



The Scion

Newsletter



Published by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Bexar County Master Gardener Volunteers & Our Partners David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent – Bexar County Horticulture & Master Gardener Coordinator



Bexar County Master Gardeners - President's Message



All Master Gardeners...

April is here! What a weather ride we've had the last few months. Unbelievably warm weather at Rodeo, followed by beautiful spring days and nights book-ended by one of the coldest days of the year. It seems everyone is planning, planting or pruning as if we don't really know what to do and neither do our beloved plants. I've got a duck couple and a geese couple in my backyard and, hopefully, we'll soon have families to signal spring is here once and for all.

[Wendy Thornton](#) and [Nancy Brown](#) are leading the Master Gardener brigade making a Children's Garden at Hardberger Park a reality. The deer fence is up courtesy of Hardberger Park; raised beds are completed courtesy of an Eagle Scout; irrigation is in courtesy of SAWS; and vegetables are being planted courtesy of Peterson Brothers and Master Gardeners [Mike Tayloe](#) (new class intern), [Muriel Lanford](#), [Betty Anderson](#), [Andrew Waring](#), and [Linda Cace](#). The garden is possible because of the wonderful vision and support of [Betty Sutherland](#), [Denise Gross](#) and [Susan Campbell](#) of Hardberger Park.

The **Schultze House** garden renovation kicked off March 18 -19 with a great clean-up effort by [Sir Oliver Smith](#), [Robert Padilla](#), [Mary Newsom](#), [Donna Irwin](#), [Paul Foerster](#) and [yours truly](#). You can tell by the before and after photos that some serious pruning and trimming went on. Park employees passing by noticed the change immediately and many commented, "Really looks nice." Geoff Baldwin, Director of Hemisfair Park Operations, stopped by and said, "Now you can see the garden." Next step is cleaning the beds followed by planting as soon as we finish our plans for the beds.

I met many Master Gardeners working in a variety of booths at SAWS "Spring Bloom" which just shows the diversity of interests among our Master Gardener friends. [Brigid Oman](#) was the chair for the plant sale. [Anna Vogler](#) led the BCMG booth focusing on

BCMG President's Message, Cont.

"Texas Superstars" and Water Conservation, with able assistance from [Nick and Liz Campanella](#), [Billy McKenzie](#), [Jane Cobb](#), [Marcia Rockne](#), [Pat Brown](#), [Mike Tayloe](#), [John Vann](#), [Laura Rogers](#), [Donna Irwin](#), [Ron Csehil](#), [Pete Mendolia](#), [Robert Padilla](#), [Karin Foote](#) and [Ruth Rea](#) were present, and I think I saw [John Sells](#) across the parking lot.

Dotty Woodson gave a wonderful presentation on "Shade Plants" at our March 24th BCMG Monthly Meeting – 95 people attended! That may be a new record attendance – thanks to all who attended.

All in all, it has been a very eventful month for gardening activities. Take care and hope to see you around the garden!

*Jack Downey, President
Bexar County Master Gardeners*



SCHULTZ HOUSE GARDEN RENOVATION...



At Left - "Before"

At Right - "After"
BCMG President Jack Downey
with Paul Foerster





Birdies for Charity

Your contribution to *Birdies for Charity* will help BCMG continue to support the programs we provide to the San Antonio community. We are the only Texas Master Gardener association that doesn't have dues and this is our only fundraiser. Bexar County Master Gardeners receive 100% (plus incentives) of the funds donated in our name. Thanks to all who have made a pledge or donated so far!

Please send your tax-deductible pledge or donation before the **deadline of April 25**. You may win a great prize like this Mustang!



Donations can be made online at
<http://www.valerotexasopen.com/birdies/>.

If you have questions, or you want more information, or need a pledge form, contact Barbara Lutz at (210) 699-0663 or bblutz@stic.net.



April Gardening Chores

Tom Harris, Ph. D., BCMG Class 13

"The Hill Country Gardener"

www.thehillcountrygardener.com



Birds and Wildlife

- Supplement your hummingbird-friendly plants with sugar-water feeders. Use one part sugar and four parts water.

Color

- Plant warm weather bedding plants such as lantanas, begonias, firebush, impatiens, portulaca, coleus and zinnias. Periwinkles in late May.

- Resist cool season plants on sale now. That season is over...that's why they're on sale.

- Maintain your spray program for roses.

- Fertilize the roses this month if not done last month.

- Let bougainvillea get root bound and stressed between waterings for blooms.

- Hibiscus food works well for container-grown plants.

Fruits and Nuts

- There is still time to thin late-season peaches, apples and plums. Thin to one fruit per 6-8 inches of stem.

- Fertilize pecan trees in early April with 21-0-0 (1 lb. per inch of trunk diameter) to encourage good nut production.

Ornamentals

Remove pansies, snapdragons, dianthus, calendulas, kale and other winter

- plants when they get ragged.
- Plant caladium tubers after mid month. Impatiens, fibrous begonias, and coleus are summertime favorites for shade.
 - Do not remove leaves of spring-flowering bulbs. They're feeding the bulbs while they're green.
 - Don't place plants that have been indoors all winter into direct sunlight.

Shade Trees and Shrubs

- Do **NOT** prune oak trees now.
- You can still plant new shrubs and trees this month if they are container-grown.
 - It's too late to plant bare-root trees now.
 - Prune pillar or climbing roses, wisteria, and Carolina jasmine after they flower.

