



# As the Garden Grows



*A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners*

*Gonzales, Texas March 2016 Volume 6, Issue 3*



What a wonderful group of Master Gardeners!

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

**Check us out on our webpage!**

Keep up with what's happening by looking at the calendar.

Submit news articles to Gail Johnson and/or Jo Swiger, web masters!



**Gonzales Master Gardeners  
Spring Plant Sale  
Saturday, April 2, 2016  
8:30 am-1:00 pm**

The date is coming up fast. Check your emails to keep up to date on what is happening. We are in need of canopies, carts, wagons and box flats. We will also need lots of help setting up on Friday, April 1 starting at 8:30 am. Everyone is needed the day of the sale starting at 7 am. So come on out and have a good time. Please, please, please contact Fran if you can help in any way. Everyone is working really hard propagating and growing plants. The selection is outstanding. Thanks to everyone who are growing plants.



## Behind the Black Walnuts

(Submitted by Gail Johnson)

Anthropologist Margaret Mead once famously said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

The message of the Black Walnut project is that every person in the community can make a difference in conservation and restoration. If, as a community, we choose, we can conserve what we have and even, in some cases, restore some part of what we have lost. Texas is a unique environment in that due to the terms of our admission to the Union, we kept our public lands. Those public lands were eventually conveyed to private owners. What that means is that private citizens are the backbone of efforts to maintain our environment. So, it is ever more important that we convey the message of individual effort.

Our program with the school children is a focal point of conveying our message. When we reach these children, we reach their families. And through efforts like offering trees to citizens, we reach the greater community. Restoration is largely a numbers game. If you can restore enough individuals to the environment, you hope that eventually they will become a self-sustaining population.

We had a good year this year harvesting nuts. We had plenty for our purposes and so it seemed only appropriate that we make any surplus available to others. That’s why we are pleased to partner with a project in Seguin. The City of Seguin is developing a new park. It’s part of their master plan for developing the land along Walnut Branch Creek. The new park has one (yes, just one) black walnut tree in it.

A number of the Master Gardeners in Guadalupe are participating in citizens’ groups to work on the park project. Through them, we have reached out to offer some of our surplus nuts and to share what we have learned about preparing and growing black walnuts. We are pleased to report that our fellow Master Gardeners have responded enthusiastically. They are planting and tending not only the nuts we gave them, but they have gathered more as well. We know that these trees were once abundant here. They could be again, and they could also someday be a valuable crop again. One tree at a time.



## It's Sprouting Time at the Children's Garden

(Submitted by Arline Schacherl)

Eleven classes of eager first-graders walked to the Children's Garden on February 4 for planting day. Working with a Master Gardener volunteer, each student had the opportunity to plant lettuce, spinach, radish, and carrot seeds in their designated garden plot. The twenty-minute period was very busy as the children carefully placed seeds in the spaces of the planting grids used for square-foot gardening. Arline greeted each group of students and explained the tasks to be completed. MG volunteers Jacky, Cheryl, Shirley, Carolyn P., Robbie, Julie, Jennifer, Nancy, Thomas, and Pam along with Extension Agent Janie helped the students with planting. Extension Intern Geri assisted where needed with distribution of seeds and photographing the action. It was a glorious sunny day for planting!

A month later on March 3 the students and their teachers returned to the garden for a visit to see what the seeds had produced. Many of the seeds for radishes, spinach, and carrots had sprouted. It was disappointing that no lettuce seeds had germinated. MG volunteers Fran, Cheryl, Shirley, Thomas, Robbie, Carolyn P., Jennifer, Nancy, and Jacky welcomed the students to their garden plots, showed them the sprouts, and pointed out the differences of each plant's leaves. Extension Intern Geri helped again with distribution of seeds and photographing the busy gardeners as they replanted lettuce seeds and also some marigold seeds. Now we wait patiently to see what will sprout.



On Monday, March 7, each raised bed was fertilized in hopes that the rain forecast will give the young plants a real healthy boost. Some of the radishes and spinach are about ready to harvest. Teachers may bring their students to the garden anytime to check the progress of growth before the scheduled date of April 28 when the students will harvest the garden produce.



