



As the Garden Grows

A Publication of the Gonzales Texas Master Gardeners

June 2022

Presidents Message

Congratulations graduates of Master Gardener Class #11. Completing the course study and volunteering is a major achievement. We welcome you as Gonzales Master Gardener members. The class graduated April 26 after touring the Luling Foundation facilities, completing a post-graduation exam, and enjoying a catered lunch.

The Texas Master Gardener program began in 1978. In the 1990's the Texas Master Gardener Association was organized. Gonzales Master Gardeners (GMG) was formed in 2010 by four Master Gardeners that had relocated to Gonzales County.

The Master Gardener program has been designed and is under the direction of Texas A & M AgriLife Extension, the horticulture course of study encompasses a minimum of fifty hours of training and the same number of volunteer hours.

Certified Master Gardeners continue to improve and share their gardening and horticultural skills by volunteering at the PACE building, the greenhouse, Eggleston Children's Garden, the March and April Plant Sales and other educational and social activities. The ongoing participation of GMG members maintains the positive force in advancing gardening knowledge within the community.

Nick Wentworth GMG President

GMG Board

President.... Nick Wentworth

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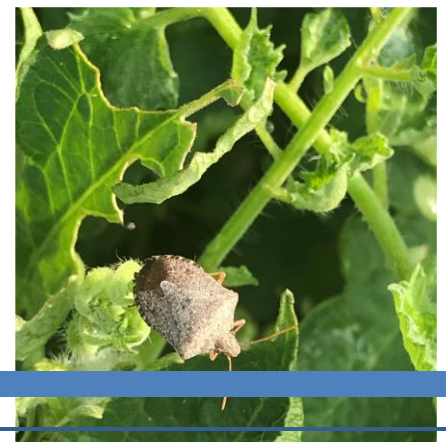
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Around the Garden in June

Submitted by Co-editor: Mayra Guisinger

Finally, we are into the South-Central Texas heat. As we all have our own individual types of gardening needs, we still must get outside and check on our gardens, whether they be a beautiful green lawn, trees/shrubs, flower beds, raised/container, or vegetable/herbs. We already know our basics of adding organic not just chemicals. Your soil sample will tell the tale; however, your garden plants will still need to be fed with beneficial doses of store bought or your own homemade compost. Continue with watering, weeding, insect/disease control, and if you are growing for food finally harvesting at the right time and storing your produce. If you are a novice gardener yet, or still have questions, good information about landscaping, turf, herbs plus growing, harvesting, and storing vegetables is available at: <https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/>

Let's not forget our houseplant needs. Take them out for a shower to remove the layer of dust. Check out if they are top heavy or pot-bound in their present pot. It might be time for a new one. At the "Container" class this spring, it was suggested by the instructor that we try the light-weight fiberglass pots with drainage. Much lighter to move if you are repotting large plants. You can further your own love of houseplants by going to: <https://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/publications/houseplant/houseplant.html>

To find the local Gonzales mushroom compost story follow: <https://www.kitchenpride.com/compost-sales>





Harvesting the Children's Garden

By Arline Schacherl

On May 4, first grade students walked to the Children's Garden to harvest what had been planted back in February. At the visit to the garden in March many of the radishes were ready for harvest so each class had some to take with them. It was disappointing to find that none of the lettuce seeds had germinated so the children were able to plant more lettuce seeds and some more radish seeds. The spinach was growing nicely but wasn't ready for harvest.

As time went by following some rain it became apparent that waiting until May 4 for some of the produce to be harvested might be too long to wait. Arline decided that radishes had to be harvested along with some spinach so the week before Easter a grocery bag of beautiful large spinach leaves was picked for each of the ten first-grade classes along

with half of a grocery bag of radishes. Bags were placed in the teacher lounge refrigerator so that everything would be kept fresh for the students to enjoy the next day.

When the harvest day arrived, the weather was quite warm that afternoon. Lots of weeds greeted the volunteers who arrived early enough to do some weeding so the students would have an easier time of finding the produce. The lettuce never did produce so the rest of the spinach and radishes were eagerly picked and placed in bags. The carrots were a nice surprise even though they were not all that big. Master Gardener volunteers reminded the students that all the produce needed to be washed thoroughly before eating. The kids seemed excited about the harvest which was termed a success by all involved.

The happy voices and smiles on the children's faces were a delightful thank-you for the volunteers who participated in the harvest. In addition, one class had written thank you cards which they had decorated. Thanks to Mayra, Jacob, Carolyn P., Karen, Shirley, Sandra V., Lindsay, Sandi W., Dave, Missy, Nan, Nicky, Brenda, Jane Bl., Kay and Arline for making time to assist the first graders. Even after the students left many of the volunteers stayed to finish weeding the raised beds. What a great group of volunteers that included many of the Class 11 graduates and interns plus MG members! Your support of the Children's Garden is always appreciated.

