As the Garden Grows

A Publication of the Gonzales Master Gardeners

Gonzales, Texas May 2017 Volume 7, Issue 5

Gardening Activities for May

(Submitted by Fran Saliger)

Most of our gardens are doing very well with the cooler temperatures we have been seeing these past few weeks. Sandy Llewellyn is once again taking her fresh vegetables, canned vegetables, eggs, and baked goods to the local farmers market held under the portico of Laurel Ridge Antiques at 827 St. Joseph St. in Gonzales. It starts at 9 am.

Continue planting those warm season vegetables like southern peas, okra, sweet potatoes. Now is the time to plant the warm season vegetables that need a longer time to reach harvest. This would include winter squash, pumpkins, cantaloupe, and watermelons.

As the temperatures heat up, make sure your vegetables and flower gardens are getting adequate watering. Water well by soaking the soil deeply once or twice a week, allowing the soil to dry out some between waterings. This will keep the soil well aerated and promotes extensive root development.

Keep after the weeds. It's easier to pull them out when they are small. Layer 6-8 sheets of newspaper between rows of vegetables, water, and then top off with mulch (grass clippings, leaves, pine needles or other material) to deter weeds from growing.

Be on the lookout for pests and diseases. Early detection is the key to saving those plants. Summer pest include aphids, spider mites, caterpillars and grasshoppers. Spider mites are found on the underside of the leaf and can be removed with a blast of water on the underneath side or use an insecticidal soap.

Continue to fertilize all those annual and perennial blooming flowers with a complete fertilizer every 4-6 weeks for continued bloom time. Keep them watered to keep the soil evenly moist. Keep dead blooms cut back to improve the bloom time.

As the cool season plants begin to die back, dig them up and replenish the soil with some compost. Then, plant some of the warm season color plants. These include zinnias, sunflowers, celosias, cupheas, lobularias, pentas, begonias, salvias, and purslane for those sunny areas. For shady areas, plant caladiums, coleus, Persian shield and beefsteak plant.

Stone fruit like peaches, plums, and nectarines should start to ripen this month. There is a greater chance of brown-root fungal infections during rainy weather. Preventative sprays can help prevent infection. Remove any rotten fruit promptly. Thin apples and pears to one per cluster to develop good-sized fruit, to reduce over cropping, and limb breakage. Keep the soil moderately moist to reduce stress to the fruit crop. Check your trees for scale insects on the branches and treat with a summer-oil spray.

Keep turf areas mowed regularly and water once a week if there is no rain in the forecast. If you haven't fertilized, do so this month before it gets too hot.

May is a great month to propagate plants. As you trim back some of those perennials, take cuttings and root in perlite. Transplant them to 4-inch pots after they have roots and bump up to 1-gallon pots to grow out. Fertilize them every two weeks or use a slow release fertilizer product to produce healthy and vigorous plants.

Until next month….Happy Gardening!

MG Students Visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

(Submitted by Carolyn Parratt)

What a wonderful walk among the flowers and trees on a typical spring day in Texas. It was an experience the GMG students and guests enjoyed while meandering through Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, TX. Under the guidance of David DeMent, Botanist, students learned many interesting plant details.

David reviewed the various plant families and quizzed the students.

Lacy Oaks in the landscape

Blackfoot Daisy growing in difficult soil

Scarlet Leatherfoot Vine growing on brick wall

Candelilla, Wax plant, produces wax for many uses

Toothache tree - Parts of tree used to treat mouth pain

Five-week-old Great Horned Owl Chicks peek out from their nest at the entrance to the gardens

Caterpillar of the Sphinx moth

Bird Sculptures along the water ways

A multitude of insects, birds, and animals were present along the way. All you had to do was look. Butterflies were abundant as were caterpillars and spiders resting on beautiful rock structures located throughout the gardens.

Seriously, if you didn't learn something, then you were not listening to David and/or nature talking about all the beauty present in the Wildflower Center.

Visit http://www.wildflower.org for complete information about the Wildflower Center.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
4801 La Crosse Ave.
Austin, TX 78739|
512.232.0100

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's 279 acres are a mix of cultivated gardens, managed natural areas and wildlands that straddle the Edwards Plateau and Blackland Prairie ecoregions. Our landscapes and buildings reflect our purpose to conserve native plants, create sustainable landscapes and conserve resources.

- More than 800 species of native Texas plants have been cultivated or grow here naturally.
- Our buildings and hardscapes are constructed with locally-harvested stones and reflect regional architectural styles.
- The built structures harvest rainwater into a 68,500-gallon capacity storage system.
- We manage our landscapes to support a vast web of life, and have recorded more than 143 species of birds, 15 species of mammals, and 1,800 species of insects.