Turf Grass

- Does the lawn need some "fixing"? Fix the problem and not the symptoms. Replace dead grass with the same kind of grass.
 - Fertilize lawn using a slow-release lawn fertilizer with a ratio of 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 NPK—Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K)—for example, 18-6-12, 19-5-9, 20-6-12. If you use organic fertilizer, use about twice as much.
 - Don't start automatic sprinkler systems unless we haven't had rain for at least 2 weeks.

*April Gardening Chores, Cont.***Vegetables**

- Plant vegetables such as tomatoes, sweet corn, snap beans and peppers. You can also plant cucumbers, lima or butter beans, cantaloupe, okra, southern peas, pumpkin, squash, peanuts and watermelon.
- Write down what, when, and where you plant what so you'll know next time.
- Plant eggplant, green beans, sweet corn, radishes, and carrots later in the month.
- Mulch around the veggies with leaves, straw, or hay.
- Harvest potatoes after they start blooming.
- Control snails, slugs and pill bugs with baits or beer traps. (Note: they like Budweiser best.)
- Thinning vegetables is one of the most important follow up activities in gardening.
- Use drip irrigation on veggies.



From Our Friends at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens...

On Saturday, **April 16**, there will be a **plant sale** in conjunction with the Garden's **Viva Botanica!** celebration.

Sale hours will be **10 am to 2 pm**, with an *early admission (9 am)* for garden members. There will be a great selection of good-looking natives, watersavers, and hard-to-find plants!



Master Gardeners Out and About...

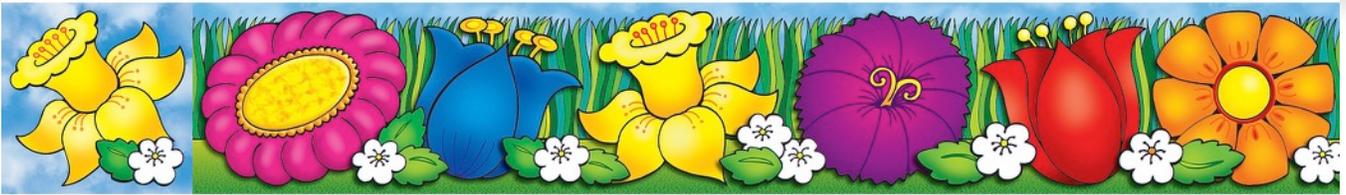
BCMG Volunteers at Spring Bloom!

Photos Provided By: Barbara Lutz





BCMG Volunteers at Spring Bloom!



AgriLife Youth Expo!

Photos Provided By: Barbara Lutz





AgriLife Youth Expo!



A Record Breaking Attendance at the March General Meeting
"What To Grow In The Shade" with Dr. Dotty Woodson!



Photo Credit: Ruben Lozano



Master Gardener of the Month

By: Ann Marie Caldwell, JMG 1

Robert Padilla, our Master Gardener for the month of April, comes from generations of farmers and ranchers from Mexico to San Antonio. He traces his love of



working with plants back to his grandmother, who lived on a farm close to what is now MacArthur High School. Robert reports that people came from all around to consult with his grandmother about herbs and teas to cure a wide variety of ailments. He describes his grandmother as a sort of *curandera*, the Spanish name for women who have a special knowledge about curative plants. This special lady died fourteen years ago at the age of 97, but her legacy lives on in her daughter and in her grandson, Robert.

Robert began gardening in his own yard some thirty years ago when he moved into his present home, situated on an oversized lot, where he has planted many different kinds of fruit trees, herbs and flowers, including three heritage roses that formally belonged to his grandmother. However, it is only recently that he has honed his skills in raising vegetables. He did this by volunteering at the Children's Gardens. Robert said that he really wanted to avoid killing the 1,000 plants that Master Gardener apprentices are alleged to have to

kill before they can be considered full-fledged Master Gardeners. To avoid making disastrous mistakes, Robert plants the same variety of vegetables that have been carefully selected for the children to plant. Then he follows all of David Rodriguez's directives for fertilizing, watering, and caring for the fledgling vegetable plants. The results are a bountiful harvest with little or no casualties.

Robert is equally careful with his herbs and roses. He is a member of the Rose Society, where he has learned the secrets of caring for these beautiful, but temperamental plants to the point where he is now able to give advice to more novice rose growers, as he did recently at the Rainbow Gardens Nursery on Bandera Road. He is also a member of the Bonsai Club, where he has learned about growing and pruning these intriguing plants. Robert's theory is to learn from the other guy's mistakes instead of your own and thus to avoid the disappointment, expense, and extra work that is a part of all plant mortalities.

Robert's latest project was working as a member of the construction crew for the AgriLife Extension Service Tent at the 2016 San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. His newest commitment is working with Master Gardener President Jack Downey to restore the Shultze House Gardens to their former beauty. His on-going project is assisting David Rodriguez, Dr. Jerry Parsons and Dr. Larry Stein in their development of Texas Superstar plants.

MG of the Month, Cont.

