Guadalupe County Master Gardeners

2014 Class 26
Master Gardener Programs (also known as Extension Master Gardener Programs) are volunteer programs to advise and educate the public on gardening and horticulture.

In the US, groups are affiliated with a land grant university and one of its offices.
Master Gardener Programs

Master Gardeners are active in all 50 states in the United States and four Canadian provinces.

According to the 2009 Extension Master Gardener Survey, there are nearly 95,000 active Extension Master Gardeners, who provide approximately 5,000,000 volunteer service hours of per year to their communities.
Guadalupe County Master Gardeners
About our Organization

❖ 503 C Non profit organization

❖ Chartered under the Texas Master Gardeners through A&M university

❖ Guadalupe County Agrilife Extension Service

❖ Coordinator: Travis Franke

❖ Elected Governing Board
What do we do?

- Educate the public through a wide variety of venues (workshops, newsletter, information booths at fairs, etc.)
- Provide resource information and answer questions
- Maintain office hours and a lending library
- Support the activities and mission of the Guadalupe County Agrilife Extension Service
Guadalupe County Fair

We are responsible for the Horticulture Division of the annual Guadalupe County Fair

- Educational materials and demonstrations
- Children’s activities
- Judging and Awards for Garden and Field Crops

We are one of the few remaining counties that still provide this opportunity for local gardeners and farmers
Located at 1101 Elbel, Schertz

In 2013, we harvested 5,703 lbs of fresh produce

Produce supplied to Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program Food Bank

Immaculate Conception Catholic Food Bank in Marion
In 2013
1,648 volunteer hours

Volunteer workdays every Tuesday and Friday mornings
Water Fairs

In the Spring, the Guadalupe County Agrilife Extension Agents conduct a Water Fair to 3rd grade students across the school districts in Guadalupe County.

The Master Gardeners help prepare and conduct several presentations and demonstrations for the students and teachers regarding water conservation.
Big Red Barn
Agricultural Heritage Center

- GCMG support the gardens at the Big Red Barn.
- Students come for educational programs
- Volunteer work days every Friday
Seguin Earth Day

GCMG support the efforts of the City of Seguin through participation in the Earth Day event. This April we provided three booths:

- Children planted a flower in biodegradable pots
- Information booth with materials and consultation with Master Gardeners
- 40 Gallon Challenge to education about household water use and conservation
Junior Master Gardeners
Requirements of the certified members:
Pay the annual dues of $20
Conduct a minimum of 12 hours of volunteer work on approved projects annually
Attain a minimum of 6 hrs of continuing education annually
Obtain a criminal background check every 2 years (through the organization)
Sign a volunteer agreement with the state organization annually
How do I get Certified as a GCMG?

Attend classes through Guadalupe County Master Gardeners (minimum of 50 hrs)

2014 class will meet Wednesdays, August 13-December 10
Time: 10-2:30

First Presbyterian Church 305 King Street, Seguin, Tx

Application Deadline is July 31, 2014
GCMG Class information

Cost: $190 (10% discount if registered and paid by July 15, 2014)

Classes will be taught by professional practitioners, Agrilife Extension Agents and experienced Master Gardeners

Course content is comparable to college level classes
The Texas Master Gardener Handbook . . . is designed to be a problem-solving tool for Master Gardeners as they work to address public needs in the areas of horticulture and the environment.
How do I get Certified as a GCMG?

Complete an internship within 1 year of finishing your class
   50 hrs of approved activities

Pay your annual dues when certified
How can you help?

- Volunteer
- Become a certified Master Gardener
- Make a donation, it is tax deductible