Spring Harvest at Children's Garden

(Submitted by Arline Schacherl)

Excited first graders along with their teachers arrived at the Children's Garden on Thursday, April 20 ready to harvest their produce. They were surprised to see how much everything had grown since their visit to the garden at the end of March. Spring rains certainly do make a wonderful difference! With the help of MG volunteers, it didn't take long for the children to pull up carrots of various sizes and shapes, bunches of crunchy lettuce, and bunches of spinach. Most radishes had been harvested a few weeks earlier when the students came for a visit.

Many thanks to MG volunteers Debra, Carolyn P. Robbie, Thomas, Jennifer, Nancy F., and Jan who joined me for the two-hour harvest that began at noon. During each twenty-minute session the volunteers made sure that each student had a bag of veggies to tote back to school and eventually home.

Arline also shared some of the produce with Delta Kappa Gamma members the same afternoon of the harvest. One of those members has informed me that she really enjoyed her lettuce that stayed fresh in the refrigerator for a couple of weeks! MG members at the May 4 meeting also shared in some of the bounty that was freshly picked before the meeting.

First graders are not the only ones planting at the Children's Garden. A group of Boy Scouts under the supervision of Jacob Carter has planted some herbs in two of the beds on the far-east end. The evening before the first grade harvest, the scouts pulled out the weeds and amended the soil before planting their seeds. Good luck, Boy Scouts, with your project!

Thanks to all who have helped during this school year with the Children's Garden project. It's always refreshing to watch the children as they learn about planting seeds and then watching and waiting to see what happens. Our efforts of planting the seeds of gardening knowledge are making a difference.

GMG Class #7 Graduation

Graduation ceremonies will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017. The students will meet at 8:30 for "The Test" and receiving of their certificates. They will then tour the Mushroom Farm at 10 am. Afterwards, a Celebration lunch will be provided.

Summer Social

Our annual GMG Summer Social will be held **June 1, 2017 at noon.** We will be grilling hamburgers and MG's will bring the fixings, sides and desserts. Bring your spouse or best friend and enjoy the good food and visiting with your friends. If you have not signed up for something to bring, contact Fran Saliger.

www.gonzalesmastergardeners.org

GMG Happenings!

April 19, 2017, Carolyn Parratt taught a great class at our last Lunch & Learn program on Backyard Poultry ←

Ryder and Jodi Calliham (not pictured),grandchildren of Barbara Scott and Johnathan Allen, grandson of Jo & Ron Swiger were awarded Honorary Jr. GMG certificates at our last members meeting for their participation and help with the 2017 Spring Plant Sale. Great Job! →

← Gail Johnson gave a presentation on How to Graft a Citrus Tree after the member's meeting on April 6. Donna Bell brought the grafted tree to the last meeting to reveal a successful graft for her Lemon Tree.

Laura Boatman, Class #7 MG intern, gave a great presentation on raising Bees following the member's meeting on May 4. She and her husband are learning all about raising bees at their country place in Smiley, TX. Samples of her honey were very tasty. →

Keep up the great work!

GMG Garden Tour

On **May 24**, we will tour the gardens of Carl Bauer and Sandy Llewellyn. Carl has recently built his raised vegetable beds and has some great tips to share with us. Sandy's home will offer us a chance to see how she manages and prepares her vegetables for sale at the local Gonzales Farmers Market in Gonzales. She also has some beautiful flower gardens to view. Sandy has offered to serve us lunch after the tours at her home. **Please RSVP** Fran by Wednesday, May 17 if you plan to stay for lunch. We will meet at PACE at 9:30 am to travel to Carl's home and then onto Sandy's home. Limited parking is available at their homes so please consider carpooling. Plan on being at Carl's place to start the tour at 10 am. The tour is open to GMG only.

Plant of the Month

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

Mexican Honeysuckle- *Justicia spicigera*

Attributes: Perennial evergreen shrub
Attracts hummingbirds
xeriscape
Exposure: part sun to full sun
Flower Color: Orange
Blooming Period: spring, summer, fall, winter
Height: 4 feet
Width: 4 feet
Heat Tolerance: very high
Water Requirements: low

Area Events

(Submitted by Brenda Thompson)

Houston: "Growing Roses is for Everyone!" is the topic of the Houston Rose Society meeting on Thursday, **May 11,** at the Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston. The parking lot is Lot C, located at Hermann Drive and Crawford Street. The program will be presented by Pat Shanley, president of the American Rose Society. She is an ARS Horticultural Judge, Arrangements Judge and a Master Rosarian. In 2010 she co-edited The Sustainable Rose Garden. Currently Pat is the chairman of the American Garden Rose Selections (AGRS)a national testing program for new rose varieties. Free admission. For more information, visit www.houstonrose.org.

