

# GUADALUPE GARDENER JULY 2021

A monthly publication of the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners in cooperation with the Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension, Guadalupe County

## President's Message

Hello Guadalupe County Master Gardeners and welcome to August!

August here already means Fall is around the corner and it is time for us to escape the summer lull and ramp up our activities throughout our communities. That does not mean we neglect our community gardens and multiple projects but even more lands on our plate(s) as opportunities to serve and grow.

*"When gardeners garden, it is not just plants that grow, but the gardeners themselves."*

*- Ken Druse*

Just a few activities that come to mind where we as Master Gardeners get the chance to shine into the Fall season: Pecan Fest, the Guadalupe County Fair, and the Kingsbury Fall Harvest Festival. Here we educate, share, socialize, recruit, and connect with those that have a similar interest. What a great time of year!

If you are interested and ready to help with the planning stages, please reach out to the Certified Master Gardener Coordinators of these projects sooner than later. Please **DO NOT** wait for the membership meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month to try to learn then what you can do to help. The sooner we get activities planned and moving forward the more successful we will be. Watch for e-mail communication about these activities or just reach out; let's make it happen.

Instead of a Summer Social, we opted to not hold a potential COVID super-spreader event and the Board of Directors invited our garden/project coordinators to begin the completion of the initial details for our annual calendar. Many of you have noticed the "new VMS" system has a relatively empty calendar so many of these project coordinator members provided details that will give access to everyone using the calendar to know what is coming up and what you can do to easily maintain your certification by helping where it fits your schedule.

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With time comes change. We have several members that have done an excellent job at being the point of contact/coordinator for our community gardens and projects. But after serving for extended periods, many of us will reach a point where it is time for another change. For those of you in the Schertz/Cibolo area, the opportunity to be the point of contact for the Gutierrez Park is a prime example. If interested in seeing what it may take to be the contact person for this setting, please reach out to the Board of Directors or the current contact for this garden (Judith Stanley) to learn how you can move into this role.

More change. Believe it or not, it is time for some of the GCMG Board members to complete their volunteer leadership and pass the baton to the next set of leaders. Positions open for nominees (voting will be in November) are **President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer**. Feel free to give the name of your nominee (or your name) to a member of the Board of Directors to be considered by the membership for one of these positions.

A new consideration is to have someone that can help the Board of Directors and membership as a **Social Coordinator(s)**. Someone that can help with planning Summer Social and/or Christmas activities. Has anyone wondered why we did not have a GCMG float on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade (me too)? How about a float in the Christmas Parade? The opportunities are endless but with so much going on another individual would be nice to help with these tasks. If you might be interested, let the BOARD OF DIRECTORS know.

Finally, ALL gardens/projects need help/assistance. Reach out to the coordinators to see how to help. If you want to work in the gardens, you do not have to be available on the assigned workday. Just reach out to the coordinator and ask what you can do at a time that fits your schedule.

I look forward to seeing all of you stepping up to help with our projects and activities.

Be safe, be well, and continue to be diligent with protecting yourself from illness as the GCMG community activities continue to get busier.

On behalf of the GCMG Board of Directors, thank you for all you do.

Barry A. Jackson  
2021 GCMG President



## Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Training Class 35

Become a Certified  
Master Gardener



Master Gardeners is an **education sharing horticultural program**.  
Students **commit to continuous learning and volunteer service**.

### **Schedule**

Tuesdays,  
January 18 – May 10, 2022

### **Registration Deadline**

January 1, 2022

### **Time**

5:45 – 8:45 p.m.

### **Cost \$235**

Includes Texas Master  
Gardener Handbook

### **Location**

AgriLife Building  
210 E. Live Oak  
Seguin, TX 78155

### **Class Size**

Limited

### **For more information contact:**

Kay McElveen  
Class Coordinator

[hkaymcelveen@gmail.com](mailto:hkaymcelveen@gmail.com)

479-790-2933



### **GCMG Website:**

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



The background of the slide is a photograph of several Texas Bluebell flowers. The flowers are a vibrant purple color with yellow centers. They are surrounded by green, blade-like leaves. The image is slightly out of focus, giving it a soft, natural feel.

**Note!**

**The following volunteer  
opportunities  
may be available with  
on an individual basis.  
Please contact the  
coordinator of the activity to  
volunteer.**

Texas Bluebell

Courtesy of Bruce Leander

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

## **Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities**

### **At Your Convenience:**

•**Kingsbury** - Kingsbury Habitable Spaces Garden, 3050 FM 1104, Monday – Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Contact Cathy Medlin at [cathmed2003@yahoo.com](mailto:cathmed2003@yahoo.com) or 830-221-8596 the first time you go so she can meet you at the gardens and discuss what needs to be done. Bring tools (hoes, trowels, etc.), gloves, hats.

