



# As the Garden Grows

*A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners*

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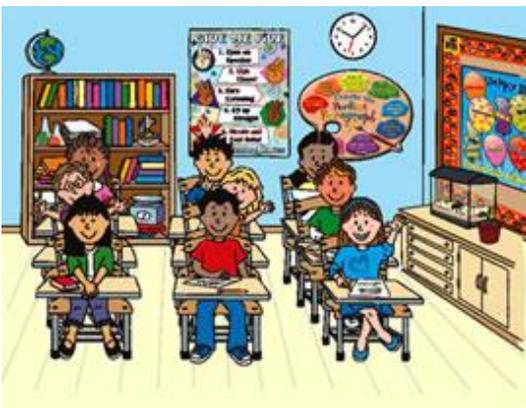
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## Class #6 Graduation Plans

The GMG Training Class #6 will graduate on **May 17, 2016**. What a great class this has been. Special thanks to Cindy Goins, Charlotte Knox, Robbie Cole, and Melissa Watson for being this year's class assistants. Without this team helping David DeMent, class coordinator, the class would not have been another success. The class will take a tour of the Mushroom Farm starting at 9:00 am, followed by the graduation ceremony at PACE. Then **all** GMG's are invited to lunch around 11:15 am at Fran Saliger's home. **Please RSVP** Fran at [fsaliger@gvec.net](mailto:fsaliger@gvec.net) if you plan to attend the lunch celebration and welcome our newest certified GMG's and Interns. Hamburgers and fixings will be served.

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## May 18, 2016-Save the date!



There will be a meeting for organizing the next GMG training class #7 starting at 9:30 am on **May 18** at PACE. We will be discussing recruitment, class assistants and planning the next class that will begin in September 13, 2016. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

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## 2016 Garden Tour

Our GMG members once again showed us their gardens for the 2016 Garden Tour. Thanks to Cindy Goins, Gail and Jim Johnson, and Jim Mikulik. Your gardens and homes are gorgeous and well worth the trip all over the countryside.



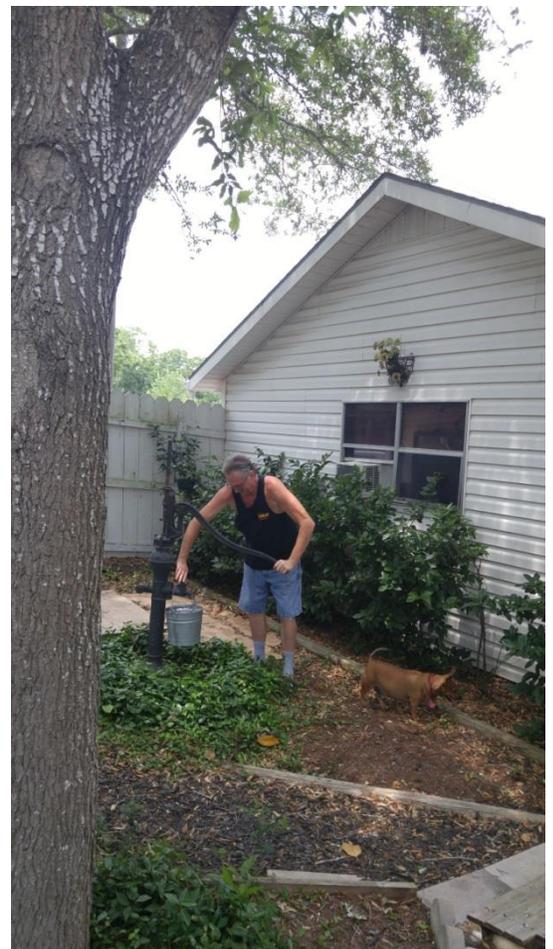
First stop on the trip was a visit to Cindy Goin's beautiful home and gardens near Nixon. Her vegetable gardens are looking fantastic and well maintained. She and her husband are in the process of refurbishing an older Victorian style home and it is looking wonderful. Cindy definitely has an eye for interior decorating and outside landscaping. Out back is a majestic very old oak tree for another wonderful view.