This lizard was not too happy at being disturbed from his hiding place

## Fun Class Making Hypertufa Containers

On Tuesday, March 1 about eight MG's came out to make some Hypertufa Containers. We had a lot of fun playing in the mud! Our creations turned out quite well as we learned what to do and what not to do. Are you ready to do it again?



First of all, one must read the instructions!!

Next, create a form for your pot.



Many items were used for forms. Just use your imagination.



Mix up some cement, perlite and peat with water.



One group wanted to try hay instead of peat.



Then you get to play in the mud!



Add some drainage holes



Wait for the cement to set and it's finally ready to plant.



Barbara Scott's planter is the one in the middle.  
Looks great with succulents



*Coming Soon!*

## Plant Pathology Class with Dr. Kim Cochran

On February 23, class #6 enjoyed a session with Dr. Kim Cochran, Plant pathologist from Uvalde, TX. It was very informative and the students enjoyed being scientists with all the gadgets Dr. Cochran shared with the class.



The next class session will be held **March 22** starting at 8:30 am. The speaker will be Dr. William (Bill) Welch. Dr. Welch is very knowledgeable about gardening in the south and always has a delightful presentation. He usually brings some of his books for sale, so bring your cash or checks to make a purchase.

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## GMG's Member Meeting

Our next monthly meeting is on **April 7 starting at NOON** with lunch provided by Sandy Llewellyn and Fran. We look forward to seeing everyone. We have some lively discussion about plants and whatever else is on our minds.

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### Plant of the Month

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

#### Phlox paniculata 'John Fanick'

Dr. William C. Welch, Professor &  
Landscape Horticulturist  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Phlox is an extensive and interesting genus of perennials and one annual that are exclusively North American. The perennial phlox are mostly forms of *Phlox paniculata*, which is commonly native from Pennsylvania and Illinois southward. They bloom in mid to late summer with immense terminal heads of white, pink, and purple flowers.



*Phlox paniculata* sometimes goes by the common names of "standing phlox" or "summer phlox". Since there are native forms quite common to northeast Texas, these hardy perennials have been popular in Texas and Southern gardens for many generations. They are easily grown but can be subject to powdery mildew. The most common color is a pink-purple form.

Greg Grant introduced 'John Fanick' in the early 1990's, which has become highly popular. Mr. Fanick was a well-known nurseryman in San Antonio. It is a pale pink with a darker eye and particularly attractive when combined with the common pink-purple type. My experience has shown it to be the most vigorous of all the summer phlox, and it is also highly fragrant. Greg says that 'John Fanick' is one of the best butterfly-attracting plants available, especially swallowtails. It is a long-lasting and wonderful addition to summer bouquets.

Summer phlox benefit from fairly frequent division. Fall or winter is the ideal time to dig the clumps about every two years and reset the individual plants. They thrive in sunny, well-drained locations but will tolerate up to about half shade. Since the flowers come at a really hot time of year they last better with some afternoon shade. Bloom height is two to three feet.

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## Area Events

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

**Schertz:** Bob Cox, John Lewicki, and the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners will present a Lunch and Learn about Texas Superstar Plants, noon-1p.m., Monday, **March 14**, in the GVEC Community Room, 908 Curtis St., Schertz. Attendees are welcome to bring lunch, and free handouts will be available. For additional information, email [hickslt@lycods.com](mailto:hickslt@lycods.com).

**Bastrop:** Do you know a good bug from a bad one? Tommie Clayton and Susan Jung, First [Bug] Detector Specialists, will explain the difference on **March 15**, from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Bluebonnet Electric Co-op building (650 Hwy 21 East) in Bastrop. With more than 30 years of Master Gardening experience between them, Tommie and Susan are also founding members of Texas Sage Master Gardeners, which serves Bastrop and Caldwell Counties. For more information, visit <http://txmg.org/tsmg/>, email [TexasSageMG@gmail.com](mailto:TexasSageMG@gmail.com), or call 512-581-7186.

**La Marque: March 15** "The ABC's of Home Composting" with GC Master Gardener Ken Steblein presenting, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Fee/Free. Participants must pre-register: 281-534-3413. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Further details [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston).

