As the Garden Grows

A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners

Gonzales, Texas January 2016 Volume 6, Issue 1

Volunteer of the Year 2015

Congratulations to Jo Swiger

Each year, we honor one of our members for their outstanding volunteer service to the organization. This year, we are pleased to honor Jo Swiger. Whether it's behind the scenes or out front, Jo is always willing to pitch in. From Plant Sale to website, Jo did an outstanding job during 2015. Two big contributions were her participation in our MG training class and the website. She served as Class Assistant to David DeMent, Class Coordinator. Class assistants play a very important part in getting a class organized, keeping attendance records, getting the classroom set up for each session, working with the speakers and so much more. With Jo's Information Technology background, the GMG website is looking really great. Her eye for detail and visual appeal has given the website the character we wanted. Next time you see her, give her a big pat on the back!!

Thank you for a job well done!

Little Known Fungus a Big Killer

(Submitted by Gail Johnson)

Dead Oak Tree from Hypoxlon Canker

Hypoxylon Canker is a tree disease that is so common in this area every tree owner should know it. For most people it seems like they wake up one morning to find all the bark on their oak tree laying on the ground and the tree has died overnight. It is shocking and dismaying and most of us have had it happened at least once.

Bark Damage

Probably all oak trees are susceptible to this disease which can also affect elm (particularly cedar elm), pecan, hickory, and a number of other trees. It is a fungus that is so prevalent in this area that there is really nothing a tree owner can do to prevent it. It invades a tree weakened by other environmental conditions—most notably drought. It is airborne meaning no insect or other vector is needed to spread it and one tree does not infect another. The spores are simply blowing in the wind.

Dead Bark at Base of Tree

The fungus invades the bark of the tree and when the tree becomes weakened by other factors, the fungus opportunistically invades the sapwood of the tree and decays it. The tree dies very quickly. Because the sapwood decays so quickly, a hypoxylon tree is a dangerous tree. It will fall with little provocation and tree owners should remove any tree close to a structure, electric wire or walkway or anywhere it is a threat to structures, animals or people. You can burn this wood. Burning it does not seem to aide the spread of the disease.

The best way to address this disease is to try to keep your trees healthy. Water them correctly and fertilize them as you can. Protect the roots from damage and keep areas around them well drained. Red oaks in particular seem to be susceptible to root damage and they will

not tolerate our good intentions like building flower beds on them. A tree is a long term investment that requires your protection. That said, if you have many trees, you will likely lose some to hypoxylon canker no matter how hard you work at it.

Black Walnut Project

(Submitted by Gail Johnson)

The 3rd grade has planted their black walnut trees. This year we did a little different program for them. Arline, Carolyn Wilkerson and Gail read a skit for the students with a lesson on local history featuring the adventures and achievements of August Kleine and a lesson about conservation and restoration. We encourage students to not only care about their environment but to know that each person can make a difference in caring for the environment.

The school program is just one part of our restoration efforts for the year. We are conducting a modest experiment on the viability of the nuts from our various seed sources to see if we get better trees from one tree than another. You will notice that the trees are separated by survey flags to indicate the origins of the trees and each pot is also marked as to its seed origin. We may need to repeat this experiment for several years before we have any data we can rely on, but it should be interesting.

Thank you everyone who helped with the project this year from the pot party to get pots ready for the school children to the day of the event. There is a lot of interest in our community about these trees and we look forward to getting more of them out in the community.

Planted Black Walnut Seed

Second Grade Session 2

The 2nd Grade completed Session 2 of Parts of a Plant. This is probably the most difficult of the Sessions in this program since we ask the students to learn photosynthesis in this session. The Parts of the Plant for Session 2 is the leaf and so the students read Plants Make Their Own Food with us and Dee explains gases to them by generating oxygen and carbon dioxide in balloons. The student scientists get a big kick out of the candle experiment in this session and even though they are 2nd graders, by the end of the year, they can still tell us about photosynthesis and how plants power the planet. Thanks to all the Master Gardeners who support this program. The students are learning that they really do want to be a scientist!

