



# As the Garden Grows



*A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners*

*Gonzales, Texas September 2015 Volume 5, Issue 9*

## Master Gardener Class #6 Training Session

The Gonzales Master Gardeners are very excited about starting Class #6 Training Program on September 15, 2015. We hope that every GMG out there will be in attendance to welcome our new class of students. We meet from 8:30 am till 12:30. As soon as we have the program speakers finalized it will be posted on our website. All Master Gardeners are welcome to take a refresher class with Class #6.

## Summer in the Children's Garden

(submitted by Arline Schacherl)

It's been another hot and dry summer but the pumpkin vines and zinnias that were planted earlier in the summer have been beautiful and quite showy as one drives by. Lots of folks have commented favorably about the garden. And yes, there are some pumpkins actually forming on those lush vines that are trailing everywhere in between the raised beds and beyond. The zinnias have been blooming for a couple of months and are still performing well.

Landscaping around the sign is our next project. Jim J. has marked off the area that David will trench so that drip irrigation can be installed at a raised bed that will measure 4 feet by 8 feet. Treated 4 X 4 timbers will form the bed and will be stabilized with long spike nails. MG volunteers are encouraged to help with the construction of the bed and planting the space during a work session on Tuesday, September 22, beginning at 8 a.m. Volunteers are urged to bring tools necessary for raised bed construction, filling in with soil, and planting. Plants that will surround the sign include Pride of Barbados at the back of the sign with butterfly weed on either side, bulbine and yarrow in front of the sign, Mexican heather will finish out the front corners. It is hoped that all will happen on schedule so that the newly landscaped area will be ready for Come and Take It during the first weekend of October. Please email Arline regarding your willingness to help with the work session.

Once again the spring semester will be the time of action with first graders. Several MG volunteers met with the first grade teachers during the in-service week before school started. Fran, Cheryl, Jennifer, Nancy, and Arline shared the goals, the plan of action, and the dates for meeting with classes in their own classrooms, planting, visiting, and harvesting the garden. It was an early

morning informal presentation that was a learning experience for both the teachers and the volunteers. In closing pots of orange cannas were given to the teachers for their own yards.

## How do I care for my tree? Properly Watering my Tree

From Texas A&M Forest Service, [www.tsfweb.tamu.edu](http://www.tsfweb.tamu.edu)

There is no magical formula or exact rule for watering. Watering is based on the site condition, time of year, type of tree and, most importantly, soil type. Clay soils, while taking longer to wet, will retain moisture longer. Sandy soils, which easily absorb water also, dry faster. **KNOW YOUR SOIL TYPE!**

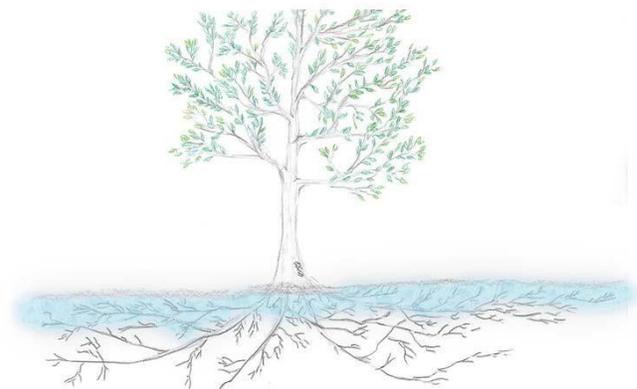
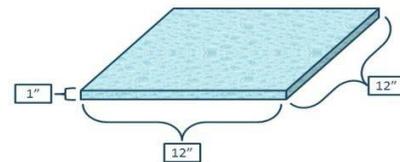
Local environmental conditions affect how much water is lost from a tree and soil due to evapotranspiration. Trees will use and require more water during hot, windy, low humidity days versus cooler, calm, high humidity days. It benefits your trees if you track your local weather conditions and replace or replenish soil moisture as needed. Watering wisely is the best way to conserve our precious water resource and to benefit your trees.