**San Antonio:** "What to Grow in the Shade" will be presented at the BCMG General Meeting, **March 17**, 6-8:30 p.m., at 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208, San Antonio. Bexar County Master Gardeners (BCMG) meeting begins with a social time at 6 p.m. followed by a special, free presentation at 6:30 p.m. Dotty Woodson will lead the presentation. 1.5 CEUs for MGs. For more information, email the BCMG President, [President@bexarmg.org](mailto:President@bexarmg.org), or call 210-699-0663.

**Marshall:** The Annual Spring Plant Sale of the Harrison County Master Gardeners will be held on Saturday, **March 19**, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., on the Tractor Supply parking lot at 105 E End Blvd (Hwy 59) in Marshall. Many Master-Gardener grown (pass-along) plants will be available, as well as commercially-grown flowers and vegetables, all at competitive prices. Arrive early for the best selection.

**Orangefield:** The Orange County Master Gardeners Association will host their Annual Bloomin' Crazy Plant Fair on Saturday, **March 19**, at Cormier Park, 8235 FM 1442, Orangefield. Available will be Texas Superstar plants, natives, perennials, annuals, vines, tropical storm, vegetables, citrus, blueberries, and many other varieties. In addition, vendors will have locally produced products, specialty plants and organic items for plants and lawns. For more information, visit [txmg.org/orange](http://txmg.org/orange).

**Round Top:** Plants and gifts for sale **March 18-19:** Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Round Top Festival Hill, 248 Jaster Road, Round Top, free admission ([www.herbsocietypioneer.org](http://www.herbsocietypioneer.org)).

**La Marque: March 19** "Honey Bees Around the Garden" with GC Master Gardener Robert Marshall presenting, 9-10:30 a.m., at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Fee/Free. Participants must pre-register: Ph 281-534-3413. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Further details [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston).

**La Marque: March 19** "Turning Dirt Into Soil" with GC Master Gardener Jim Gillian presenting, 1-2:30 p.m., at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102 Main, La Marque. Fee/Free. Participants must pre-register: 281-534-3413. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Further details [www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston).

**San Antonio:** "Spring Vegetable Seminar" will be presented **March 19**, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at Fanick's Garden Center Inc., 1025 Holmgreen Rd., San Antonio. David Rodriguez, AgriLife Extension Service, will demonstrate how to properly plant, grow and harvest vegetables. David has a ton of experience in gardening and loves to share his knowledge of and passion for vegetables. Seminar is free, but donations to the Children's garden are welcome. 1.5 CEUs for MGs. For more information, visit Fanick's website: <http://www.fanicknursery.com/Upcoming%20Events.htm>.

**Austin: March 23** – Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center -Hello invasive species, goodbye Texas! Learn about the threat that invasive species pose to our natural areas, and how you can help address this threat. You will learn about various methods and programs for dealing with invasive species, including the Invaders of Texas citizen scientist program and its associated [www.Texasinvasives.org](http://www.Texasinvasives.org) website. You will also learn to identify several species important for Texas. Wednesday, 6 –9 p.m  
Fee: \$45.00

**Austin: Native Plant Gardening (NPG) Certificate Series - March 26-April 16 – Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.** Looking for a new approach to gardening? This series is your one stop shop for planning and installing a beautiful landscape that makes native plants work for you. This series of six classes takes you through all the steps needed to create a native and hardy landscape that is easier to maintain and gorgeous at the same time. The Wildflower Center gardens will inspire new ideas and appreciation for native plants. Sign up for the certificate series or individual classes:

Landscape Design, Plants I, Plants II, Installation, Maintenance and Integrated Pest Management. Saturdays, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Fee: \$243.00 (entire series), \$45.00 (individual class)

**San Antonio:** San Antonio Garden Center Clubs will meet Wednesday, **April 6**, at 10 a.m. at 3310 N. New Braunfels @ Funston. The program, "Keeping the Bloom in Blooms," will feature Joe Don Zetsche, the Director of HEB's Blooms. He will talk about the logistics of supplying and running the Blooms floral departments in 250 stores and the unique joys and challenges of such a large operation. Coffee at 9:30; meetings are free and open to the public. For more information visit [sanantoniogardencenter.org](http://sanantoniogardencenter.org) or call 210-824-9981.