First Graders Learn About Seeds

(Submitted by Arline Schacherl)

The spring school semester is underway and so is the Children's Garden Project. The first classroom session was held on Thursday, January 7 at East Avenue Primary School with ten Master Gardener volunteers ready to meet with first graders. Thanks to Jennifer Hensley, Gail Johnson, Thomas Pirkle, Cheryl Hillman, Robbie Cole, Shirley Frazier, Nancy Foster, Carolyn Parratt, Barbara Scott, and Arline Schacherl who helped get this project underway for 2016..

During the first session the Master Gardener volunteers introduced themselves and learned a little about the students' gardening experiences at home with parents and grandparents. The Tiny Seed written by Eric Carle was read to the students. This story tells the journey that a seed takes which is often referred to as the life cycle. MG Nancy F. had laminated some beautiful photos of milkweed in different stages. The students could see the buds, flowers, seed pods, and seeds like had been mentioned in the story.

Students were given a homework assignment to complete before the next session. Foam board markers labeled with carrots, radishes, lettuce, and spinach were left with the teachers so the students could draw and color pictures of the plants that will grow from the seeds they will plant on **February 4.**

The Master Gardeners will return to the classroom on **Thursday, January 21** for the second classroom session. Students will sign their names on the egg-shaped garden markers that will be placed at the ends of each raised bed. The inside of a seed will be explored and each part of the seed will be identified according to its job.

A seed experiment will be left with the teachers and students. Each team of students will be able to predict and observe what happens to a seed after it is planted. This preparation will help with the planting session on Thursday, February 4, beginning at noon.

Cleaning and preparation of the raised beds at the Children's Garden will take place on **Saturday, January 16**, beginning at 10 a.m. At this writing Cindy Goins, Nancy Swenson, Jennifer Hensley, Sandy Llewellyn, Julie Fairchild, Fran Saliger, Shirley Frazier, and Arline Schacherl are planning to help with the clean-up and preparation of the beds. Remember to bring shovels, garden forks, rakes, trowels, gloves, wheelbarrows, and any other tools you think you might need. Weeding the beds and around the mulched area will be the first task. Then mushroom compost will be added to each bed and mixed in thoroughly. The string grid will need to be put in place after the drip irrigation lines are laid out. Mulch needs to be spread around all the beds but that may have to wait until the following Saturday (January 23) if we can't get everything done on the 16th.

If you have not volunteered and wish to help please notify Arline by email or phone 830-857-0134.

Tree Sale Update

(Submitted by Gail Johnson)

Citrus Tree Blossom

If you haven't heard the celebration, we have finally found what we are pretty sure is our long term vendor for citrus and grafted fruit trees for the tree sale. We will be able to get the trees we want at the times we want them. So things are finally shaping up. We have ordered the citrus trees for the Plant Sale this spring and we will be able to pick them up in March.

We planted a number of black walnuts for the Tree Sale the same day we planted with the 3rd grade. These trees are located at the building at the south end of the greenhouse.

In the shade and ornamental department, our members have a number of good trees planted and we are all learning a lot about shade and ornamental trees for this area. Be sure to check our website where Jo and Gail are adding new material on Trees. We are also looking to fill the gaps in what

seeds and nuts we have been able to gather by buying some nuts and seeds as well. This is a long term project but it great to get to learn so much about good trees for this area.

Contact Gail Johnson or Donna Bell if you need more information about how you can help.

Spring Plant Sale News

(submitted by Fran Saliger)

Only 77 more days until our 2016 Annual Plant Sale! Things are going along great for our spring plant sale. The Greenhouse is almost full of plants, the Herb team and Vegetable teams are growing their herbs and vegetables. The Tree Sale team as ordered us some citrus trees for the sale. There is still plenty to do before the big day. The city council has approved our date for the Sale on **Saturday, April 2, 2016 at Texas Heroes Square.** There will also be the really big "Texas Independence Bicycle Relay" going on at Confederate Square this same weekend. The crowds should be great. Our next meeting will be **January 19, 2016 at 1:30 pm**. We will continue working on marketing and advertisement and going over all the details for the sale. Everyone is invited to come to this meeting. Contact Fran Saliger, SPS Chairman, for more information.