We then traveled to the Belmont area where Jim and Gail have a beautiful ranch and home. We were served lunch under the shade of the oak trees. They have created some great looking flowerbeds using stone and rocks found on their place. Her Daylilies are awesome as is Jim's vegetable gardens. Gail also shared with us her experiences with grafted citrus trees



On to Shiner for the next stop on our tour where we visited Jim and Phyllis's 1893 Historic home. Jim is in the process of eliminating his grassy lawn and replacing it with mulched flowerbeds and stone walkways. Things are really looking great. When Jim forgets to pay the water bill he just goes out back to pump water from the well! He is also planning to rebuild his greenhouse with the old windows from his home. Maybe we'll get to see that on our next trip to Shiner!



## Harvesting Completed at Children's Garden

(Submitted by Arline Schacherl, Photo credits to Carolyn Parratt)



Thursday, April 28, was a bright sunny day for harvesting the radishes, spinach, carrots, and a small amount of lettuce that students had planted seeds for three months earlier. Excitement filled the air as the students enthusiastically harvested their veggies.

MG volunteers Thomas, Cheryl, Robbie, Gail, Jacky, Jennifer, Shirley, Fran, Carolyn P., and Nancy assisted the students with identifying the different vegetables to be harvested. In some of the raised beds it was a real effort to find the veggies among the zinnias that had sprouted from seeds dropped last summer. The spring rains caused the veggies to produce large radishes, tasty carrots, beautiful spinach leaves, and a few bunches of lettuce. Unfortunately the radishes and spinach were going to seed so the quality of the produce was not the best. Even so, the students were thrilled with what filled their bags!

During the twenty-minute session there was even time for each first grader to plant a zinnia in a cup to take home. Thanks to MG Pam St. John and Geri Kline from the Extension Office for helping the children plant the zinnias. Coordinator Arline is extremely grateful for the volunteer assistance and commitment.

Even though the students have harvested what they planted, there are still things growing in the garden. Thanks to Mike Ohlhausen for donating a variety of plants that were transplanted into the raised beds on April 13. Mike was joined by other MG volunteers who weeded and planted the tomatoes, tomatillos, and cantaloupe seedlings that Mike had grown. Those plants plus marigolds and zinnias that have sprouted from seeds left behind from previous plants are growing quite well and making the garden look good. Hopefully with occasional rains the garden should look green for most of the summer.



Students in first grade teacher Debbie Blundell's class designed thank-you notes that express their gratitude for what they have learned from the Master Gardeners this year. One student even included the steps for planting seeds complete with drawings. Mrs. Blundell's personal note says: "Dear Master Gardeners, Thanks so much for another great planting and learning experience for our students! We are lucky to have you all in our community!"

Project Coordinator Arline also thanks the volunteers who have helped in all kinds of ways this school year to make the Children's Garden another successful learning experience for students, teachers, and volunteers.



Some of us just like playing in the dirt! Thanks Geri Kline.

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## GMG's June Social

It's once again Summertime and our next monthly meeting is our **June Social**. Bring your spouse or companion/friend to our next luncheon on **June 2, 2016** starting at noon. A meat will be provided and everyone is invited to bring a side dish. There should be a lot of summer vegetables ready for everyone to share. We look forward to seeing everyone. Bring something for the door prizes that everyone likes so much.

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**[WWW.GONZALESMASTERGARDENERS.ORG](http://WWW.GONZALESMASTERGARDENERS.ORG)**



Keep track of all activities of Gonzales Master Gardeners by connecting to our website at [www.gonzalesmastergardeners.org](http://www.gonzalesmastergardeners.org). Jo Swiger and Gail Johnson are doing a tremendous job of keeping us up to date with the latest information.