**New Braunfels:** The NPSOT, Lindheimer Chapter, will present "Spring Native Plant Sale" on **April 9**, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and April 10 from noon to 5 p.m. The sale will take place at Folkfest in Heritage Park, 1370 Church Hill Dr., New Braunfels. There will 40+ varieties of native plants, with special focus on butterfly and hummingbird plants. Activities for children will be included.

**San Antonio:** "Annual Grafting Seminar" will be presented **April 16**, 9 a.m. to noon, at Fanick's Garden Center Inc., 1025 Holmgreen Rd, San Antonio. Dr. Larry Stein from the AgriLife Extension Service will demonstrate how and why fruit, nut and citrus trees are grafted. Learn all the different grafting techniques such as inlay, four flap, cleft, and approach grafts, and some of the budding techniques such as chip budding and t-budding. Also learn about the overall care of fruit, nut and citrus trees before and after grafting them. This seminar is very popular so arrive early for best parking and seating. Seminar is free.3 CEUs for MGs. For more information, visit Fanick's website: <http://www.fanicknursery.com/Upcoming%20Events.htm>.

**Canyon Lake:** The NPSOT, Lindheimer Chapter, will be sponsoring the "Native Landscape Certification Program, Level 1: Introduction to Native Landscapes," to be held on **April 30**, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Tye Preston Memorial Library, Canyon Lake. The course will focus on the value

of including and preserving native plants in landscapes. The classroom and outdoor sessions will cover 45 native plants to use in landscaping and 5 exotic invasive plants to avoid. Students graduating with a Certificates of Completion or Competency may progress to Level 2 or 3. The cost of the program is \$37 for members and non-members alike. To register, visit <http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp> and click on register beside the Lindheimer class. For additional information, about registration, contact Meg Inglis, NLCP Coordinator, [meg.inglis@npsot.org](mailto:meg.inglis@npsot.org) or 512-589-1316. For additional information about the class, contact Sara Riggs, Class Coordinator, [Riggs\\_571@msn.com](mailto:Riggs_571@msn.com) or 512-236-8571.

**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>

**Is anyone interested in going to this event?**

**GMG have submitted several applications for the 2015 Awards Program.**

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>

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**Meet Charlotte Knox, our new co-editor of the newsletter,  
“As The Garden Grows”.**



Charlotte Knox (Class #5) has agreed to step up and work on the newsletter as Gail Johnson moves on to doing other things for GMG. Thanks Gail for being Co-editor all these years. And thanks to Charlotte for accepting the challenge.

**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
<b>MARCH 13</b> Daylight Savings Time	<b>14</b> Greenhouse Workday 10 am	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> SPS committee to South TX Growers 8 am	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Greenhouse Workday 10 am	<b>22</b> MG Class Southern Gardens- Dr. Bill Welch 8:30-12:30 pm SPS meeting 1:30 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b> Greenhouse Workday 10 am-noon SPS committee to GWN 1:30 pm	<b>29</b> Greenhouse Workday 10 am-noon	<b>30</b> Greenhouse Workday 10 am-noon	<b>31</b> SPS committee to Petersons for plants	<b>APRIL 1</b> SPS Set up starts at 8:30 am	<b>APRIL 2</b> Spring Plant Sale 8:30-1pm
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Volunteer Hours Due	<b>5</b> MG Class-Fruit Production- Larry Stein 8:30 to 12:30 pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Noon MG Lunch meeting	<b>8</b> Newsletter Articles Due	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Class session 7:30 am-2:30 pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> MG Class- Field Trip to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center-time TBA	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Board Mtg. 9:30 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Harvest Noon	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

**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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**Editors:**

Fran Saliger  
[fsaliger@gvec.net](mailto:fsaliger@gvec.net)  
Charlotte Knox  
[lotteknox@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:gonzales@ag.tamu.edu)

Web pages:  
<http://gonzalesmastergardeners.org>

<http://gonzales.agrilife.org>



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