Annual Membership

Thanks to everyone who paid their annual 2016 GMG membership dues. For the record, this is the first year everyone met the deadline!! We currently have 31 one certified MG members and 8 students in our organization.

If you were in Class 3 (2012-2013), remember that your background checks are now due. These are required by TAMU and AgriLife Extension every three years in order to volunteer for programs involving school children.

MG Training Class # 6 continues

1-26 Vegetable Gardening -Jerry Parsons, Ph.D. Specialist and Professor of Horticulture Texas Cooperative Extension Texas A&M University System Chapter 6 – *Vegetable & Herb Gardening* (you don't want to miss this great opportunity to hear Jerry Parsons)

2-9 **Entomology and Integrated Pest Management**- Molly Keck, TAMU AgriLife Ext. Bexar County IPM Agent
Chapter 4 - *Continued*
2-23 **How to Plant a Tree and Tree Diseases**- Mark Peterson, SAWS
3-8 **Southern Gardens**- Bill Welch, Texas AgriLife Extension Horticulturalist
3-22 **Turf Grass**-Dennis Hale, TAMU AgriLife Extension Wilson Co. CEA-Ag, Retired
Chapter 8 – *Lawn Care*
4-5 **Fruit Production**- Larry Stein, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulturalist
Chapter 5 – *Home Fruit & Nut Production*
4-19 **Field Trip to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**-Austin- Tour and Native Plants in Landscape Design-Deedy Wright, Guadalupe Master Gardener
5-3 **Ecosystem Management**- Baron Rector, TAMU AgriLife Extension Range Specialist
Chapter 3 – *Earth Kind*
5-17 **Field Trip and Class Graduation**

Plant of the Month

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

Feijoa sellowiana (now known as Acca sellowiana)

Pineapple guava

Myrtaceae Family

Compiled by the Master Gardeners
of the University of Arizona Pima County Cooperative Extension

Feijoa sellowia **flower and leaves (note bright leaf underside)**

Form: large shrub; single or multi-stemmed tree; good espaliered
Seasonality: evergreen
Size: to 15ft with equal spread; slow growth
Leaves: obovate, entire margin, 3in long; top dark glossy green, underside nearly white; prominent venation; thick

Flowers: distinctive and attractive; fleshy pink petals with red stamens; edible
Fruit: egg-shaped 3in fruit; green ripening to reddish; ripens in fall; edible (falls to ground when ripe)
Stems/Trunks: attractive trunk when exposed; bark exfoliates to reveal orangy color
Range/Origin: South America
Hardiness: to mid teens

LANDSCAPE VALUE:

- patio tree hedge or foundation
- attracts hummingbirds

CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS:

- **Exposure:** full to part sun
- **Water:** needs regular; water once per week (in my experience, after established, this plant is drought tolerant)
- **Soil:** amended or uniform best; prone to chlorisis in calciferic soils
- **Propagation:** vegetative cuttings
- **Maintenance:** low; best when left in natural form

Area Events

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

Conroe: Montgomery County Master Gardeners present Spring 2016 Gardening Classes. All classes will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 11 a.m. on Saturday mornings. A fee of $5.00 per person (cash or check) is due at registration the morning of each class. The fee covers costs of materials, supplies, coffee and snacks The first class will be **January 16** - Fruit Trees: Selection, Planting, Pruning, Spraying, and Care. Additional classes occur each month until May. For more information, call 936-539-7824 or visit www.mcmga.com.

Houston: "Bed Building from the Ground Up" will be the topic of the Houston Rose Society meeting on Thursday, **January 14,** at 7:30 p.m. The speaker will be Earl Krause, past president of the Houston Rose Society, a long time Master Rosarian and the recipient of the ARS Bronze Service Award for his service to the Houston Rose Society. Earl will discuss the best bed building designs and techniques for the area to accommodate for the clay soil and heavy seasonal rains. Please note our new meeting location. The HRS has moved to the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston. The parking lot is Lot C, located at Hermann Drive and Crawford Street. Free admission. For more information, visit http://www.houstonrose.org.