Robert cannot stress enough the wonderful opportunity that all Master Gardeners have to volunteer for jobs that will allow them to brush shoulders with the many plant specialists we have in this area. In working with the local area experts, Robert has listened to their advice and asked questions about gardening problems he has encountered. According to Robert, a wealth of knowledge can be gleaned in this way. This habit has helped him to avoid the frustration of killing plants in his own garden. But most important of all is the fact that Robert is having fun: fun working with and learning from the experts; fun volunteering; and fun meeting the interesting people that he would never have met had he not made the decision, after retiring from the Postal Service, to become part of Master Gardener Class 57. Robert sums it all up when he says that being a Master Gardener is lots of work, but, along with the hard work, it is lots of fun!



April Master Gardener General Meeting



Ecological Landscaping

When: Thursday, April 21, 1 - 3 pm

Speaker: Mary Irish

Topic: Ecological Landscaping - Making your landscaping "trouble spots" your favorite spots!

Where: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office
3355 Cherry Ridge Dr., Suite 208, San Antonio, TX 78230

Mary Irish is an expert on southwest horticulture and dry-climate gardening. She has worked over 25 years in the field of horticulture and is the author of 10 books and numerous articles on plants and gardening for a variety of national and regional publications. She has a master's degree in geography from Texas A&M University and is the former director of public horticulture at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, AZ. In 2011 she moved to the San Antonio, TX area and in addition to writing, consulting and teaching, she works part-time managing the plant sales program at the San Antonio Botanical Garden.





Master Gardener Specialist Corner

Numa R. Laiche, BCMG Class 41



AGRICULTURE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVILIZATION

Researched and written by Numa R. Laiche

Bexar County Master Gardener Class 41

The Fertile Crescent, consisting of all the lands drained by the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers, all of Mesopotamia to present Turkey is also named the Cradle of Civilization, the birthplace of what we call culture. The fertility of this land and the ability to domesticate and produce food played a most significant role in the development and growth of this culture.

The historian Diodorous Siculus, wrote in the last century before Christ that the area lay perfect for the area as it was viewed at the time. Water, bio-diverse climate, and Founder Crops, such as Emmer Wheat, Einkorn Wheat, hulled barley, peas and lentils were plentiful.¹

We know that these plants existed in the present or prototypical form at the time Human existence depended on Hunting and Gathering.

Historians and Anthropologists tell us that after millennia of living the Hunter Gatherer lifestyle, "a major agricultural revolution took place, circa 10,000 bce."² Actually the revolution only began to reach fruition in this era. Humans, in their daily hunt for food, always took advantage of the results of the principles of agriculture, as they recognized and gathered the gifts that resulted from seed, plants, soil and climate.

The fact that a revolution occurred, in the human provision of food and nourishment in this era is well documented. The contributions of this revolution to civilization continues through the present day though often overlooked.

Humans observing the cycle of valuable plant growth repeating from moon cycle to moon cycle, were able to reduce the time, in their nomadic life, necessary to obtain food. However, animal protein procurement remained a necessity and hunting continued.

The Nomadic life had left little time for humans to dwell into and explore the environment and universe. The fact that food, which once required gathering could, now be grown virtually outside the door, allowed leisure time. This time could be well spent in developing a culture through the discussion of what was and what could be.

¹Diodorous Siculus, History of Babylon

² Bulloch, Peter, First Farmers Origin of Agriculture Societies

BCMG Specialist Corner, Cont.

Thus humans moved from “ organized kinships to extended families, to clans and eventually tribes, cultures, villages, states and nations.³ The result was city states, countries and empires.

The first of the repeating Founder plant to be used “ was probably a form of lentil and bean, followed by grains especially barley and spelt.⁴ Earliest records of this is found in the Valley of the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers. The rivers flooded annually and upon receding left behind silt that proved to enhance the growth of plants. Humans (circa 5,000 bce) began to emulate river actions, building dams, dikes, irrigation canals and networks of levees. Water was insured in all but the worst of droughts, thus providing for a truly fertile garden spot.

Because food was plentiful and available, not everyone had to farm and diversity of culture and occupations took place the result, invention improving life.

Outsiders attracted to the life arrived as visitors interested in trade or as permanent residents bringing new knowledge and ideas, improving the lifestyle. Most importantly “outsiders broke the genetic bottleneck, introducing different traits and physical characteristics.⁵ This was truly The Fertile Crescent. Civilization thrived, materials things invented for need and luxury. Intellectual exploration flourished, languages formalized, communication took on a high order, record keeping, for past and future became a need.

First records were pictographs, drawings of events important to the Hunter Gatherers. This means of record keeping did not serve the needs of the farmers and tradesmen and Cuneiform Writing developed and communication was in full stride.

We pause here because as this is being written an archaeological exploration known as Ohallo II is taking place on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. What we would label “ backyard gardens” have been found and “dated to 23,000 bce, are located close to semi-sedentary stone dwellings. ⁶ The site was buried in anaerobic clay and is well preserved. Pollen found in the gardens has not yet had a DNA analysis. This could pre-date our oldest existing sites by 13,000 years and change many conclusions about agriculture.

Back to the River Sites, the area becomes known as Sumeria, the occupants as Sumerians. Today it is Iraq, with the Capitol site first known as Babylon and today Bagdad. The farm continues to support the support the area, encouraging

³ Jourmain, Robert, Essentials of Physical Anthropologies (Fourth Edition)

⁴ Cummings, Michael, Concepts of Genetics

⁵ Klug, Robert S., Genetics

⁶ Archaeology Today

BCMG Specialist Corner, Cont.

improvement and manufacturing of tools. First wood, then stone and eventually bronze. The “ most popular tool is the sickle, so useful as a garden tool, it becomes unfortunately the most popular weapon” ⁷ in the region. Wars of conquests become common place, the region changes but the farms continue until the Twentieth Century, abuse and overuse of the rivers has caused the water level to drop to a level where salt intrusion is a threat.