**Newly planted trees:** Fill the water basin, allow the water to soak into the ground and fill the basin again. Depending on your site, soils and environmental conditions you may need to water as little as once per week or as often as three times per week. Two to three days after the initial watering, check the moisture of the backfill soil and the root ball soil (they will differ in texture). Get on your hands and knees, dig into the soil, grab a handful and feel it. If the soil is moist, check back in a couple of days. Repeat this process until you have determined the best watering schedule for your tree. If the soil stays squishy wet, you have a drainage problem or you are over watering. If the soil is crumbly, dry and hard, you're not watering enough. The goal is to keep the soil evenly moist to a depth of 12 to 18 inches. Your watering schedule should change throughout the year. If it does not, most likely you will either be over or under watering your trees.

**Older established trees:** Water the entire root zone under and beyond the tree canopy. Apply enough water to wet the soil from a minimum of 12 inches deep to a maximum of 18 inches. This can be anywhere from 1 to 3 inches of water as it covers the ground area. Using some type of soil probe will help you determine how deep the water is percolating into the soil. Most mature trees only need to be watered on a bi-monthly to monthly schedule, depending on the type of tree and time of year.

### What's an inch?

- 1 inch of water = .62337 gallons / square foot
- 1 square foot = 12 inches X 12 inches in area
- 1 square foot of water one inch deep.



**Wet the entire root zone to a depth of 12-18 inches**

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## Annual Tree Sale Meeting

(Submitted by Fran Saliger)

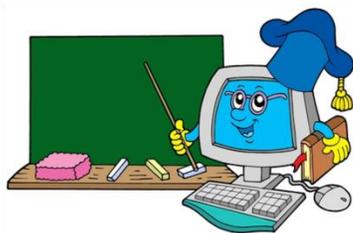
The 2015-16 Fall Tree Sale committee met on September 8 to continue making plans for the event. We are still working through all the details but it's coming together nicely. An order form will be available soon. We will offer two educational talks on How to plant, care for, and maintain your trees on October 8 & 15, 2016 from 7:00 pm until 8:30 pm at the PACE Building. Stay tuned for more information.



There is also a need from our membership to let us know what kind of Native/Shade trees you have that we can grow from seed for the Fall 2016 sale. These trees need to be started now for them to be salable by next fall.

Our next meeting will be held at the PACE building on Thursday, **September 17, 2015 at 1:30 pm** If you have any questions, contact Gail Johnson or Fran Saliger.

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## [www.gonzalesmastergardeners.org](http://www.gonzalesmastergardeners.org)

I hope by now that all of you have taken a look at our new website. It is beautiful. A big thanks to Jo Swiger, Gail Johnson and Marcella Perales. You will never have another excuse for not knowing what is happening with Gonzales Master Gardeners. Check on the What's Happening tab under each project to hear what's going on with any project. You will be

able to check the calendar for those important dates about meetings, classes, and fun trips. Some areas are still under construction so be patient!

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## Noon Master Gardener Meeting-October 1, 2015

Come join us for a fun time talking about our gardens, sharing plants and information.

Meeting begins at noon. Come early to visit.

We are in need of one or two people to provide lunch (reimbursement up to \$60.00).

Call Fran if you want to provide lunch.

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## Volunteer Hours Report for August 2015

Fourteen MG's reported 122 hours for the month of August.

Planning and preparations for the 6<sup>th</sup> GMG training program is underway.

The first grade teachers at East Avenue Primary school met with GMG's on August 19 to go over the plans for the Children's Garden. Meetings were also held to discuss the programs to be held at Gonzales Elementary School for second thru fourth grades.

Plans for the Fall Tree Sale are in their final stages.

