



As the Garden Grows

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Class #8 Learn Plant Propagation

(Submitted by Carolyn Parratt)

On October 17th, Fran Saliger presented the Propagation Class to GMG students. She promptly professed her membership in the “Propagator Anonymous Support Group” in which members cannot resist the need to propagate plants of any variety and share them willingly with others. She encouraged the students to become active in preparations for the GMG Spring Plant Sale. The various Grow Teams always need new members.

Fran reviewed the history of plant propagation by explaining that after the Ice Age, the “Agricultural Revolution” began when wild goat grass and wild wheat were crossed to form hybrid wheat. This resulted in larger wheat ears for making bread, hence, farming was said to have begun. As people moved about, plants were carried with them and plants and plant knowledge were traded. Greenhouses were introduced to protect plants and new techniques for propagation emerged.

Propagation occurs naturally in nature by pollinators when they carry pollen from the male flower to the egg of the female flower which produces a seed. This is called sexual propagation. Fran discussed the germination process, seed choices, seed saving and storage, overcoming seed dormancies, damping off-fungus disease and handling seedlings.

Asexual propagation uses the vegetative parts of the plant: roots, stems and leaves to create additional plants. Propagation by this means includes cuttings, layering, division, budding and grafting, bulb chipping and tissue culture (micropropagation).

Students listened intently as each method of asexual plant propagation was illustrated prior to the hand-on portion of the class. -figure #1 and figure #2



Figure 1



Figure 2

Students then selected their preferred plant to propagate from the varieties available (*figure #3*) using the materials provided (plants, pots, media, gloves, trays, labels, etc.) -*figure #4*.



Figure 3



Figure 4

Assistants were available to answer questions and help the students as needed.-figure #5 and figure #6



Figure 5



Figure 6

Methods of asexual propagation used in the class included:

1. Semi-hardwood from cuttings (Roses) –figure 7
2. Stem cuttings (Salvias, Sage, Hibiscus)
3. Softwood cuttings in self watering propagator (Coleus, Gizzard Plant, Begonia, Magilla Perilla, Geranium-figure #8
4. Cane cuttings (Chinese Evergreen, Dracaena Corn Plant)
5. Leaf cuttings of Succulents/Cacti (Various cacti, Night Blooming Cereus, Snake Plant)
6. Leaf cuttings (Rex Begonia, African Violet)
7. Division (Bromeliad, Moses Boat, Blue Mealy Sage, Daylily)-figure 9



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

These methods may be the easiest and fastest way to propagate and the only way to perpetuate some cultivars



Students learned to clean tools, work surfaces and hands after each project to prevent the spread of disease. How to mix and use different soil medium, reduce leaf surface, and prepare the base of each plant stem by scraping or scoring to expose the cambium layer was also covered in the presentation.-figure #10

The use of a rooting hormone or growth promoting substance was optional but thoroughly discussed. Labeling each specimen with its name and date of propagation is an important part of the process.

Students took their projects home to continue growing their plant propagations. Good Luck!

Figure 10

Annual Dues and Recertification for GMG

Annual Dues of \$20.00 are due by December 31, 2017. Bring them to the Noon MG Lunch/Winter Social on December 7 or mail them to Nick Wentworth. It's not too late to turn in your hours for the year! To recertify, you should complete 20 hours of Volunteer time and 6 hours of Continuing Education by the end of the year. New students do not need to pay dues until after they are certified.

GMG Winter Social



Our annual Winter Social will be held on **Thursday, December 7** starting at noon. The board of directors will provide the meat. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish (salad, vegetables, desserts, etc.). Bring your spouse or companion and enjoy a good time. If a few of you can come early around 10:30 to help set up the room, it will be greatly appreciated.

Third Grade Black Walnut Tree Conservation Program



Donna Bell has announced the date for the 3rd grade Black Walnut Conservation and Restoration program for GISD. The children will be coming to PACE on **December 6** starting at 8:15 am. Each student will learn about the black walnut tree and plant a seed. Third graders will plant around 240 seeds and watch them grow in the following months. GMG will maintain the trees. The following year, in the fall of 2018, these students (now fourth graders) will plant some of the trees around the community. The rest of the trees will be distributed to people in the community to bring back the Black Walnut tree to Gonzales County.