Are we learning a lesson?

Much more can be written about early humans and food production through agriculture. Treat this as an introduction to be followed by a view of Meso America and the Mound Builders of North America, perhaps in October.

Texas Master Gardener Specialists are a corps of Master Gardeners who support and expand the Bexar County educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Specialist training is designed to empower the Master Gardener with the knowledge and skills required to effectively support designated programs or projects, to include administration of projects, training of Master Gardeners, clientele presentations, and/or applied research and demonstrations.

Specialists have received a minimum of 16 hours of subject matter training: formal classroom training, field trips and tours, mentoring by experts, and/or self-directed study. Following completion of the training requirement, each individual has completed a minimum 20 hours of volunteer service in the designated program or project to obtain this title of Master Gardener Specialist.

⁷ Bryce, Trevor, Ancient Syrian Invasions, a three Thousand Year History



AgriLife Advice



It's crabgrass time again

by Paul Schattenberg

February 24, 2016

AgriLife Extension experts provide control advice for homeowners, others

DALLAS — Given the recent warm temperatures in North Texas, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts have put out the word that now is the time to treat for crabgrass.

“With soil temperatures rising to the upper 50s and low 60s, we may see crabgrass germination very soon, especially if we get rain,” said Janet Hurley, AgriLife Extension program specialist at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center in Dallas. “Now is a great time to apply pre-emergent herbicides.”

Hurley said crabgrass germination typically occurs in late winter, but varies from year to year based on temperature, rainfall and location.

“Germination usually begins when the soil temperature at a 2-inch depth reaches about 55 degrees for at least three days,” she said. “Since crabgrass is the first summer annual grassy weed to germinate, we see its initial presence as something of a signal for the application of pre-emergence herbicides.”

Dr. Matt Elmore, AgriLife Extension turfgrass specialist at the Dallas center, recently recommended homeowners and others who take care of turfgrass areas, such as groundskeepers and athletic field managers, apply pre-emergent herbicides in the very near future.

Elmore said when looking for crabgrass seedlings, walk along south-facing slopes, bare areas and areas along sidewalks.

Hurley noted bare spots and weak areas in the lawn are typically where people start to



Recent warm temperatures in North Texas may be facilitating crabgrass germination, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Dr. Casey Reynolds)

AgriLife Advice, Cont.

see new crabgrass growth.

Most pre-emergence herbicides must be applied before the target weed germinates or emerges or they will not control them.

“Although these herbicides are commonly used to control annual weeds that germinate at predictable times of the year, they will not control perennial weeds,” Hurley said. “A pre-emergence herbicide is the most effective way to control crabgrass. These herbicides are especially recommended for lawns with a history of crabgrass problems.”

Some of the common active ingredients in pre-emergence products available to homeowners include pendimethalin, dithiopyr and prodiamine. Trade names for these products include Pre-M, Bonide Crabgrass Preventer and Halts Crabgrass Preventer.

“Pre-emergence herbicides that contain these active ingredients will usually provide suitable crabgrass control when applied before crabgrass germination and according to the product label,” Hurley said. “These products mostly control grassy weeds, although they may control some broadleaf weeds as well. Always check to ensure that the product can be safely used on the turfgrass species in your lawn.”

Many pre-emergence products that contain dithiopyr are also labeled for early post-emergence control of small or seedling crabgrass plants, they said.

“Consider using these products if you cannot make the application before germination and check the label to ensure it contains dithiopyr and is labeled for early post-emergence control,” Hurley said.

She noted corn gluten meal is an organic option for crabgrass control, and while research has shown crabgrass control with this product is inconsistent, it may be effective in some situations.

“It is best to select a pre-emergence product that does not contain nitrogen fertilizer,” Hurley added. “While crabgrass preventers with nitrogen may be suitable for northern regions of the U.S., they should not be used in Texas. Warm-season grasses are still mostly dormant when crabgrass germinates and nitrogen fertilizer should not be applied until the lawn is mostly green.”

She also noted that unlike “weed and feed” products that control broadleaf weeds, pre-emergence herbicides are usually safe for use around trees and ornamentals. However, products that contain atrazine are one exception and some are labeled for use over the top of ornamentals.

AgriLife Advice, Cont.

Pre-emergence herbicides are effective only if they are applied uniformly and are watered into the soil by rainfall or irrigation before the crabgrass or other target weed emerges.

“See the product label for information on the amount of irrigation or rainwater needed,” she said. “After they are watered in, the herbicide molecules remain in the upper layer of soil and control weeds or grasses that germinate from seed for several weeks. If you plan to seed or sod, do not apply a pre-emergence herbicide without first checking the label for the appropriate reseeding and sodding interval.”

Hurley also said it is best not to apply some pre-emergence herbicides before sprigging or sodding.

“If you are planning this type of turf renovation, use other weed-control options,” she said. “In general, apply these herbicides only to well-established turfgrass. Check the product label if you have established turf from sod, seed or sprigs within the previous year. Many pre-emergence herbicides will impede encroachment of existing turfgrass into areas damaged by winterkill, traffic or diseases. It’s also a good idea not to use pre-emergence herbicides if your lawn has been severely damaged.”