•**Schertz** – Gutierrez Xeriscape Park, 1231 Borgfeld Rd. Contact Judy Stanley at 830-765-4613 or [jstanley20@satx.rr.com](mailto:jstanley20@satx.rr.com) for further information. (Need lots of help right now.)

•**Seguin** – Rain Garden at the Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center, 1865 E US Highway 90 (just past the Geronimo Creek bridge east of town on HW 90). Contact Mag Holm-Roesler at [mrhr816@gmail.com](mailto:mrhr816@gmail.com) or 512-656-2360 to discuss what needs to be done.

Texas Bluebell

Courtesy of Bruce Leander

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



## **Scheduled Workday on Tuesday:**

•**Marion** — Marion Veterans Community Garden. Contact Joyce Friesenhahn at 210-452-2404 or email her at [omaannie2@gmail.com](mailto:omaannie2@gmail.com) The park is located next to the old Schulz Nursery parking lot, 100 W Huebinger St.

## **Scheduled Workdays on Tuesdays & Fridays:**

•**Schertz** — Guadalupe County Community Garden, 1101 Elbel Road, behind the County Annex Building. Start time is 8:00 a.m. Check with Ann Odvody at [odvodyd@swbell.net](mailto:odvodyd@swbell.net) or 210-994-9664. (Need lots of help right now.)

## **Scheduled Workdays on Wednesdays:**

•**Seguin** — MG Office/Library, 210 E Live Oak, is open from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are always needed. Ernestine Sykes [ejackson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejackson.sykes@gmail.com) or 210-544-0756. The office number is 830-379-2153

•**Seguin** — (Only 1st and 3rd Wednesdays) Park West Pollinator Garden, 600 Block of North Vaughn Ave., 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Maintenance of the pollinator garden and care of new plants. Bring gardening tools, water, hat, sunscreen, insect spray and wear appropriate gardening shoes. Contact Clara Mae Marcotte, [rcm.marcotte@gmail.com](mailto:rcm.marcotte@gmail.com) or Liz Romero, [fleurromero@gmail.com](mailto:fleurromero@gmail.com)

## **Scheduled Workdays on Fridays:**

• **Seguin** — Big Red Barn Gardens, 390 Cordova Road. Start time is 7:30 a.m. for the summer hours and 8:15 a.m. for the winter hours. Check with Janice Knobles at 830-379-6193 or e-mail [jmknobles@yahoo.com](mailto:jmknobles@yahoo.com)

Texas Bluebell

Courtesy of Bruce Leander

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

# July Planning Meeting Photos





# July Planning Meeting Photos





# Retired Master Gardener Honored

On July 1, 2021 Guadalupe County Master Gardeners received approval to grant Emeritus status to Retired Master Gardener Iris Seale. This honor was presented to her on Friday, July 9, 2021 in her home.

“Texas Master Gardener Emeritus(a)” is an honorary title awarded to a retired Master Gardener volunteer for distinguished service to Texas AgriLife Extension Service. County Master Gardener Programs may bestow the title on any Master Gardener who is permanently retiring as an active Master Gardener and who has served Texas AgriLife Extension Service with distinction.”

In the picture right to left is: Iris Seale, Polly Ruppert, Liz Romero, Kay Cover and Peggy Jones.





### **2021 Emeritus Status – Ms. Iris Seale**

Iris Seale has been an essential member of the Guadalupe County Master Gardener Program since she was certified in 1996 (25 years ago). Her gardening knowledge and connection with the community have been some of the traits many fellow Master Gardeners have strived to duplicate. Leading by example, she has committed numerous volunteer hours to the success of the program. Some of her accomplishments are:

#### **Community leadership roles:**

- She led the community by using the Junior Master Gardener Program for lesson material. She has encouraged many other GCMG members to join her along the way.
- She guided classes each year at La Vernia Primary for teaching not only Master Gardeners how to work with the children, but she regularly included parents/grandparents that wanted to work in the garden with their children/grandchildren.

#### **Volunteer accomplishments:**

- As a kindergarten teacher at La Vernia Primary she started with a single raised bed on the school grounds.
- She has shared her passion for our organization by sharing her gardening knowledge with adults and children alike.
- La Vernia Primary has a beautiful vegetable garden area with 19 Raised beds, 3 Key Hole gardens, numerous containers filled with flowers and a butterfly garden. The children and faculty alike enjoy utilizing the garden area for teaching moments.
- Her positive influence resulted in the school adding a chicken coop to have an additional impact on the children.
- Iris started the lady bug release festival a few years ago that has been so popular each year.

Iris Seale's contributions to the community and Master Gardener Program are numerous. She has been an asset not only to the local program and the extension office, but to the state program as well. Her knowledge is irreplaceable, and she is more than deserving of the Emeritus status.

