



As the Garden Grows



A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners

Gonzales, Texas November 2016 Volume 6, Issue 10

Gonzales Master Gardeners Elect New Board



A new board of officers was elected at our last noon lunch meeting on November 3. The new board will consist of:

- Arline Schacherl-President
- Fran Saliger- Vice President
- Robbie Cole-Secretary
- Nick Wentworth- Treasurer
- Past President- David DeMent

Thanks to each of you for willingly accepting these positions. We can look forward to another great year. As members of GMG, please support your officers and organization in any way you can. We can only grow if we continue to work together while still learning and having fun along the way.

A great hand of gratitude goes to the current board whose term (two years) ends on December 31, 2016. Thanks to David, Fran, Shirley, Pam and Gail for a great two years. Your efforts these past two years on behalf of the GMG are greatly appreciated by everyone.

Gardening Activities for November

(Submitted by Fran Saliger)

Cooler temperatures are arriving this month so be alert to the average freeze date for Gonzales County which is November 16-30. Be ready with blankets and sheets to cover up tender vegetable and herb seedlings when a freeze is in the forecast. They can also be protected with a clear plastic hoop cover or a more permanent cold frame could be used for cool season crops. Make sure the



ends are open if the cover stays in place to prevent excessive heat buildup and allow air to circulate. Consult the internet on how to make this hoop cover. Frost/row covers can make up to a 4-8 degrees of difference beneath the cover and reduce damage caused by strong winds. Remove them once the temperatures are above freezing. Keeping the beds watered before a freeze can also help reduce the chances of freeze damage. This should help prolong the fall tomato harvest or be ready to make fried green tomatoes or green tomato

relish.

There is still time to plant perennial herbs but do so now so that they get good roots established. Successive plantings of lettuce or other salad greens can be done all winter long in this part of the state. Plant shallots and green onions in December for a spring harvest.

Harvest cool-season peas before the first freeze date. Harvest broccoli when the heads are full sized and still tight. Don't pull up the plants but remove the head and side shoots will appear for additional harvesting. Harvest entire lettuce plants and spinach or just cut off the plant leaves a few inches from the ground and new foliage will grow for future harvesting.

Cooler temperatures will end the warm-season blooming flowers such as marigolds, zinnias, and petunias. Go ahead and pull them up and plant some cool-season annuals such as pansies, violas, dusty miller, dianthus, and ornamental kale/cabbage. Don't forget to fertilize these plants regularly to keep them blooming.

November is a great time to plant sweet peas for spring blooms. Be sure to have a trellis/fence for them to grow up on. They make great cut flowers and some are very fragrant. Larkspurs are another great spring blooming flower to sow in the fall. Both need good soil, good drainage and grow in full sun.

Complete dividing those spring/summer flowering perennials this month. Divide iris, spring obedient plant, Shasta daisy, betony, Hinkley's columbine, salvias, and bulbs that bloom in late winter to early spring. Consider planting some spring flowering bulbs this fall that are good for our area like Daffodils/Narcissus, ranunculus, anemones, tulips and hyacinths. Just know that tulips and hyacinths are a one shot deal and need to be replanted from year to year.

Don't be too hasty in pruning back perennial shrubs until late winter for purely aesthetic reasons. It is better to shape/prune them in October for continued bloom time. If you just can't stand the dead top growth after a freeze, cut them back but be prepared to give them a 2-3 inch layer of mulch to protect them from freeze damage.

Trees, shrubs, and woody vines are best planted in the fall. This will give the plants a good chance to develop a strong root system before they bud out in the spring and face the hot summer months of the following year. The Gonzales Master Gardeners will have their first tree sale on November 19, 2016. We will be offering some selections of ornamental shade trees and fruit trees. See more information about this in this newsletter.

Butterfly Convention Held at Children's Garden

(Submitted by Arline Schacherl)

The signs of fall are finally making an appearance here in Gonzales County—cooler days and nights, gentle rains, and this year butterflies everywhere! I had noticed graceful “flutterbies” on lantana, salvia, zexmenia, hibiscus, bulbine, and passion vine in my own flower garden. However, there was a wonderful surprise waiting for me from one of our MG members.

A couple of weeks ago I received an email from Pam announcing a butterfly convention going on at the Children's Garden. She had spent part of her afternoon sitting in sand burrs photographing and enjoying the delightful ballet the butterflies were performing on the colorful zinnias and marigolds. The twenty or so photos Pam had attached to the email were truly spectacular. The wide variety of butterflies was breathtaking! It was easy to understand why she was so excited about her experience. Thank you, Pam, for sharing your experience through photos.

So naturally I journeyed to the Children's Garden to observe these delightful creatures as they danced playfully among the flowers. Thank you, God, for creating these beauties that bring out the child in every gardener! What fun!