Denton: Five private residential gardens and two public gardens will be showcased on the 2017 Denton County Master Gardener Association spring garden tour from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday, **May 13.** "Passport to Nature" is the theme of this year's tour. Tour tickets are $10 each and available from Master Gardeners; at the Denton County Extension office, 401 W. Hickory St., Denton; at the

Redbud Festival in Denton on April 22; at the DCMGA Plant Sale on April 29; at Denton County Calloway's locations; or online from the Denton County Master Gardener website at www.dcmga.com.
San Antonio: Culinary Herbs and Herbal Vinegars. Saturday, **May 13**, 10 am-11 am. Rainbow Gardens, 8516 Bandera Rd., San Antonio, TX 78250. In conjunction with Celebrate Herbs Day, 10am-3pm. Speaker, Leslie Bingham of the SA Herb Society and the Herb Market. Visit htty://rainbowgardens.biz for more information or call 210-680-5734.

Waco: The Annual Master Gardener Plant sale will be held **May 13** at the Westview Village Shopping Center, 551 N. Valley Mills Dr., Waco, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cash, checks and credit cards accepted. Proceeds fund many community projects. For more information, call 254-366-8246.

Houston: Open Garden Day, 8:30-11 a.m., **May 15**, at Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff Rd., Houston. Plants for sale in our greenhouse. Master Gardeners available to answer your questions. Free. For more information, visit https://hcmga.tamu.edu.

Galveston County: "Galveston County Home Fruit Growers Tour," **May 20**. Three fruit orchards on tour, 9 a.m.-noon; visit sites in any desired order. Locations: 1) Galveston County Master Gardener (homeowner) at 5202 Highland Road, Santa Fe; 2) Galveston County Master Gardener Demonstration Orchard and Garden, 4102 Main Street, La Marque; 3) Wilson and Renee Hillman's Fruits 'n Such Orchard at 6309 Ave. U, Dickinson; ph. 832-443-6733. Further details visit www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston. Pre-registration not required. Galveston County Master Gardener event. Free.

Ft. Worth: The Greater Fort Worth Herb Society presents their 31st annual herb/garden festival 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., **May 20**, at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens, 3220 Botanic Gardens Blvd., Fort Worth. General admission $4.00, children under 12 free. Silent Auction, vendors, annuals & perennials, herbs, plants, handmade soap, cheese, honey, garden art, jewelry, herbal pet products and much more. Presentations: 10:30 a.m., Tonja Wells, CNH consultant, presents "Energize your life with herbs"; 1:00 p.m., Amanda Vermillion, The Tea Mistress LLC, presents "History of tea and its origins." For more information contact herbalhen@gmail.com.

Waco: Visit the McLennan Co. Master Gardeners booth at the Downtown Farmers Market, 500 Washington Ave., Waco, on Saturday, **May 20**, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to learn about easy propagation practices. Two propagation specialist will be on hand to demonstrate simple propagation techniques and to answer specific gardening questions. Free seeds and handouts available on many topics.

Seguin: Gail Johnson will present" Practical Fruit Growing for the Home Gardener" from noon- 1pm, Wednesday, **May 24**, at the AgriLife Extension Office at 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, TX. Johnson will discuss keeping it simple and selecting the right varieties. Free. Everyone is welcome. For more information go to www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org

Victoria: Master Gardeners Lunch and Learn seminars are held at Pattie Dodson Health Center, 2805 N. Navarro, Victoria, Texas. "Free to the Public". Noon – 1:00 p.m. Bring your lunch and drink.
June 13-Growing and Using Herbs, Debbie Hopper, Victoria County MG
July 11- Fruits of Your Labor: Fruit Trees, Pat Koenig & Emory Powitzky, Jr., Victoria County MG
August 8- Get to Know Insects: Good and Bad, Helen Boatman, Victoria County MG

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

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 14	15	16 Class 7 Graduation 8:30-12:30	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 GMG Garden Tour-9:30 am	25 Board Mtg. 9:30 am	26	27
28	29	30	31 Volunteer Hours Due	JUNE 1 Summer Social - Noon	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24

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

Editors:

Fran Saliger
fsaliger@gvec.net
Charlotte Knox
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

Web pages:
http://gonzalesmastergardeners.org

http://gonzales.agrilife.org

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodations in order to participate in this meeting are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office at 830-672-8531 to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A & M AgriLife Extension