La Marque: "Wedge Grafting" with GC Master Gardener Sue Jeffco presenting. 9-11 a.m., **January 16,** at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email reservations to galv3@wt.net, further details see www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston. Free.
La Marque: "Kitchen Gardening" with GC Master Gardener Mary Demeny presenting. 1-3 p.m., **January 16,** at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email reservations to galv3@wt.net, further details see www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston. Free

San Antonio: Saturday, January 16, starting promptly at 10:30 a.m and concluding around noon. David Rodriguez, Extension Horticulturist with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, will. He will cover the basic steps of selecting appropriate fruit tree species, how to properly plant them, how to train and manage these trees as well as harvesting and general overall maintenance. This annual opportunity will be hosted and is FREE at Milberger's Landscape Nursery, 3920 N Loop 1604 E, San Antonio, on Bring plenty of questions, a pen and a notebook. 1.5 CEUs will be awarded to Master Gardeners who attend.

Seguin: Saturday, January 16, Extension Agents Charla Bading and Connie Sheppard will lead "Preserving Your Garden Vegetables," from 9 a.m. to noon, at 210 East Live Oak St., Seguin. Preregistration if $20 per person and $25 at the door. For more information, call 830-303-3889.

La Marque: Tuesday, January 19, 6:30-8 p.m. "Gardening by the Square Foot" with GC Master Gardener John Jons. To be held at Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email reservations to galv3@wt.net, further details see www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston. Free.

Conroe: The Montgomery County Master Gardeners are having their annual Fruit and Nut Tree Sale, on Saturday, **January 23,** at the Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Center, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe. Program is at 8 a.m.; sale is from 9 a.m. until noon. For additional information or a plant list, call 936-539-7824 or visit http://www.mcmga.com/.

La Marque: "Successful Spring Vegetable Gardening" with GC Master Gardener Luke Striping presenting. 9 a.m -11:30 a.m., **January 23,** at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email reservations to galv3@wt.net, further details see www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston. Free

La Marque: "Growing Blueberries" with Dr. David Cohen presenting. 1-2:30 p.m., **January 23,** at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email reservations to galv3@wt.net, further details see www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston. Free.

McKinney: The Collin County Master Gardeners Association will host, "Spring into Vegetable Gardening" on **January 23,** from 9 a.m. until noon at the Landing at Myers Park and Event Center in McKinney, Texas. The focus of the program will be basic vegetable gardening in Collin County. Vegetable garden experts will discuss the specifics of when and what to plant in Collin County, with month-to-month guidelines for January through May planting. Attendees will learn about the importance of soil and soil preparation, how to propagate seeds, and which varieties of plants grow well in the area. Demonstration tables will be manned by Master Gardeners who have expertise in raised bed construction, vertical gardens, row covers, water conservation, rain barrels and drip irrigation, propagation, vegetable container gardening, and more. Representatives from Texas Pure Products will be on hand with examples of various soil amendments and mulches. Spend the morning with Collin County Master Gardeners learning how to grow delicious, nutritious veggies. Tour the potager and vegetable trial gardens at the end of the program with the volunteers who work in these gardens. This ambitious project began in the fall of 2013 with 16 raised beds, including two wheelchair accessible beds, and utilizes the principles and practices of Earth-Kind Environmental Stewardship. Registration will open online January 1, 2016 at the CCMGA website, www.ccmgatx.org. There is a $10 per person fee to attend. The fee is payable at the door with cash, check or credit card. Registration is required to guarantee handouts and goodie bags. Contact 972-548-4219, or visit www.ccmgatx.org for more information. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. on January 23 at the Landing at Myers Park.

San Antonio: Saturday, January 23 from 9 am till noon.Whether one fruit tree or a whole orchard, Dr. Larry Stein, Professor and Extension Horticulturist, Texas A&M University, will show you how. Dr Stein will cover the basic steps of selecting appropriate tree species, how to properly plant them, how to train and manage these trees as well as harvesting and general overall maintenance. This annual opportunity will be hosted and is FREE at Fanick's Garden Center, 1025 Holmgreen Rd, San Antonio. 3 CEUs will be awarded to Master Gardeners who attend.