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## Grapes and Figs for the Fall Tree Sale

Shirley Frazier met with several MG's to transplant the root cuttings of grapes and figs on April 25. The transplants are looking really good. If you are in town go by and look at the transplants that will be sold at the Fall Tree Sale. If they look dry, please give them a drink of water and let Shirley know.

Sandy and Joyce stayed busy in the Greenhouse transplanting cuttings that rooted in the Propagation Tent.

Great Job Everyone!



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## Propagation of Plants Never Ends!

Now is a great time to start thinking about propagating perennials, natives, and roses for next year. This gives them a good year to get ready for the next plant sale!

- Desert Willow is easily rooted from semihardwood cuttings of the current season growth taken in late May and June.
- Damianita is easily grown from seed and germination rates are high when seeds are planted during warm weather
- Hibiscus, Rose Mallow, are easily grown from softwood cuttings taken from summer through fall. Cuttings usually root within 2 weeks.
- Texas Lantana is easily reproduced from softwood or semihardwood cuttings from the current season's growth. Take cuttings in the summer from side-shoots that are firm at the base.
- Genizo or Purple Sage- (Greencloud, White Cloud and hybrid Raincloud) will root from semihardwood cuttings of the current season's growth
- Barbados Cherry is easily rooted from softwood cuttings taking in June.
- Turks Cap root easily from softwood cuttings taken in summer to fall from side-shoots
- Rose-mallow Pavonia-Rock Rose can be grown from softwood tip cuttings taken May through July.
- Zexmenia Daisy easily roots from semihardwood tip cuttings of the current season's growth in mid-summer through fall.
- Salvia, Sage-easily grown from either softwood or semihardwood tip cuttings
- Spider Lily-division of small bulbs from base of mature 4-5 inch bulbs.
- American Beauty Berry- softwood or hardwood cuttings
- Esperanza, Yellow bells- cuttings taking in late spring and early summer and again in the fall after each flush of new growth.

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## Plant of the Month

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

### ***Butterfly, or African Iris (Dietes)***

by Dr. Douglas F. Welsh, Landscape Horticulturist,  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Butterfly, or African iris are composed of several species of the genus *Dietes*, and have been used extensively in zones 8b and upwards for landscaping and water garden accents in recent years. Their slowly increasing clumps of narrow, sword-like foliage usually remain green through the winter unless burnt by temperatures below 25F. *Dietes* have the ability to grow as tall as 4 feet under optimal conditions in moist soil or in water, and are usually about 3 feet in height in the flower bed.

Confusion over correct naming of these African plants occurred when the large plant group known as *Moraea* was split and renamed: those with evergreen rhizomes were now *Dietes*, and those having corms were left in the *Moraea* group.

*Dietes* resemble their iris relatives in having upright, spiky leaves and flower stalks bearing a succession of blooms usually lasting only one day over a long period of time. They will adjust to full sun or part shade and are not fussy as to soil type. African Iris is usually hardy to 15 - 20F. Each flower lasts about two days. Large seedpods ultimately form that are reminiscent of those of Louisiana iris.

*D. vegeta* makes large, grassy clumps with many 3 inch pale yellow flowers with colored markings of yellow and violet. They may be considered a little less maintenance-free than bicolor, because when the individual leaves die, they must be clipped off in order to maintain neatness, rather than pulled.

*Dietes bicolor* has fewer, larger, more tidy leaves and more rounded white flowers with a violet/brown spot. The cultivars known as 'Orange Drops' and 'Lemon Drops' are *Dietes* hybrids.

**Note from Brenda:** This is a great plant for a mixed flowerbed. Mine are approximately 2 feet across and 3 feet high and I have divided them several times. Several plants are in semi-shade but the mother plant is in full sun. They are low maintenance plants in my experience. I never water them or fertilize them and they seem to be doing fine, although I have noticed that with all the rain we've had recently, there are more blooms.



***Dietes bicolor***

## Area Events

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

### 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.**

**La Marque:** "Galveston County Home Fruit Growers' Tour"; three fruit orchards are in the tour, as well as vegetable gardens at each site. Visit sites in any desired order, 9 am-Noon, **May 14**. No pre-registration required. For further details and maps to each orchard, see <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>, or Ph 281-534-3413. Free.