Check us out on

**facebook**

A huge thank you to April Ripple, my mentor, for taking my hand and guiding me to take the helm of managing Facebook. April, your knowledge, kindness, and patience are greatly appreciated. Another thank you goes to Mary Colleen Hoch Miller and William H. Nodine for being there as a support to FB and thank you to all the Master Gardeners for your well wishes and encouragement; you are all so appreciated.

Please send to Facebook, photos of your beautiful gardens, plants, or any questions you may have. Remember, you are among friends as I have learned that Master Gardeners have big hearts, vast knowledge, and kindness that knows no bounds.

This month we have added forty-nine new Facebook members. Facebook new members joining were interested in flowers, landscape, and vegetable gardening. They wanted to learn about pests, vegetable gardening, and, for many, their answer to the question of what you want to learn about, said, 'EVERYTHING'.

Kathy Adams



**Gregg's Mistflower**

**Courtesy of Bruce Leander**

**Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**



## The 2021 Guadalupe County Fair:

We are having a county fair this year! The Guadalupe County Fair will be held on October 7, 8, 9, and 10 with a workday on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. Whether you like to work with children doing crafts, test your skills at selling raffle tickets, or talk with people wandering through the MG booth inside the nice, air-conditioned coliseum, we need you to volunteer this October! We are also looking for lots of great raffle prizes. This is a major fund raiser for us so please let me know if you have anything to donate. Donations will be prominently displayed with business or donor's name.

The Horticulture Competition is a great way to show off your growing skills. You can enter in the divisions of Field Crops, Garden Crops, Orchard Crops, or Home Products such as butter, cheese, cured meats, dehydrated items, honey, molasses, eggs, and/or homebrewed products such as wine, beer, and cider. It's free to enter and you may enter as many items as you like. Not only is it free to enter, but you also receive a free ticket for the County Fair to use on any day you like. Enter 5 items and you get 5 tickets. What a deal! And if you win a ribbon...you automatically get bragging rights!

Need volunteer hours? There are two to four hour shifts available on every day of the fair, Wednesday through Sunday. You can also sign up for consecutive shifts for more hours, or if you just like being there! We have a great time at the MG Booth talking with people about gardening, handing out free seeds to get everyone started, doing educational crafts with children, and selling raffle tickets as a fund raiser for our organization.

Once again, we will be hosting the Pumpkin Decorating Contest for all ages--kids, teens, and adults. It's free to enter and you could win a ribbon or cash prize! Entries will be accepted on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Categories are: Pumpkinality, Originality, and Creativity. Master Gardener Pam Younger has graciously taken on this project. Please contact her for info and official rules and be sure to give her a huge "thank you!" She can be reached at [pamyounger54@gmail.com](mailto:pamyounger54@gmail.com).

In the next couple of weeks, you will be receiving an e-mail showing the available work shifts for the week of the County Fair. Can't wait? Contact me directly and I'll sign you up now! You will also be receiving an e-mail with an attachment of the official rules for entering the horticulture competition. Hard copies of the Horticulture Rules and Divisions are available at the Seguin AgriLife Building in the lobby.

Thank you all for participating. See you at the fair!

Kathleen Smith  
GCMG 2021 County Fair Coordinator  
[kathleensmith1214@gmail.com](mailto:kathleensmith1214@gmail.com)  
Cell: (281)381-5268 - call or text

# *Wandering Gardener*

*Marilyn Moltz*

*Florida Keys*

Since I retired in 2007, I have spent 3 separate winters in Florida. In 2014 I explored part of the Florida Keys. The Keys are about 120 miles of islands that begin south of Miami. Most of the Keys can only be reached by boat. There is much to do here, and we kept busy for three weeks. We were very lucky to find an RV park that offered us space with our private beach and a view of the birding activity which occurred each morning. There are over 300 species of birds that are commonly seen in the Keys including white Ibis, double-crested Cormorant, American white and brown pelicans, herons, egrets, and many more.

In Key Largo, there is Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park which offers glass-bottom boats which take you over the coral reefs and you can see turtles, coral, and fish. The Park employees point out each one and give you much information during the boat ride. The State Park also offers snorkeling and tours of the Mangrove swamps.