## Eating What We Grow

(Submitted by Fran Saliger)

### Mai Tai Compote

- 1 medium-size fresh pineapple
- 1 C fresh strawberries, hulled and halved
- 1 orange, peeled, sliced and seeded
- ½ C seedless red grapes
- 1 kiwifruit, peeled and sliced
- ½ tsp. grated lime rind
- ¼ C fresh lime juice
- 3 T. honey
- 1 T. light rum
- 1 T. Grand Marnier or other orange-flavored liqueur
- 1 banana, sliced

Cut pineapple into bite size chunks. Combine pineapple chunks, strawberries, orange, grapes, and kiwifruit in a large bowl. Combine lime rind, lime juice, honey, rum, and liqueur; mix well and pour over fruit. Add banana and toss gently. Refrigerate until chilled.

**Note:** Can substitute 2 T. orange juice for alcoholic ingredients.

Yield: 6-8 servings



## Plant of the Month

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

### Lemongrass

Lemongrass *Cymbopogon citratus* is a tender perennial that will occupy more than one place in your life. It is an ornamental grass with two-to-three foot, spiky leaves that have a wonderful scent of lemon. Be sure to give it plenty of growing room – a small clump can easily increase to two feet wide or more in a single season. Although it can survive a mild winter, it is probably best to divide your plant



Photo by Gayle Jones, former Smith County Master Gardener

before cold weather arrives and pot some to overwinter inside for next season. You will have plenty to share with friends. The bonus of lemongrass is its use in cooking. It gives a lemon flavor to many dishes without overpowering them, and it won't turn bitter with long cooking. The tender inner core is chopped, like scallions, and used in Oriental dishes and seafood. The tough outer parts can be used to flavor soups and teas, or dried for use in potpourri.

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## Area Events

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

**San Antonio:** San Antonio Botanical Gardens, **September 9, 2015 - February 14, 2016**, on exhibit: Eight bronze sculptures by internationally renowned Mexican Artist Jorge Marín. For the past 24 years, these contemporary sculptures have traveled throughout the world, as cultural outreach from Mexico. Public reception/opening: September 9, 5:30-7:30pm, at the Botanical Garden, Rainforest exhibit thru September. Maze leads guests on an educational experience. The Garden is open year-round, 9am to 5 pm. For info call 210-207-3250 or visit [www.sabot.org](http://www.sabot.org)

**San Antonio:** Learn Floral Design at Garden Center's Fall 2015 classes. Three classes: Tuesday, **September 8, Tuesday, September 15, and Tuesday, September 22**. All classes are 12n-3pm at San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels. For more information, call Garden Center at 210.824.9981 or [info@sanantoniogardencenter.org](mailto:info@sanantoniogardencenter.org).

**Austin:** Backyard Basics Fall Series. 10 a.m. to noon. AgriLife Extension office, 1600-B Smith Road, Austin. Backyard Basics, offered by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County, will provide consumers, backyard gardeners, homemakers, educators and farmers a "do-it-yourself" learning opportunity on raising chickens for home egg production, implementing integrated pest management principles, starting new plants from cuttings, and growing edible plants with ornamental potential.

**October 8** – Plant Propagation

**November 12** – Bold and Beautiful Edibles

Cost: \$10 for early registration, \$15 late and onsite, No cash accepted -checks & credit cards only. Register: <https://agriferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty>. Register by Phone: 979- 845-2604. Contact: Sue Carrasco, 512-854-9610 or [sacarrasco@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:sacarrasco@ag.tamu.edu). Details on the blog: <http://centraltexashorticulture.blogspot.com/2015/06/backyard-basics-fall-series.html>

**Austin:** Travis County Master Gardener Kirk Walden discussing container gardening Monday, **September 14** at the The Austin Organic Gardeners' Club meeting 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](http://www.austinorganicgardeners.org).

**Houston:** Houston Urban Gardeners will meet at Moody Park Community Center, 3725 Fulton St., Houston, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., **September 14**. Houstonian Rich Vega will talk about how he grows coffee in Ecuador.