Hurley said more information can be found on the Aggie Turf website <https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/turfgrass-weeds/large-crabgrass/>.

To find which pre-emergence herbicides are recommended for athletic fields and commercial uses, go to http://schoolipm.tamu.edu/files/2016/02/Pre_emergement_handout.pdf. This handout highlights herbicides labeled for control of grassy and small-seeded broadleaf weeds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember, Master Gardeners, as stated within this issue of the *Scion Newsletter*, you need to get 3 of your CEUs for recertification from attending Master Gardener General Meetings!

All meetings are on a Thursday, alternating monthly between afternoon (1 - 3 pm) and evening meetings (6 - 8 pm).

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

THIS MONTH - MARY IRISH!

"Ecological Landscaping" - Transform your "trouble spots" into your favorite spots! A gardening expert with ten published books, Mary will share her knowledge about creative southwest landscaping. Her books will also be available for sale and signing! Gary, her husband, may also be bringing some of his fantastic photographic plant art, available for sale at our meeting. This will be an afternoon meeting from 1 - 3 pm.

NEXT MONTH - DAVID RODRIGUEZ!

"Earth-Kind Gardening Practices" - Organic meets traditional gardening in this informative meeting on how to combine these two seemingly opposing methods of gardening! Join your fellow Master Gardeners on May 26th from 6 to 8 pm!



ATTENTION ALL BCMG!

Please visit the new [Bexar County Master Gardeners website](http://www.bexarmg.org) to get DETAILS on all the latest, hottest news and upcoming VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES! While at the website, you can also check out the Master Calendar for your future planning.

NEED TO REPORT YOUR HOURS?

Go To: www.bexarmg.org

Click on "Members"

Scroll down and click on "Report Your Volunteer Hours"

Join our
Master Gardener Group on
Facebook!

[Click Here](#)



Lawn & Garden Show Podcast

[Click Here](#)



hello
spring!

Elections for the Board of Directors will take place at the Monthly Meeting on June 16th!

Every certified BCMG is eligible for election to the Board! Please email [Jack Downey](mailto:Jack.Downey@bcmg.org) if you are interested in serving on the Board, and the position(s) that interest you.

Recommendations from Dotty Woodson's presentation at our March General Meeting:

AgriLife Plant Selector:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/plantselector/>

Plant Delights, Inc. On-line Nursery:

<http://plantdelights.com>

SAWS recommendations for shade plants:

<http://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/2015/08/embrace-shade/>



Viva Botanica!

Sat., April 16, 9 am - 2:30 pm
San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Pl., 78209

An annual Fiesta event for the entire family that celebrates the spring season in a fun atmosphere!

Volunteers are Needed!
Contact: [Ruby Zavala](mailto:Ruby.Zavala@sanbotanicalgarden.org)

Cibolo Nature Center



26th Annual Mostly Native Plant Sale!

Saturday, April 2, 9 am - 3 pm

Kendall County Fairgrounds
1307 River Rd., Boerne, 78006

Fee: \$5

MG Specialist Courses in 2016

- **Plant Propagation** - Apr. 21-23, Tarrant County MGs, Ft. Worth
- **Rainwater Harvesting** - Apr. 27-29, Dallas County MGs, Dallas
- **Composter** - June 22-24, BCMGs, SAT
- **Jr. MG - Youth Educator** - July 27-29, BCMGs, San Antonio
- **Earth-Kind** - Aug 3-5, Fort Bend MGs, Rosenberg
- **TX Superstar** - Sept. 20-22, BCMGs, San Antonio
- **Vegetable Specialist** - Nov. 9-11, BCMGs, San Antonio

Contact: [David Rodriguez](mailto:David.Rodriguez@bcmg.org) for more information!

Recording Volunteer Hours and CEUs - March 2016

Volunteer Hours

To record your volunteer hours, go to the "Member" page of our website (bexarmg.org) and create an account by establishing your email address and a password. Then follow the prompts to record the name of the event/project, the date and the line item number of the event/project you wish to record your hours under the Apply to Project. For instance, if you volunteered at the Shultze House you would select "405 - Shultze House" from the list of approved volunteer hour events/projects.

[Master Gardener Interns](#) are required to obtain fifty volunteer hours in approved projects/events to attain certification as a Master Gardener. [Certified Master Gardeners](#) are required to obtain thirty volunteer hours in approved projects/events annually to maintain their certification.

Continuing Educational Units (CEUs)

To record your CEUs, use the same process outlined above to enter our website and follow the prompts. All CEUs should be recorded under one of the following numbers:

- 501 - AgriLife Presentations
- 502 - Approved Gardening Presentations
- 503 - Monthly BCMG Meetings
- 504 - TMGA State Conference

You are required to complete six hours of approved CEUs annually to maintain your certification as a Master Gardener. Three of those six hours must be obtained by attending BCMG monthly meetings. There is no limit on the number of approved CEUs you can accrue each year. The BCMG monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. Monthly BCMG meetings alternate between evening meetings and daytime meetings to accommodate Master Gardener schedules; January was an evening meeting, February was a daytime meeting, etc. BCMG monthly meetings are announced on the website and in the **E-blast** and **Scion**.

You cannot double count volunteer hours and CEUs. You must record either volunteer hours or CEUs but not both for the same project/event.