Gonzales Master Gardeners Project Updates

Second Grade Class Sessions

The Second Graders will be meeting with Dee Sengelmann's team on **Tuesday, December 6** from 8 am until 2:30 pm. Second graders from East Avenue will meet at the PACE building for the second session for their study on the Parts of the Plant. Contact Dee for more information. As always, volunteers are needed.

Third Grade Black Walnut Restoration Project

Donna Bell and her team of volunteers will be presenting a program on Black Walnut Tree Conservation and Natural Resources to the third graders from Gonzales Elementary School on **Thursday, December 8, 2016** (note change of date) starting at 8 am and lasting until 2:30 pm. The children will learn all about black walnut trees and plant the walnut seeds. Seeds will be collected from about six different trees in the county and prepared by David DeMent. There will be a "Pot Party" (getting the tree pots filled with soil) after the Winter Social on **December 1, 2016**. This event takes a lot of volunteers to move the potted seeds in and out of the classroom as well as working with the children. If you can be of any assistance, please contact Donna Bell.

Fall Tree Sale

Our first Fall Tree Sale is set for **Saturday, November 19, 2016** starting at 8:30 am until 1:00 pm or sold out on Texas Heroes Square in downtown Gonzales. The trees for sale are ones that are known to do well in our specific area. Information will be available at the sale on "How to plant and care for these trees". We will be selling the following Trees:

- Santa Rosa Plums
- Florida King Peaches
- Brown Sugar Figs
- Victoria Red grape vines
- Champanell grape vines
- Black Spanish grape vines
- Brown Sugar Figs
- Black Walnut trees
- Alamo Cottonwoods (Male) from the tree at the Alamo in San Antonio, TX



- Burr Oaks
- Mexican White Oak (Monterey Oak)
- Mexican Buckeye
- Dessert Willow
- Texas Redbud

We will also be offering flowering spring bulbs, daylilies, and irises that are planted in the Fall.

All volunteers are needed to work the event starting at 6:30 am. Meet at PACE to load up everything and then go to the square. Stay tuned for updates as they happen. Contact Donna Bell for more information (512-797-7646)

December Winter Social



Our **annual Winter Social** will be on **December 1** beginning at noon. so invite your partner to join us. Turkey and Ham will be provided by the organization. Bring a side dish for everyone's enjoyment. All new students are welcome to join us and meet the rest of the GMG's.

2017 SPRING PLANT SALE



The date is set for March 25, 2017. We will have a meeting after MG class on November 29, 2016 to plan for the spring plant sale. EVERYONE is encouraged to attend. Thank you. Fran Saliger

Plant of the Month

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

ANGEL'S TRUMPET Brugmansia syn. Datura

by Jerry Parsons, Ph.D.

Horticulture Specialist, Texas Agricultural Extension Service in San Antonio

Desperate times and seemingly impossible situations call for drastic solutions. Folks are "desperate" for plants which will grow and hopefully bloom in the shade. With the deer and other wildlife varmints on the increase and ravenous when it comes to devouring our precious landscape plants, we are ready to use anything and everything which might grow and bloom in the shade yet escape the constant browsing of our Bambi "friends".

Realizing such plants must be distasteful, we must make plant selections from those that are labeled "poisonous". The term "poisonous" means that if enough (usually larger quantities than can be stomached or consumed because of distasteful attributes) of the plant and/or plant parts are eaten, an individual will become ill and possibly die.

Animals and children are usually repelled by the nasty-tasting plant after the first bite if they are curious enough or hungry enough to experience a taste. This aspect of plant protection is used by many of our favorite plants such as lantana and oleander.

Another plant which uses this defense mechanism and is on the verge of becoming a Texas favorite has an angelic name - Angel Trumpet. The Angel Trumpet is in the Brugmansia genus. Angel Trumpet is a Datura-type plant but with the added advantage of not producing the poisonous seed common with other Datura. The Angel Trumpet is repulsive to deer (except for the rubbing of velvet off antlers in the fall!), will grow and bloom in semi-shaded areas and, the most precious of all its attributes, emits a wonderful Angelic scent at sundown and into the evening hours while you are enjoying the cooling nighttime temperatures.

It is a dream-come-true-plant for Texas. It gets its name from the large, long, trumpet-shaped flowers which are abundant and emit a sweet, angelic-fragrance in the evening.

The large shrubs or small trees of Angel's Trumpet (Brugmansia) are grown for their very large, fragrant, pendent trumpet flowers. They are still often found under the name Datura, but the true Datura are short lived, herbaceous plants with smaller, more upright flowers and capsular fruits



that are usually prickly containing very poisonous seed. The Angel's Trumpet will be root-hardy (freeze to the ground most years but sprout again from the roots in the spring.) in most areas of Texas except in extreme north Texas.