**Waco:** The McLennan Co. Master Gardeners will have their Annual Plant Sale 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., **May 14**, at the Westview Village Arcade, 551 Valley Mills, Waco. Cash, check and credit cards accepted. Included will be a great selection of plants, including flowers, shrubs, vegetables, and herbs grown in members' yards. Also, garden arts & Crafts, hanging baskets, color bowls, and compost will be for sale.

**Smithson Valley:** The Lindheimer Chapter (Comal County) of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hold their monthly meeting **May 17** at the GVTC Auditorium, 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 Dan Hosage, owner of the Madrone Nursery and Plants-man Extraordinaire, will present "The Milkweed Family and its Numerous Species." There will be exhibits and milkweed plants for sale. The meeting is free and the public is welcome. For more information, call Martha Guethle, 830-438-5996.

**Tyler:** The Smith County Master Gardener Annual Garden Tour will be held 9 a.m.-3 p.m., **May 28**. Five homeowners open their private gardens for public viewing, rain or shine. \$10 in advance/ \$12 day of tour. Visit <http://txmg.org/smith/coming-events> or call 903-590-2980 for ticket and location information.

**San Antonio:** "Earthkind Gardening Practices" will be presented at the BCMG General Meeting, 6-8:30 p.m., Thursday, **May 26**, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208, San Antonio. The 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. 1.5 CEUs for MGs. David Rodriguez, AgriLife Extension Service, will combine the best of organic gardening with the best of traditional gardening and include elements of Integrated Pest Management.

**San Antonio:** **Festival of Flowers** is San Antonio's premiere gardening event! Co-hosted by San Antonio Water System, Saturday, **May 28, 9am-5pm**, San Antonio (Alzafar) Shrine Auditorium 901 N.

Loop 1604 West (*Between US Hwy 281 N. and Blanco Rd.*) Tickets available at the door~Admission \$6 adults, Children under 10 free, Free Parking. Carts and wagons welcome. Come and go with hand-stamp. Free plant and package check-room.

**La Marque:** "Bamboo Uses in the Landscape" with GC Master Gardener Tish Reustle presenting, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m., **May 31**, at Galveston County AgriLife Extension in Carbide Park, 4102-B Main St., La Marque; Ph 281-534-3413; email reservations to [galv3@wt.net](mailto:galv3@wt.net), further details see <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>. Free.

**La Grange:** Boone Holiday will present "Backyard Greenhouse Building" from 12:05 p.m. to 12:50 p.m., **June 14**, at Fayette County AgriLife Extension Service, 255 Svoboda Lane, La Grange. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information call 979-968-5831

**Austin: June 9, 2016.** Texas Tough Plants - Meredith O'Reilly, **10 a.m. to noon** at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Travis County, 1600-B Smith Road, Austin, 78721. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Travis County is offering monthly public seminars on Dealing with Drought in the Landscape. Learn ways to help your landscape and garden perform while conserving, preserving, and protecting our water resources. <http://centraltexashorticulture.blogspot.com/2016/01/dealing-with-drought-in-landscape.html> . Cost: \$10/seminar for early registration; \$15/seminar for late or on-site Register: <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty>. Register by Phone: 979-845-2604 or Contact: Sue Carrasco, 512-854-9610 or [sacarrasco@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:sacarrasco@ag.tamu.edu)

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.bexarcounnymastergardeners.org>



**Carolyn Parratt's Hypertufa Bird Bath put to good use!**

**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
MAY 8	9	10 Garden Tour	11	12 Compost Class 9 am-noon	13	14
15	16	17 MG Class- Field Trip and Graduation- 9 am to 12:30	18 MG Class #7 Planning Meeting 9:30	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Board Mtg. 9:30	27	28
29	30	31	JUNE 1	2 Noon June Social 	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	JULY 1	2

**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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