Travel Time

Travel time for approved volunteer activities can be recorded at the same time you record your volunteer hours. A maximum of thirty minutes travel time each way can be recorded for your volunteer hours.

Presentations and Articles

You can record one CEU for preparing an article that is published in the Scion. You cannot record any CEUs for presenting a presentation; you can record volunteer hours.



ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

➤ Green Spaces' Community Gardens

Knowledgeable gardeners are wanted to occasionally help with garden projects, and regularly serve as garden mentors. We have two staff; everyone else is a volunteer loving the chance to garden a little. Contact Tia Moen at tia@greensatx.org or check out one of our volunteer pages at www.greensatx.org or www.meetup.com/San-Antonio-CG/.

➤ San Antonio Botanical Garden

Greenhouse, Terrarium Ecosystem Program: contact SABOT Volunteer Coordinator [Nadezhda Garza](#) at 210-207-3261

➤ Children's Vegetable Garden Program

Contact Mary Fernandez at fernandez.m1978@gmail.com or Anne Marie Simmons at am-simmons@hotmail.com.

➤ San Antonio Food Bank Gardens

Saturday from 9am – 12pm. [Click here](#) for more information.

➤ Wounded Warrior Gardens

Contact Joyce Dare at joyce_dare@satx.rr.com.

➤ Earth Kind Speakers Bureau

Contact Sandy Justice at sandy@sandyjustice.com to get on the speaker request notification list.

➤ Helping Hands

Help BCMG with mailings or other work at MG office. Contact: Holly Julian at khollyj@satx.rr.com

➤ Plant Hotline

Our Plant Hotline answers phone and email questions daily. Call 210-467-6575 or ask by [email](#).

➤ Plant Trials

Contact David Rodriguez at dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu to be contacted when help is needed for a project.

From Your Board of Directors...

The BCMG Board is here to serve the Master Gardeners of Bexar County and to assist Bexar County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in providing education opportunities to the community in which we live. Please feel free to contact the Board – or a particular member – with suggestions, ideas, comments, etc.



Minutes – BCMG Board of Directors Meeting March 10, 2016

Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Jack Downey, March 10, 2016, 4:02 p.m.
- Board Members present: Jack Downey (President), Anne Marie Simmons (Vice President), Lori Bindseil (Treasurer), Sherry Cantrell (Secretary), Jaime Daily (Member at Large), Ted Ritchie (Member at Large).
- Absentee Board Member: Inez Ornelas (Membership)
- Other Attendees: David Rodriguez (CEA), Ruby Zavala (Youth Program Coordinator), Lou Kellogg (Director of Education), Barbara Lutz (Past President), Anna Vogler (Water Conservation), John Opiela

Approval of Minutes for February BOD Meeting

- February meeting minutes were distributed via email February 23. Motion to approve the February minutes made by Jack; 2nd by Anne Marie. Approved by unanimous acclamation.

CEA Report – David Rodriguez

- Rodeo went well.
- Children's Vegetable Garden (CVG) is in week 4 of 16. Although rain presented some challenges, overall, the rain has been beneficial. Lyn Komada is doing an excellent job with the Bexar County Youth Gardens blog. The blog has been nominated for Awards.
- David reported that Jack and the selection committee did a great job selecting interns. Some interns have already stepped up to volunteer at rodeo and on the communication committee. A fall class is being considered.
- Dottie Woodard will be doing the March 14–16 Irrigation Specialist Class.
- Vegetable Specialist training will be held November 8–10.

Youth Program Coordinator Report – Ruby Zavala

- February weekend youth activities went well, with about 500 each weekend at Ruby's table.
- The Spring open house event held this past Saturday, March 5, only had about 50 kids in attendance. She would like to see more, about 100, and hopes to get better attendance in the Fall.
- As reported before, the NISD grant has expired, but she and others are still working on trying to keep the program active.
- She and Molly are completing plans for Spring Break camp activities, which include having the experts on snakes and falcons in attendance.
- The Learn, Grow, Eat & Go (LGEG) program is ongoing. With the help of grant money, the program is going well and gardens are looking good.
- Some interns from the new Master Gardener's class have signed up with the Speaker's Bureau.

Water Conservation Report – Anna Vogler

- Anna advised everything is on track for the Spring Bloom event on March 12. She has 25 1-gallon containers of the "proper" milkweed plant (*asclepias tuberosa*) to plant for attracting butterflies that will be available for sale at the event. Milberger's will also have the plant in stock.
- The International Tree Climbing Exhibition will be held in Brackenridge Park, March 31–April 4.
- Anna reported SAWS is pushing for more rain harvesting workshops to be held, and she is in desperate need of Master Gardeners help to meet this need. A proposal was discussed on how to offer the opportunity to the general membership. The following was decided: A one day training session, with lunch provided, will be offered for a cost of either \$50 (which includes a 50-gallon rain barrel) or \$25 (if no rain barrel is needed). The newly trained Master Gardener will then have the opportunity to earn \$25 back after he/she facilitates 20 hours of training workshops. Motion to approve the rain barrel training proposal was made by Anna; 2nd by Ted. Approved by unanimous acclamation.

