oak Hill garden. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Travis County, 1600-B Smith Road, Austin. Cost: \$10 thru 11/02, \$15 starting 11/03 and onsite, No cash accepted - checks and credit cards only. Register: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty>, Register by Phone: 979-845-2604
Contact: Sue Carrasco, 512-854-9610 or sacarrasco@ag.tamu.edu.

La Grange: Johnny Schroeder will present "Lawn & Landscape Equipment Management" at 12:05 p.m., **November 12**, at the Fayette County Agricultural Building, 255 Svoboda Lane, La Grange. Maintenance tips and schedules for all your outdoor power equipment. Maintain your yard and garden like a pro with these handy operation tips and tricks. For additional information, visit <http://fayette.agrilife.org>.

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 got to <http://www.bexarcounymastergardeners.org>

DATES TO REMEMBER: (Check elsewhere in newsletter for details)**Unless otherwise noted, all meetings/classes are at****623 N. Fair Street (Plantarium: A Center for Exploration-(aka PACE)**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 11	12	13 MG Class San Antonio Botanical Gardens 9:30-Leave PACE at 8 am for carpool	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 MG Class Plant Propagation Fran Saliger 8:30-12:30 pm 2 nd grade class meeting afterwards	21	22 Perennial / Native Grow Team-8-30 am in Greenhouse	23	24
25	26	27 2 nd grade Class Session #1 8:00 to 2:30pm	28	29 Board Meeting 9:30 am	30	31- Volunteer Hours Due 
November 1	2	3 MG Class Growing Vegetables 8:30-12:30 pm	4	5 GMG Noon Lunch Meeting	6	7
8 Newsletter Articles Due	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 MG Class Plants and the Underground Economy-Gail Johnson 8:30-12:30 pm SPS meeting at 1:30 pm	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 	27	28

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

Editors:

Fran Saliger
fsaliger@gvec.net
Gail Johnson
redolentday@gmail.com

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

Web pages:

<http://gonzalesmastergardeners.org>

<http://gonzales.agrilife.org>



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodations in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at 830-672-8531 to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A & M AgriLife Extension