Donna's team will be collecting seeds from various trees in the county and David DeMent will prepare them for planting. On **Tuesday, November 28** after the morning MG Training Class (around 12:30) pm there will be a "Pot Party" to prepare for the class. Two hundred forty (240) tree pots must be filled with potting soil and placed in milk carton containers in preparation for planting the seeds on December 6.

If you would like to volunteer for these events or need more information, please contact Donna Bell. Many volunteers are needed to make this program a success. Thank you very much.



Late Fall in the Children's Garden

(Submitted by Arline Schacherl)

Here it is November and the temperatures are now much cooler and leaves are falling everywhere. At the Children's Garden zinnias continue to bloom and create a colorful scene. There are even a couple of tomato plants that voluntarily sprouted and have blooms on them.

Monthly maintenance was done on Wednesday morning, November 8. Jennifer and Arline endured the blustery north wind and weeded the raised beds and pathways. The Bermuda grass that had been treated in October was removed from the raised bed and surrounding area. Selected zinnia plants were removed because they were either dead or wilted. Majority of the zinnias remain to form seed for next year's crop.

While working it was noted that at least two of the original raised beds are needing to be replaced due to timbers that have rotted. Rebuilding those beds will be on the maintenance list for **December 5** and January (date to be determined). Some of the beds are needing added soil and all will need compost before February.

On November 29 Arline will meet with first grade teachers to review the project schedule for learning about seeds. Next month's article will contain information about the session dates in 2018 and the need for volunteers. To volunteer for the December maintenance session please contact Arline at 830-857-0134 or ajrinehart@gvvc.com. Thanks for your support of the Children's Garden project.

Spring Plant Sale News!

Save the Date



Gonzales Master Gardeners 8th Annual Spring Plant Sale

Where: Texas Heroes Square

When: Saturday, March 24, 2018

Time: 8:30 am – 1:00 pm

There will be a “Kick Off” meeting for the Spring Plant Sale on December 7 after the noon lunch starting around 1:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to brainstorm about the 2018 SPS.



Grow Teams

(Submitted by Fran Saliger)

There are sign-up sheets for the various Grow Teams at PACE. Get involved and learn how to grow some plants for the Spring Plant Sale. Everyone’s participation is greatly appreciated. There is plenty of soil and pots in the greenhouse for your use to grow plants. The Perennial and Annual Grow Teams have been quite busy bringing plants to the Greenhouse for the sale. Drip lines are being installed to help with the watering. Stop in and see what’s growing.

There will be a propagation workday for the Perennial/Natives, Houseplants, Annuals, & Tropicals Grow Teams in the Greenhouse on **Thursday, November 16 starting at 10 am**. There are some plants ready to move out of the propagation tent and others to be potted up. Bring your cuttings and transplants to work on. Contact Shirley or Fran if you have any questions.



Plant of the Month

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

NOTE: This is Brenda’s last month to submit this feature and “Area Events” for the newsletter. If you are interested in continuing this endeavor, please contact Fran Saliger.



Cosmos

Cosmos bipinnatus (Asteraceae)

A hardy, erect annual requiring very little moisture once established. A native of Mexico, it can easily adapt to all regions of the United States. The attractive flowers are a mixture of stunning deep crimson, soft pink and pure white. Leaves are deeply dissected, almost threadlike in appearance. Rich, fertile soils tend to produce extremely tall, lanky plants. Requires full sun. Sow in early spring, seedlings are not winter hardy. A real value for the money.

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Wildseed Farms.

Average planting success with this species: 80%

Height: 2-3 feet

Germination: 7-21 days

Optimum soil temperature for germination: 70-80F

Sowing depth: 1/16"

Blooming period: April-November

Average seeds per pound: 89,000

Seeding rate: 15 lbs. per acre

Suggested use: Roadsides, waste areas, mixtures, floral gardens.

Miscellaneous: Blooms quickly. Will need to be replanted each spring for continued success.