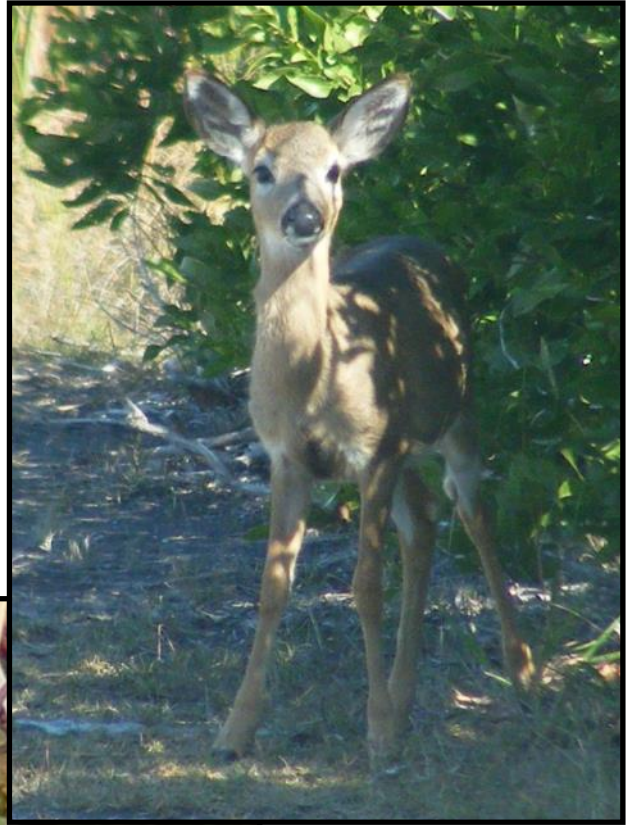
The main attraction for most tourists is Key West. This is a very interesting city with tram and walking tours. If you want to see all it offers it will take 2-3 days. It is fun to walk around the city and see all the chickens running loose and it amazed me how close the large cruise ships would dock to the city.

Southern Florida is worth the drive. On the way you can stop at Walt Disney World, Daytona Speedway, Everglades National Park, and much more to keep you entertained no matter what you enjoy doing. Please try to visit!









## ***Continuing Education Events August 2021***

***Please be aware that due to the current COVID-19 situation all training from other organizations being offered is online. Notices from Bexar and Travis counties will be sent out to members as they are received, including reminders and updates. At the time of this writing, we have no information on scheduled August training from those organizations, but it will be sent to members as soon as it arrives.***

**Thursday, August 5: “Lawns, Leave & Laws: Practical Pathways Toward Lawn Alternatives & Ecological Turf Cultivation”** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave, Austin. 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost \$88. Register at [www.wildflower.org/events/2021-08/](http://www.wildflower.org/events/2021-08/)

**Thursday, August 12: “Native Meadows”** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave, Austin. 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost \$35. Register at [www.wildflower.org/events/2021-08/](http://www.wildflower.org/events/2021-08/)

### ***Guadalupe County Master Gardeners***

**Wednesday, August 11, 2021: “Hibiscus & the Mallow Family”** by Guadalupe County Master Gardener Jerry McNulty at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin. 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Free. Check us out on Facebook and at [www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org](http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org)

**Wednesday, September 15, 2021: “Butterfly Gardening”** by Guadalupe County Master Gardener Keith Muschalek at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin. 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Free. Check us out on Facebook and at [www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org](http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org)

**Wednesday, October 20, 2021: “Winterizing Irrigation Systems”** by Guadalupe County Master Gardener Marvin Borth at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin. 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Free. Check us out on Facebook and at [www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org](http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org)

(At present all training is scheduled “in person”, should that change notice will be sent to Master Gardeners)

Rock Rose

Photo by Norman G Flaigg

Courtesy of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

**REMINDER**

*If anyone needs a card from the organization for an illness or a loss of a family member, send an email to: [GCMGTX@gmail.com](mailto:GCMGTX@gmail.com).*

**Newsletter Staff**

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*Wandering Gardener - Marilyn Moltz*

*IT Guru –Greg Miller*

**Members in Service**

**Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors**

**Two Year Term (2020/2021)** Mark Mullen, Alternate – Rachel Cavazos

**One Year Term (2021)** Jerry McNulty, Alternate – Vacant

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Guadalupe Co. Community Garden - Dale & Ann Odvody

Master Gardener Office/Library - Ernestine Sykes

Refreshment Coordinator - Kathleen Smith

Big Red Barn - Janice Knobles

Gutierrez Xeriscape Park - Judy Stanley

2021 County Fair - Kathleen Smith

Facebook Administrator - Kathy Adams

Christmas Tree Decorating - Ernestine Sykes

Newsletter Editor - Mary Miller

Web Master - Marvin Taylor

Fall 2021/Seguin Class Coordinator – Kay McElveen





**Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, Inc.**

**210 East Live Oak St.**

**Seguin, TX 78155**

**Guadalupe County Master Gardeners** <http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org> **830-379-1972 Ext 210**

**Guadalupe County Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension** <http://guadalupe.agrilife.org/> **830-379-1972**

**Texas Master Gardeners** <http://txmg.org>

### **GCMG Officers & Board of Directors**

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Kay McElveen -Education Director

Carol Calentine-Volunteer Director

Travis Franke -AgriLIFE Agent Master Gardener

Coordinator

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