(Note from Brenda: I have had my Brugmansia for several years and it is growing in a large pot with morning sun and afternoon shade. I fertilize it about once a month with Peters. In the summer, it takes watering just about daily. In the winter it takes very little water. It is easy to start new plants from cuttings. In mild winters, I leave it on the Southside of the garage but if it is going to freeze I will usually put it inside.... Notice in the photo that I have it on rollers to make this task easier.))

Area Events

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

Austin: A joint meeting of The Garden Club of Austin and the Cactus and Succulent Society will meet at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, **November 17**, at Zilker Botanical Gardens, 2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin. Jeff Pavalt will present "Succulent Gems of the Mojave." The Mojave Desert is the driest desert in North America. It's located in the southwestern United States - mostly within southeastern California and southern Nevada. It is bordered by the Great Basin Desert to the north and the Sonoran Desert to the south and east. It is home to around 2,000 species of plants, the most iconic of which is the Joshua Tree or *Yucca brevifolia*. Jeff will be sharing photos from sites within Joshua Tree National Park and the Mojave National Preserve.

San Antonio: Saturday, November 19, 2016 9am - 12:30 pm "Milkweed Propagation Workshop". San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209 Fee: \$20 (\$18 members), plus \$5 for materials. For more information, visit www.sabot.org or call 210-536-1400. Interested in attracting monarch butterflies to your landscape? Come to this hands-on workshop on milkweed propagation. Learn about milkweed ecology and distribution and how to scarify and cold stratify milkweed seeds. Speaker: Cathy Downs, Master Naturalist

San Antonio: Sunday, November 20, 2016 2 pm - 4pm "Year In Review" -- SA Daylily Society Meeting. Meeting is held in the Educational Building at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX. San Antonio Daylily Society meeting is free and open to the public. Contacts: Beatrice Moreno, San Antonio Daylily Society (SADS), President, beatrice_moreno@att.net, or Pat Schultze: clydepat6@aol.com.

San Antonio: Sunday, November 27, 2016 9am - 4pm 'Holiday Magic' Market at the Garden Center at the San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 North New Braunfels, San Antonio, TX . Free admission and parking. For more info, visit www.sanantonioherbs.org or sanantonioherbs@gmail.com 'Holiday Magic' Market Juried show of extraordinary artisans displaying

and selling beautiful handmade merchandise, including organic body care, jewelry, woodwork, art, glass, gourmet foods, plants, accessories and more! Door prizes. Hourly mini-workshops.

San Antonio: Monday, November 28, 2016 12pm - 3pm. Native Plants for Any Landscape Style / Bulbs for Texas -- Gardening Volunteers of South Texas (GVST) classes are free and Open to the Public. \$5 donation appreciated to help cover expenses. GVST Essentials of Gardening Classes are held at the San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 North New Braunfels Avenue, San Antonio, TX. The first session usually starts around 12:15, the second session around 1:30pm. No advance reservations are necessary. For more information: info@gardeningvolunteers.org or (210)251-8101, or visit the GVST website: www.gardeningvolunteers.org (Note the date change to the 4th Monday, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.) Session 1 Topic: Native Plants for Any Landscape Style Whatever your landscape style—formal, Texas Hill Country, Mediterranean, or semi-tropical—there are native plants that can be incorporated into your design. Speaker: Deedy Wright, A life-long Texas gardener and advocate of native plants, xeriscapes and sustainable gardens. Session 2- Topic: Bulbs for Texas It's the time of year to plant bulbs for spring. Speaker: Robbi Daves Will, sales representative for Antique Rose Emporium based in Independence near Brenham. Bring your hand pruning tools and have them sharpened by "Dr. Fix-It" for \$3 each, a donation to GVST.

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>

Check out www.txmg.org for events around the state

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.bexarcounymastergardeners.org>

REMINDER!!!

Annual Dues of \$20.00 are now due! Please pay Pam with check or cash ASAP. There is still time to earn your required 20 hours of volunteer hours and 6 hours of continuing education to remain a certified Master Garden. We encourage everyone to complete this by December 31, 2016. Thanks for all of your support to a great organization.

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
NOVEMBER 13	14	15 MG Class Soils class 8:30 -12:30 Tree Sale Mtg. 1:30 pm	16 Walnut Gathering with Arline- 9:00 am	17	18	19 Fall Tree Sale-set up 6:30 Sale starts at 8:30 am
20	21	22	23	24 	25	26
27	28	29 MG Class Drip Irrigation, GH, Seed Starting 8:30-12:30 SPS Mtg. 1:30pm	30	DECEMBER 1 Winter Social- Noon Walnut "Pot Party"- 1:30 pm Veg Grow Team Mtg. 1:30 pm	2	3
4	5	6 2 nd Grade Class Session #2 8am -2:30pm	7	8 3 rd Grade Black Walnut Tree Project 8am - 2:30pm	9	10
11	12	13 MG Class 8:30-12:30	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 	26	27	28	29 Board Meeting 9:30 am	30	31 

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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