



As the Garden Grows



A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners

Gonzales, Texas October 2016 Volume 6, Issue 9

Where is the Meristem?

David DeMent, Botanist, once again kept the class enthused about Botany on September 27, 2016. Do you remember about stems, roots, xylem, phloem, nodes, and the meristem? If not, look these terms up in your MG Training Manual. Where is the meristem? Is it A, B, C or D on the Banana Tree???



Class 7 got a first-hand look at where the meristem is located. If you forgot, the meristem is at the tip of the root and manufactures new cells; it is an area of cell division and growth.

Congratulations Landscape Design Specialist-Jim Mikulik

Congratulations to Jim Mikulik for becoming one of the few Landscape Design Specialists in the state of Texas. This is a two-year program offered by Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. in College Station. The four sessions are offered every six months and you can take them in any sequence. Upon completion of the four two day courses, one must pass an exam to become certified. This takes a real commitment for the individual and we applaud Jim. If you have any questions about landscape design, Jim is available to answer your questions. For further information about the course go to www.txmg.org.

Gonzales Master Gardeners Project Updates

Fall at the Children's Garden

(Submitted by Arline Sachacherl)

The raised beds and the surrounding area got a facelift on September 21 when MG volunteers Carolyn P., Nancy S., Jennifer, Nancy F., Sandy S., and Arline arrived early to clean the Children's Garden. While everyone was busy removing weeds, trimming marigold plants, and pulling up Bermuda grass that had been sprayed with Roundup a few weeks earlier, Jim M. finished repairing the leak in the drip irrigation system. It was good to have water accessible again for the raised beds.

Many zinnias had sprouted everywhere from the seeds of the dying spring zinnias. Several of the volunteers carefully dug up young zinnia plants from the aisles to transplant into their own gardens at home. Nancy F. even came back a day or two later and transplanted zinnias in some of the barren beds at the Children's Garden. Thanks to all the MG volunteers who helped with the clean-up and maintenance.

City of Gonzales employees finally removed the extremely large pile of foliage that had accumulated along Moore Street following the two monthly clean-up sessions prior to the annual Come and Take It Festival in early October. Also the area had been mowed and looked quite presentable to those passing by. Zinnias are now blooming happily and so are the remaining marigolds. It's a pretty fall scene, for sure.

Second Grade Class Sessions

The Second Graders will be meeting with Dee Sengelmann's team to begin class sessions with the 2nd graders from East Avenue at the PACE building on **Thursday, October 13, 2016**. This is the first of four sessions in which the students learn about the Parts of the Plant. Contact Dee for more information. As always, volunteers are needed.

Third Grade Black Walnut Restoration Project

Under the direction of Donna Bell, the third graders from Gonzales Elementary School will once again be learning about the restoration and conservation of the Black Walnut Tree in Gonzales County. The planned date for the program in which the children learn about the Black Walnut Tree and plant some walnut seeds is set for **December 14, 2016** if scheduling goes as planned. 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. If you can be of any assistance, please contact Donna Bell.

Ag in the Classroom at J.B. Wells Arena



On Thursday, **October 18, 2016**, Carolyn Parratt will be representing GMGs at the “Ag in the Classroom” event hosted by Gonzales Farm Bureau for all fourth grade students in Gonzales County. She will be demonstrating how insects work for us in everyday life.

Everything we do in a day’s time, from putting on cotton jeans and shirts, eating lunch, and everything in between involves agriculture. Without agriculture, the world would not exist. The Gonzales Farm Bureau presents their “Ag in the Classroom” event giving these children an idea about how agriculture and the environment work for them in their busy lives. Different presentations about water resources, farming, ranching, and exploring the source of our food and fiber are viewed by over 400 students so they can begin to understand how everyday agriculture affects their lives.

Master Gardeners are encouraged to support Carolyn at the J.B. Wells rodeo arena from 8:00 am till 1:00 pm. Who knows, you may even learn a thing or two!!



Fall Tree Sale Date Set

Our first Fall Tree Sale has been set for **Saturday, November 19, 2016 starting at 8:30 am until 1:00 pm or sold out.** Trees for sale are ones that are known to do well in our specific area. We will be selling the following Trees:



- Methley Plums
- June Gold 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.

Information will be available at the sale on “How to plant and care for these trees”.

The event will take place on Texas Heroes Square. Stay tuned for updates as they happen. Be ready to volunteer for the event. Contact Donna Bell for more information (512-797-7646)

Member's Monthly Meeting

Our next monthly lunch meeting will be on **November 3** beginning at noon. Shirley Frazier and Joyce Soefje 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.

