

# Guadalupe County Master Gardeners



2014 Class 26

# Master Gardener Programs

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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





# *Texas Master Gardener*<sup>SM</sup>



## **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



*Texas  
Master Gardener*<sup>SM</sup>



## 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



*Texas  
Master Gardener*<sup>SM</sup>



## 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**



*Texas  
Master Gardener*<sup>SM</sup>



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.



*Texas  
Master Gardener*<sup>SM</sup>



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



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