**Canyon Lake:** The Lindheimer Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will meet on Tuesday, **September 15**, at 7 p.m. Doors are open at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the GVTC Auditorium, 36101 FM 3159, Canyon Lake. Cathy Downs will discuss Monarch Conservation. She is the chair of the Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas Program. This program works to develop monarch habitat projects in cooperation with Native Plant Society of Texas and Monarch Watch. Cathy is also a certified Monarch Larval Monitoring Project educator and teaches Monarch biology, habitat and migration at various locations throughout Texas. Meetings are open to the public. For more information, visit <http://npsot.org/wp/lindheimer>

**Seguin:** The Guadalupe County Master Gardeners will meet Thursday, **Sept. 17** at the AgriLife Building, 210 East Live Oak, Seguin. A social gathering will be at 6:30 p.m. followed by the educational program at 7 p.m. The topic of the meeting will be "Bog Plants and Gardening" by Keith Ameung. The membership meeting will follow the educational program. For further information, call 830-303-3889 or visit [www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org](http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org).

**Belton:** Bell County Master Gardeners will hold their Fall Gardening Extravaganza on **Sept. 19**, from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Agrilife Bldg., 1605 N. Main, Belton. It will feature vegetables, herbs, native perennials, grasses, shrubs, succulents, and trees for sale and demonstrations on water catchment, vermiculture, building bee boxes, how to plant a tree, and ask a Master Gardener. There will also be a garage sale with only gardening items. For more information, visit <http://txmg.org/bell/>.

**Conroe:** The Montgomery County Master Gardeners are having their annual Fall Sale, featuring perennials and more, on Saturday, **September 19**, at 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. Program is at 8 a.m.; sale is from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. For more information, call 936-539-7824 or [visit www.mcmga.com](http://www.mcmga.com).

**Houston:** The Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston Chapter will present their 17th Annual Wildscapes Workshop and Native Plant Sale, Saturday, **September 19**. The Wildscapes Workshop will be held at the Houston Zoo Brown Education Center, 6200 Hermann Park Drive, Houston. Pre-registration is required to attend. Deadline to register is September 17. Presentations include: Jaime Gonzalez presenting "Native to Where?: The Science, Geography, and Storytelling Potential of Truly Native Plants"; Valerie Bugh presenting "Digital Nature Journaling"; Don DuBois presenting "Butterfly Gardening with Native Plants: How to make a Pocket Prairie in Your Backyard"; Joe Blanton presenting "Native Plant Sale Plants Presentation"; and Jim Blackburn presenting "Native Plants and a Livable Future: From the Practical to the Spiritual." The cost: \$35 for members; \$40 for non-members before September 12, and \$50 per person for late registration. Includes refreshments, lunch, and native garden tour. The program starts at 8:30 a.m. and continues until 3:30 p.m. To register: <http://npsot.org/wp/houston/wildscapes-workshop/> for online registration or download the registration form and mail. For information call 832-859-9252.

**Sugar Land:** The Great Grow, Children's Organic School Garden program presents Fall Kids Fest at the Museum. 13016 University Blvd, Sugar Land 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., **Saturday, September 26**. Enjoy this fun filled fall festival. Explore the museum butterfly garden. See a live bee hive. Pumpkin patch sponsored by HEB. Habitat plant sale. Vendor and sponsorship opportunities. Info at [www.TheGreatGrow.com](http://www.TheGreatGrow.com) or call Diana Miller 713-724-3113

**Canyon Lake:** The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) is presenting a Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP) Level 1 workshop from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. **September 26**, at the Tye Preston Memorial Library, 16311 Access Road, Canyon Lake. NLCP offers training about the sustainable use of native plants in the urban environment. This program will educate members of the Society, the public and landscape professionals about native plants; provide credentials for landscape

professionals; promote the use of native plants in residential, public and commercial landscapes; and will increase awareness and stewardship of the natural Texas plant communities. This Level 1 workshop is an introductory course and will cover the value of including native plants in landscapes; teach the differences between sustainable and conventional development; explore Central Texas vegetation and soil types; and teach 45 native Texas plants recommended for the landscape. CEU hours are available for landscape professionals, and optional certificate of competency available to all registrants. For more info and to register, visit <http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp> or contact Meg Inglis at [nlcp@npsot.org](mailto:nlcp@npsot.org) or 512-589-1316.