At the November meeting, a slate of officers for the upcoming two year term will be voted in. Currently the following have agreed to run for office for the term January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019:

President: Arline Schacherl
Vice President: Fran Saliger
Secretary: Robbie Cole
Treasurer: Nick Wentworth

If you would like to run for any of these offices, your name can be added to the ballot. Contact Fran Saliger if you would like to be on the board.

Upcoming Excel Class



Don't forget the Excel Class coming up on **October 18, 2016 starting at 1:30 pm**. If you are having difficulties getting your hours recorded in the excel form provided for reporting your volunteer/CEU's to the volunteer coordinator, then this class is for you. 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. . 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, but it would just be easier for the record keeper. Thanks, Fran

Plant of the Month

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

Periwinkle is a Texas Superstar plant.

Catharanthus roseus: *Cora Vinca* (commonly referred to as periwinkle) are the first varieties of this species to be resistant to the aerial *Phytophthora* fungus, a devastating disease that until now limited use of this species in Texas landscapes. In addition, they are heat and humidity tolerant and deer resistant. They are available in a wide array of colors with either upright or trailing habits and flower throughout the summer with some of the largest flowers in the genus.

Exposure: Full sun, but will tolerate semi-shade

Size: Height — 14 to 18 inches tall

Plant type: Annual

Planting time: Late spring to summer

Soil type: Adaptable to most soils

Suggested uses: Bedding, containers, hanging baskets (trailing types), window boxes

Special notes: The best time to plant Vinca is after the soil has thoroughly warmed in late spring or early summer; it does best in hot weather; it is drought tolerant, but does best with good soil drainage and regular water and fertilization at moderate levels





Area Events

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

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.

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

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/>

Austin: Annual Native Plant Sale at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Friday, Oct 14: Members Only, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. **Saturday, October 15, Open to the Public, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.** The Wildflower Center's Native Plant Sale will feature more than 300 species of unique Texas natives adapted to thrive in our crazy climate. Natives look beautiful in gardens and provide important habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. Our plant sale is a one-stop-shop for wildflower seeds, grasses, wetland plants for your pond, perennials, trees and shrubs.

San Antonio: Sat October 15, 2016 8:30am - 3pm 25th Annual San Antonio Herb Market at the Historic Pearl Brewery, 300 Pearl Parkway, San Antonio, TX Free. The Herb Market features Texas growers selling fresh herb plants, vendors offering herbal soaps, crafts, nutritional information, cooking demonstrations, educational seminars and activities for the children.

Smithson Valley: The Lindheimer Chapter (Comal County) of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hold their monthly meeting on **October 18** 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 Jay Daniel, Houston Memorial Park Manager. Jay will speak on "Memorial Park Invasives Eradication Program." The meeting is free and the public is welcome. For more information call Martha Guethle at 830-438-5996.

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.

San Antonio: Where: San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Pl, San Antonio, TX 78209, Plan to head over the San Antonio Botanical Garden (SABOT) on **Sat, October 22, from 10am to 2pm** for a Really Big Plant Sale! As always, admission to the sale is free with paid admission to the Garden. The sale will feature an extremely large inventory of plants that have been nurtured over the summer, and in general, they're looking great, despite the heat. As usual, the majority of the species being offered are perennials with low water requirements, with several new or unusual offerings that will interest avid gardeners. To help reduce our plant inventory going into winter, we are encouraging volume purchases by offering quantity discounts: buy 5 pots or more and receive 10% off; 10 pots or more, 20% off; and 25 pots or more, 30% off (plus the 10% Garden Member discount, if applicable).

New Braunfels: Oct 31, 2016 - Nov 2, 2016, New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center, 375 S. Castell Ave, New Braunfels, TX 78130. Registration is now open for the 5th Annual Texas Fruit Conference. The 5th Annual Texas Fruit Conference is a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Educational event, aimed at bringing together commercial and recreational fruit growers from around the state to hear and discuss the challenges and successes of fruit growing in Texas. Regular online registration from Sept. 1 to Oct. 21st is \$80/person On-site registration on Oct. 31st is \$90/person Registration available now at <http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/horticulture/>

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.bexarcountymastergardeners.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
9	10	11 MG Class Field Trip SA Botanical Garden 8:00 am or 9:30 at gardens	12	13 2 nd Grade Class Session 7:45 am - 2:30 pm	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 8 am-1 pm 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
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 MG Class Soils class 8:30 -12:30	16	17	18	19 Fall Tree Sale
20	21	22	23	24 	25	26
27	28	29 MG Class-Drip Irr., GH, Seed Starting 8:30-12:30	30	DECEMBER 1 Winter Social-- "Pot Party"	2	3

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
Charlotte Knox
lotteknox@aol.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>



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