Education Report– Lou Kellogg

- Lou reported Dottie will be doing the upcoming Irrigation Specialist training. March 16 is the cutoff date for enrollment, and the cost is \$200. With the completion of 20 hours of training, the specialist is eligible for a reimbursement of \$100.
- Additional trainings for the year include the following: Composting – June 22–24; JMG – July 27–29; Texas Superstar – Sep 20–22; Vegetable Specialist – Nov 8–10

Membership Report– Inez Ornelas (not present)

- Inez reported, via email, dated March 9:
 - Members are entering time but not selecting a CATEGORY. In the "Monthly Summary Report" and "BCMG By Project" report there are numerous hours where no CATEGORY was selected.
 - To date, 12 members have completed their required hours for re-certification.

Treasurer's Report – Lori Bindseil

- Operating budget is \$83K+.
- SAWS invoice for February is pending and will include 18 days of Rodeo.
- Rodeo plant sales were \$16,833. After paying Peterson Bros. \$7890, net profit from plant sales was about \$8900+. This is better than last years numbers.
- Other rodeo expenses are about \$9200 to-date.

Old Business

- BCMG Clothing Committee: Jack reported that two interns have stepped forward to serve on the clothing committee. Their plan is to stock inventory and have items available at each monthly meeting. Clothing items are only for those who are MGs, and not to be made available to the general public.

- Reinstatement Policy: Barbara commented that we should include wording to address in-state transfers in final draft of reinstatement policy. Motion to approve the proposal made by Anna; 2nd by Ted. Approved by unanimous acclamation.

New Business

- E-Blast guidelines: While a few complaints were received, the current format/guidelines will remain.
- Texas Nursery & Landscape Organization (TNLA): A question was raised as to whether BCMG has a membership in TNLA, as a group; the answer is no; however, some Individuals who wish to join the organization may be eligible for membership.
- Barbara reported on the Festival of Flowers event. Jack asked if two sections were needed: one for Texas Superstars and another for Plant Sales. Jack will contact Smitty and see if he wants to do that.
- Policy on BCMG credit cards: A policy on the use of BCMG credit cards was submitted for approval. Motion to approve the proposal was made by Ted; 2nd by Anna. Approved by unanimous acclamation.
- Policy on BCMG identifying clothing: A policy requiring MGs to wear BCMG identifying clothing when representing BCMG in the public was submitted for approval. A suggestion was made that we have some clothing items (such as an apron, etc.) available for events for those members who choose not to purchase any clothing items. Motion to approve the proposal was made by Ted; 2nd by Jamie. Approved by unanimous acclamation. This policy will not be implemented until the clothing committee has clothing items available for purchase.
- Master Gardener of the Month was selected: Robert Padilla.

Other Business – not on agenda

- Jamie suggested we honor Jerry Parsons (e.g. BCMG Emeritus) at the August 18 meeting for all his work and involvement with BCMG. All agreed with her thought. Suggestions made were a plaque, gift card to Sea Island, and a BCMG jacket. All present preferred a jacket over a

plaque. A jacket will be selected after the clothing committee has samples. David agreed to find out what size to order.

- Jamie expressed concern that some members may be confused on a few items and that clarifications should be posted regarding the following: 1) how to get CEUs. Clarify that all CEUs may be obtained from attending monthly meetings. 2) travel time. Clarify that MGs are only allowed to report their travel time up to 30 minutes (max) each way. 3) CEUS for presenters. Clarify that only volunteer hours (not CEU credit) may be taken by those making presentations.
- A suggestion was made to hold an “After Rodeo” meeting to review what went well and what did not. The thought is we have gotten away from what the Rodeo is all about and that we need to adjust our focus; for example, the Buckaroo tent needs some revamping to draw the attention of kids.

President’s Report – Jack Downey

- Jack reported on Girls, Inc., an organization that strives to empower girls to succeed. He threw out the idea to Ruby of trying to find some way of working with this organization.

Upcoming BOD Meeting

- Date and time for next BOD meeting is April 14, 2016, 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned by Jack Downey, March 10, 2016, 5:13 p.m

Sherry Cantrell

Secretary

Jack Downey

President

**In Cooperation with
Bexar County Commissioners
Court:**

Nelson W. Wolff,
County Judge

Sergio "Chico"
Rodriguez,
Commissioner
Precinct 1

Paul Elizondo,
Commissioner
Precinct 2

Kevin A. Wolff,
Commissioner
Precinct 3

Tommy Calvert,
Commissioner
Precinct 4

**BCMG Board of Directors
Meeting**

Thurs., April 14, 4 pm - 6 pm
3355 Cherry Ridge Dr., San Antonio

Meetings are held monthly. Members can request items to be added to the agenda by emailing the President, President@bexarmg.org at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

All members are welcome to observe the meetings, however in order to accommodate seating, please email the President that you will be attending.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President@bexarmg.org

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**To Send an E-mail to the entire
Board**

board@bexarcountymastergardeners.org



What is a Master Gardener?

Bexar County Master Gardeners are trained, certified volunteers who support the educational horticulture programs and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service in Bexar County. We work with County Extension Agent-Horticulture David Rodriguez to help create and maintain gardens that showcase plants for our area; help with trial gardens and field research; share planting, composting, and irrigation methods; present information at garden and trade events; answer horticultural inquiries over the telephone; organize and/or present educational programs to various groups; introduce children to gardens through programs in schools and the Children's Vegetable Garden; and increase awareness of integrated pest management, water conservation, and other environmental stewardship issues.