**Austin:** "Plant Propagation" will be presented 10 a.m. to noon, **October 8**. Learn how to make new plants for your yard through propagation methods such as rooting slips and cuttings. In this workshop you will assemble a self-watering propagator and select cuttings to grow new plants. All supplies, instructions, and cuttings will be provided for each participant. Master Gardener Sue King, a Plant Propagation Specialist, is a retired school librarian, an avid soup-maker, and a life-long gardener. Master Gardener Carolyn Turman found propagating plants using cuttings as an easy and inexpensive way to add wonderful additions to her landscape. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Travis County, 1600-B Smith Road, Austin. Cost: \$25 thru 9/28, \$30 starting 9/29. Seating limited to 25. No on-site registration available. 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@aq.tamu.edu](mailto:sacarrasco@aq.tamu.edu).

**La Grange:** Wizzy Brown will present "Ants" at 12:05 p.m., **October 8**, at the Fayette County Agricultural Building, 255 Svoboda Lane, La Grange. Everyone has a home remedy or recommendation about controlling ants. Listen to someone who has real knowledge about controlling those pesky critters. For additional information, visit <http://fayette.agrilife.org>.

**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](http://www.walkercountymastergardeners.org) or call Duane Robinson at 936-355-8215.

**San Antonio: October 17, 2015.** 24th Annual San Antonio Herb Market again this year at the Historic Pearl Brewery! 9:00am - 3:00pm Let's Celebrate the Herb of The Year - - Savory!

**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. This year's garden line-up will offer four diverse home gardens and the Master Gardeners' Demonstration Idea Garden (The DIG). For more information go to [www.brazosmg.com](http://www.brazosmg.com). Tickets may be purchased between September 1 -October 22, 2016

**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](mailto: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>**San Antonio:** Rain Barrel Workshop will be presented **Saturday, September 12, 9 a.m.-noon**, at Stone Oak Property Owners Offices, 19210 Huebner Road, San Antonio. A rain barrel is a container that collects and stores water when you need it most. You conserve water and benefit your plants and garden!! Make-and-take your own rain barrel in just a few hours by attending this workshop. Fun and educational for the whole family! Bring the kids to help assemble your rain barrel - and enjoy free food and drinks for all! Also visit with SAWS and Trinity District water conservation specialists. Limit 30 - \$25 per person. RSVP with payment to Angel Torres by Sept 3, 2015: 210-467-6575 or [matorres@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:matorres@ag.tamu.edu). Make check payable to: Texas A&M AgriLife, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 212, San Antonio.

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>



**Mexican Mint Marigold should be blooming soon!**

**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
September 13	14	15 GMG Class #6 Orientation 8:30 am- 12:30 pm	16	17 Tree Sale Mtg. 1:30 pm	18	19
20	21	22 Landscaping at Children's Garden 8 am	23	24 Board Mtg. 9:30 am	25	26
27	28	29 GMG Class #6 Botany-David DeMent 8:30 am- 12:30 pm	30 Volunteer Hours Due	October 1 Noon GMG Lunch Mtg	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Newsletter articles due	9	10
11	12	13 GMG Class #6 Plant Propagation Fran Saliger 8:30am- 12:30 pm	14	15 Tree Education Talk 7-8:30 pm	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Tree Education Talk 7-8:30 pm	23	24

**PACE:** 623 N. Fair Street-next to Gonzales Elementary School

**Children's Garden:** Corner of Moore and St. Louis St.-next to Eggleston House

**WIC Garden:** 628 St. George Street

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