A workday to finish cleaning the beds and preparing them for the summer rest will be scheduled soon. Perhaps next week when the temperatures are somewhat cooler will be a workable opportunity for volunteers to do this maintenance. Enjoy your summer!



The May 4th Session at Eggleston Garden ended this year's Children's Garden volunteering with the harvest. Pictured are Karen Herd, Sandra Vickery, Lindsay Chilek, Sandra Ward, Nanette Monaghan, Nicky McKinney, David Burrough, Sitting: Kay Burrough, Arlene Shacherl, Brenda Olsen, Missy Blackman, and Shirley Frazier. Not pictured: Jacob Carter, Carolyn Parratt, and Mayra Guisinger.



The students from Gonzales Elementary School alongside MGM volunteers planted carrot, radish, lettuce, and spinach seeds this winter and over the 5-session program, got a great surprise in May: lots of carrot, radish, spinach, and smiles!

Children's Garden Season

January 13-May 4, 2022

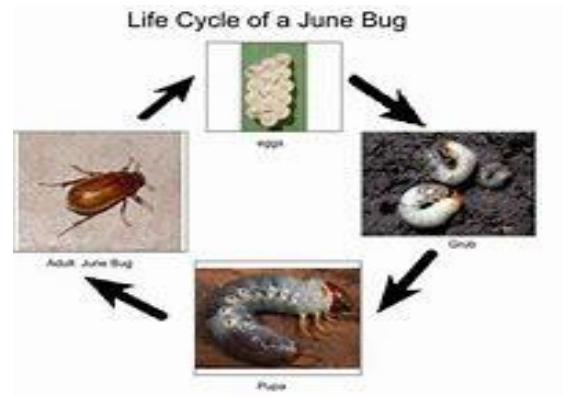
Insects

Scientific name:

(Coleoptera: Scarabeidae)

Facts: The genus in Texas with about 150 species is difficult. In addition, there are several other genera that are similar in appearance. The larvae feed on roots of grasses and other plants and they can cause damage in lawns and crops. Even though the genus name means "leaf feeding" the adults do not cause damage very often. These common insects are easily collected under lights in the spring and early summer.

https://entomology.tamu.edu/studylist_all/may-beetle-or-june-bug/



Phyllophaga sp.

Phyllophaga is a large one species. Identification to



Found this morning on the San Marzano tomato plant. Ultimately, have you ever asked yourself: what does this turn into?

Garden Tour

by Sandi Ward

On May 7 and 8, the Gonzales Historic Homes Association sponsored a Garden Tour event. This was Mother's Day weekend, and several families took advantage of the beautiful Central Texas spring day to be outdoors, in the gardens, with their moms.




I was very interested in this event. I am a newcomer to Gonzales, and this was a wonderful opportunity to visit some beautiful established gardens in this locale. I am also a Master Gardener Intern, and this was also a great way for me to interact with other gardeners. On the day before the event, those of us lucky enough to be garden tour docents were able to tour the gardens and hear from the garden owners. While each of the gardens is unique in design and history and speaks with its own voice, each one is beautiful and intriguing. For me, this experience was inspiring but at the same time, calming and restorative.

On the day of the event, I arrived at my assigned garden, the Belle Oaks. Here I joined two other MG volunteer docents, and two from the Spade and Trowel Garden Club. This garden is very large, with multiple outdoor 'rooms,' a beautiful koi pond, and an oak tree that is more than a hundred years old. We know that the tree is more than 100 years old, because the house was built in 1912, and the tree was already growing there. In fact, Mr. Dilworth planned the house around the tree. The tree and its history really speak to me as a communication not only from gardeners of our past but to nature lovers and conservationists everywhere.

Each of the gardens is sited with one of Gonzales's beautiful historic homes. Each garden supports and honors the unique architecture of the home where it lives. The gardens thus enhance the history and beauty of each site.

This was a beautiful way to spend a sunny spring day!

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
			1 Deadline to register for Advanced M.G. Training: Plant Propagation	2 GMG June Social Noon Meeting 	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18
19 Father's Day	20 Juneteenth Observed	21 Summer Solstice	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30 Board Meeting Volunteer Hours due		

Happy Birthday to all of you June GMG Members!



Texas Snakes

With days getting warmer, our South-Central snake population has already come out of their winter hibernation and has begun to move. Even city gardeners might see a few varieties. Some of us already know how to identify them, but those new gardeners to the area might not be familiar with the large variety that live here. Of course, I am no expert in reptiles, but have been coached by a wildlife enthusiast on which ones are safe to look at and those that you don't want to approach. Some snakes are good for gardening with their appetite for insects.

To learn more about our local snakes go to: <https://tomlinsons.com/blogs/articles/central-texas-snakes>

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PACE Landscape in May