Master Gardener training sessions are held in spring. Classes are usually held on Wednesdays from 12 pm to 4 pm. After acceptance into the program, intern students are required to submit to a background check, attend the 13-week course, and complete 50 hours of volunteer service within a year before they are certified as a Master Gardener. Lectures by experts in their field, hands-on activities, and field trips make up the classroom experience. A large variety of volunteer activities offered throughout the year provide ample opportunity to complete the service requirement. After initial certification, Master Gardeners are required to complete 30 hours of service and 6 continuing education hours each year to re-certify.

Learning and teaching others is the Bexar County Master Gardener mission. We are "hands-on" gardeners who are interested in sharing all aspects of gardening with anyone who will listen.



BUDS & BARK
Earth-Kind® In The Park
**2016 Texas Master Gardener
 Conference**
May 17 – 19, 2016



Registration Information

For more information or to register, please visit:

<http://www.ccmgatx.org/txmg2016>

Registration Fees

Early Bird: Now through Dec. 31, 2015 -- **\$175**
Regular Registration: January 1 – April 15, 2016 -- **\$200**
Late Registration: April 16 – May 17, 2016 -- **\$225**

From The Editor...

"You cannot go through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." - Jane Goodall

Spring's Unveiling



Around the middle of last month I was driving to the Cibolo Nature Center to do my weekly nest box monitoring for purple martins and other cavity nesting birds. I didn't realize it when I started out (because I didn't check my Weatherbug app!), but a major portion of I-10W, as well as Boerne itself, had become enveloped in a thick layer of fog. It was really difficult to see much more than a quarter mile in front of me and it cast a very eerie pall on the scenery around me. It was weird. Considering this was the middle of March, I expected more spring-like weather, not something that

looked like it was a scene straight out of a creepy gothic novel.

When I arrived at the nature center, I unloaded my tools, clipboard, and notebook and headed out to do my monitoring. I had my faithful companion, Gibson, with me and he didn't seem to be bothered by the fog at all, "no worries, all is as it should be," is Gibson's general attitude towards most things. The heavy mist had really drawn my attention to what was going on around me, just because the weather seemed so peculiar. It was as if Nature was trying to "hide" something. In the distance, the cypress trees lining the creek looked dark and dead, as if it was the middle of winter rather than the beginning of spring.

However, the warming temperatures gradually burned off the cloak of heavy morning mist to reveal a landscape beginning to literally burst with the first signs of spring. Fresh, almost glowing, bright green grass erratically sprouting up amongst the dull brown remnants of last season's brushy bluestem and switchgrass was the first thing I noticed. Walking along the boardwalk in the marsh I saw long straggling stands of dewberry, blooming with fresh white flowers, creeping along the mounds of dried grasses with canals of clear water in between. Looking out across the small pond, I noticed a scum starting to form across the water, and beneath it mossy colored, furry looking aquatic plants with tiny fish darting around within it.

Then, suddenly, as if signaled by an invisible conductor, the birds started singing. A Carolina wren sang out, "Tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle!!" And, although I would love to brag that I can "bird by ear," I had to lift my binoculars to see amongst the branches of nearby trees the bright, buttery rump of a yellow-rumped warbler, brilliant red northern cardinals, mockingbirds, titmice and chickadees, all seemingly in chorus singing: "It's here! It's here! Spring has come!"

The breeze picked up, creating ripples across the prairie grasses like waves across a lake - the veil had been lifted, and spring was revealing herself. Looking closer, I noticed an anole sunning itself; it's green skin the same color as the new green buds erupting from the tree branch it was sitting on. Insects now joined the bird's chorus as I walked along the prairie trail: grasshoppers leaping out in front of me; red admiral, dainty sulphur, and border patch butterflies erratically bouncing along through the new growth. The air smelled sweet, but I couldn't identify the source.

Spring had definitely arrived! It was pushing its way through the gloom of the morning like an unapologetic child running for freedom at recess. How could I have missed it?

I then heard another familiar sound of spring when I opened one of the nest boxes I was monitoring: the hunger cry of newly hatched baby bluebirds! They were the first hatchlings of the season and they, more than any other, announced that spring was here.

So, my fellow Master Gardeners, it is time for you to brush off your garden shoes (if you haven't already) and get outside to experience the arrival of spring! I challenge you to go out and enjoy the balmy temperatures that are so short-lived in our area of the country – it won't be like this for long.



In closing, I am including a poem from one of my favorite poets, Nancy Wood, who expressed so eloquently in her writing the feeling that comes with being one with the natural world, if we will only listen.

Your Editor,
Kimber Briggs

The Voice That Beautifies the Land

The Voice That Beautifies the Land
is the insistent call of the dove in spring,
or the movement of rock on the mesa top,
In answer to a rising cloud of butterflies.

The Voice That Beautifies the Land
is the squeak of corn growing high in summer,
or the soft kiss of water touching sand
Along the riverbank, where locusts demand to be heard.

The Voice That Beautifies the Land
is the whisper of dry leaves dancing in the fall,
or the cry of geese in arrowhead formation,
Saying farewell to the rivers that fed them.

The Voice That Beautifies the Land
is the murmur of snowflakes in winter,
or the creak of old trees rising to catch them
As the raven announces the shadow of spring.

The Voice That Beautifies the Land
is the chorus of clouds bumping into one another,
or the crack of ice crying out for sun
as the turtle sings of a new season in the mud.



Poem © 1995 Nancy C. Wood, from *Dancing Moons*, courtesy of the Nancy Wood Literary Trust. For more poems by Nancy Wood please visit www.NancyWood.com.