Area Events

Brownsville: Steven Chamblee, Horticulturist of Chandor Gardens, will present "Peace, Love & Milagros: Life Lessons from the Road," a collection of great stories about horticultural heavens, botanical blunders, and tender tales that will melt your heart from Chamblee's 30-plus years road tripping around Texas and "Monarchs to Mexico," an inspiring program about Steven's trips to Monterrey, Mexico where he assisted in developing the children's garden at Colegio Nezaldi, a small elementary school on the Monarch migration route. Garden talks are 5-8 p.m., **Friday, November 10**, at the Brownsville Historic Association's Stillman Gardens, 1325 E. Washington St., Brownsville. \$10/person advance ticket registration, 956-541-5560 by November 1 or \$15 at the door.

Austin: Dr. Sam Feagley, a soil scientist at Texas A&M, will speak about the important and timely topic of carbon sequestration at the **November 13** meeting of the Austin Organic Gardeners' Club. The club meets at the Austin Area Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Rd, in Zilker Botanical Gardens, the 2nd Monday of each month except December. 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 presentation. For more information, visit www.austinorganicgardeners.org.

Seguin: Thursday, November 17, Texas Weather presented by Bill Runyon- Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Mtg. & Presentation 7:00pm. Everyone is welcome. Free. Monthly meetings start with a Social at 6:15, Speaker at 7:00, and a Business Meeting at 8:00. Meetings are held in the Guadalupe County AgriLife Extension Building, 210 East Live Oak, Seguin. For more information go to <https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org>

Marion: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 – 7 PM "Wildlife Friendly Native Plants" Presented by Liz Palfini. Liz is with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department where she serves as Park Superintendent of Palmetto State Park. She is a frequent speaker on botanical subjects and will emphasize the usefulness of native plants for urban and rural wildlife. Hosted by Native Plant Society of Texas Guadalupe County (Schertz-Seguin) Chapter. Meetings are held at St John's Lutheran Church, FM 465, Marion, TX and open to the public. The church is located 1/2 mile south of the Marion stoplight. For more information, directions see the website: <http://www.npsot.org/wp/guadalupe>

Tomball: The Arbor Gate will hold a Christmas Open House with food, fun, and merriment at 2:00 p.m., **Sunday, December 2** at The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Music will be provided by Curtis Poullard and the Creole Zydeco Band and food will be provided by Every-Bellies, For more information, call 281-351-8851, email info@arborgate.com, or visit www.arborgate.com

San Antonio: Holidays in Bloom November 24-December 31. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX, United States. General admission, \$12-\$9. Members enjoy this exhibit for free. Visit the Garden with family and friends this holiday season and enjoy magical displays through the end of the year. Garlands, red ribbons and other holiday decorations welcome guests making the Garden a perfect setting for family photographs. Escape to nature with a stroll around the East Texas Lake and see the beauty of the changing seasons. For more information, visit www.sabot.org

New Braunfels: Save the Date- Comal MG 7th Annual Spring Gardening Seminar "Secrets in the Garden-Native plants and Their Pollinators". **Friday, March 9, 2018.**
<http://txmg.org/comal/events/seminar>

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

New Braunfels area: <http://txmg.org/comal/events>

Austin Area: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/>

San Antonio, Texas- <http://www.bexarcountymastergardeners.org>

KEEP INFORMED!

WWW.GONZALESMASTERGARDENS.ORG

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 12 | 13 | 14 MG Class 8:30-12:30 | 15 | 16 Propagation Workday 10 am | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23  THANKSGIVING | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 MG Class Drip Irrigation, Greenhouses/Seed 8:30-12:30 Walnut Tree Pot party 12:30 pm | 29 | 30 Volunteer Hours Due Board Meeting 9:30 am | DECEMBER 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 Workday at Children's Garden | 6 3 rd Grade Walnut Tree Program | 7 GMG Winter Social lunch- noon SPS Kick Off Mtg. 1:30pm | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 MG Class-Fruit Production-Gail Johnson 8:30-12:30 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25  | 26 | 27 | 28 Board Meeting 9:30 am | 29 | 30 Volunteer Hours Due |
| 31  | JANUARY 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 Noon GMG lunch meeting | 5 | 6 |

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