La Marque: "Anyone Can Grow Roses" with GC Master Gardener and American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian John Jons. 6:30-8 p.m., **January 26,** at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email reservations to galv3@wt.net, further details see www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston. Free.

La Marque: "Fig Tree Pruning and Propagation": with GC Master Gardener Terry Cuclis presenting. 9-10 a.m., **January 28,** at the orchard in the Galveston County Master Gardener Research & Demonstration Garden in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email reservations to galv3@wt.net, further details see www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston. Free. (Rain Date: February 4)

Overton: Thursday, February 4, at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center, Overton. The 2016 Annual East Texas Turfgrass Conference For School Districts, City Parks & Recreation, lawn & Landscape Managers and Homeowners will be held. $35 free. Registration starts at 7:30 a.m. For additional information, call 903-657-0376.

Dallas: "Master Gardener - Water Efficient Landscape Design" will be presented Wednesday-Friday, **February 17-19** at Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Building C Classroom & Large Hall, 17360 Coit Road, Dallas. Do you have a demonstration garden or school garden project that needs help to be water efficient? The Water Efficient Landscape Design Program for Master Gardeners provides you the skills to be your own landscape designer. You bring the project and we provide the guidance. You will learn basic landscape design techniques, native/adaptive plant selection, rainwater harvesting and efficient irrigation to help your project become the envy of water efficient landscapes. This is a three-day program with Wednesday and Thursday evening optional design workshops. This workshop is only open to current Master Gardener volunteers. One registration is good for two club members to attend with design materials to share. Additional design materials available for purchase. Registration: Only 20 Master Gardener participant spots are available for this training (10 groups). Registration is first come/first served basis. Cost: $300.00: (includes lunch, dinner and design materials). For additional information please email Karen Sanders at karen.sanders@tamu.edu. To pay by credit card please contact Clint Wolfe at 972-952-9635.Registration Dallas.tamu.edu/courses.

New Braunfels: The Comal Master Gardeners and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will present their Spring Seminar featuring "Plants For All Seasons, Magnificent Monocots, A to Z" at McKenna Events Center, 801 West San Antonio Street, New Braunfels, on Friday, **February 19,** from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration is $55 and includes lunch, snacks, and seminar handout. Dr. Flo Oxley, Professor of Biology at Austin Community College, will give an introduction to Monocots; Joanne Hall, owner of South Texas Growers of Bulverde, will give an overview of ornamental grasses in the landscape; Velia Sanchez-Ruiz, a member of the American Hemerocallis Society and a Region 6 Daylily Judge, will cover Daylilies; David Will, Texas Certified Landscape Professional and owner of Landscape Details, will speak on bulbs; Dotty Woodson an AgriLife Extension Specialist, will provide instruction on how to make a rain garden. Seating is limited, so register early. Registration forms are available at http://txmg.org/comal/event/seminar/. For additional information, call 830-620-3440.

2016 Texas MG State Conference.
Myers Park and Event Center, 7117 County Road 166, **McKinney, TX** 75071
May 17, 2016 @ 8:00 am - May 19, 2016 @ 5:00 pm.
http://www.ccmgatx.org/txmg2016

More information coming soon!

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.bexarcountymastergardeners.org

San Antonio Botanical Gardens

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
JANUARY 10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Workday at Childrens Garden 10 am
17	18	19 MG Class TBA 8:30-12:30 pm SPS mtg. 1:30 pm	20	21 1st grade Class #2 Session 9-11 am	22	23
24	25	26 MG Class Vegetable Gardens with Jerry Parsons 8:30-12:30pm	27	28 Board Mtg 9:30 am	29	30
31	FEBRUARY 1 Volunteer Hours Due	2	3	4 1st Grade Planting at Children's Garden at Noon till 2 pm GMG Monthly Mtg. 11:00 AM	5	6
7	8 Newsletter articles due	9 MG Class Enotmology / IPM-Molly Keck 8:30-12:30 pm	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 MG Class Trees with Mark Peterson 8:30-12:30 pm	24	25 2nd Grade Class Session #3 8-2:00 pm Board Mtg 2:30:pm	26	27

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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