



Gardening Volunteers of South Texas  
6338 N. New Braunfels #252  
SA, TX 78209 (210) 251-8101

January 2012

Also Available Online

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



GVST is now on Facebook!

Easy Access on

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



## Calendar

### Monday, January 23 Essentials of Gardening Class

12n-3pm  
San Antonio Garden Center

Session #1  
*2012 Planting Calendar*  
**Dr. Jerry Parsons**

Session #2  
*Worm Composting*  
**Kyle Harrell**, TexasRedworm.com

### Thursday, January 26 Annual Volunteer Dinner Meeting

6-9pm  
San Antonio Garden Center

### Saturday, February 25 Watersaver Landscape Design School

9am-2pm  
Park Hills Baptist Church  
17747 San Pedro  
(just south of 1604)

### Saturday, February 25 Leon Valley Earthwise Living Day

10am-2pm  
Leon Valley Civic Center  
6427 Evers Rd.

### Monday, February 27 Essentials of Gardening Class

12n-3pm  
San Antonio Garden Center

### Saturday, March 10 SAWS Spring Bloom

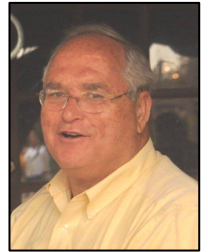
9am-1pm  
SAWS Headquarters  
Hwy 281 @ Mulberry

## Starting the New Year

### *2012 Planting Calendar & Worms at Essentials Class; Annual Volunteer Dinner Meeting January 26*

We had several suggestions about a class on "what to plant when" and who better to ask than **Dr. Jerry Parsons**. Along with a month-to-month calendar, Jerry will also offer recommended varieties.

After planting its off to *Worm Composting* with **Kyle Harrell** of TexasRedworm.com. Kyle gave a fall talk at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, then coincidentally, was featured in Roy Bragg's Express-News column on January 4.



**NOTE THAT THIS MONTH'S CLASS IS ON THE 4th MONDAY, JANUARY 23**, because the usual 3rd Monday is Martin Luther King Day and Garden Center is closed.

### *Mark Peterson Featured Speaker at Annual Volunteer Dinner*



Our Annual Volunteer Dinner Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 26, also at Garden Center--6-9pm.

GVST is providing the entre-- brisket and sausage from Rudy's. Please bring a salad, side-dish or dessert.

This year, SAWS will begin serving the former Bexar-Met areas, and SAWS Conservation Coordinator **Mark Peterson** will be at the meeting to tell us how SAWS will be reaching out to these new customers with water conservation education.

We will also distribute new 2012 volunteer ID cards, directory, 2012 Essential Class schedules and a calendar of events for the coming year. If you recently ordered a name badge or shirt, you can pick it up at the meeting.

RSVP to Anne Schiller at [anne@anneschiller.com](mailto:anne@anneschiller.com) or 380-3532.

## No Rodeo Tomato Sale This Year



Each year, GVST has sold the Rodeo tomato one weekend of the two-week Rodeo run. We were invited to do the sale as GO TEXAN members, in the area that showcased GO TEXAN products and services. This area was coordinated by the Texas Department of Agriculture's Regional Marketing office in San Antonio. Last year, the local offices throughout the state were closed due to state budget cuts, and there will be no GO TEXAN area at the rodeo this year--except for a single booth which will focus on the GO TEXAN program rather than individual vendor members. The Master Gardeners will continue to sell this year's Rodeo Tomato in their area. Our thanks to **Marilyn Magaro** for inviting us to participate all those years when she was our TDA Regional Marketing Coordinator.

## Two Exciting New GVST Projects to Launch This Year

### Watersaver Landscape Design School



*The 'Vineyard' landscape featured on this year's Watersaver Landscape Tour was designed by **Brian Hough**.*

How many times have you been at an event and someone comes up and asks "Do you do landscape design? I have to do something different."

Partnering with SAWS on Saturday, February 25, GVST will offer our first *Watersaver Landscape Design School* featuring our own **Brian Hough**. Brian is one of our "charter" volunteers and served on the GVST Board during our first years as an organization. He is now a professional designer, whose landscapes have been featured on numerous Watersaver Landscape and Garden Conservancy tours. Brian will walk school attendees his design basics, including his most important message--resist the urge to buy your plants until you have your design plan in mind.

The school will be 9am-2pm (approximately) at Park Hills Baptist Church, 17747 San Pedro, just south of Loop 1604 North.

In addition to Brian, other presenters include **Tom Harris** and **Mark Peterson**. The event will be interactive. There will be opportunities for one-on-ones about individual landscaping goals. Pre-registration is \$25, or \$40 per household. Each individual or household will receive a copy of the TNLA *Best of Texas* landscape guide, the *Native and Adapted Texas Plant Guide*, SAWS' *San Antonio Landscape Care Guide* and numerous other informational pieces.

### Discovering New Plants for Texas Educational Exhibit

It's not quite the King Tut Exhibit, but we'll be telling the story of how drought-tolerant plants are 'discovered', adapted and marketed. This project will tell the story of how our Research and Development (R&D) volunteer team, working under the direction of **Drs. Jerry Parsons** and **Larry Stein**, propagate the plants that after trials, find their way to the general public, with some earning the distinction of Texas Superstars™. Companion hand-outs will be created on how to propagate plants, including taking cuttings and saving seed.

R&D volunteers **Pat DeWinne** and **Diane Dondero** are spearheading the project, with photos and facts by Jerry and other R&D volunteers. The exhibit will be set up next to the GVST booth at all of our events--plus some additional locations as requested.

#### Remember This?



*This 'before' picture of the R&D greenhouse on Seale Rd. was in last month's newsletter.*

A new roof and the greenhouse reconstruction is 99% complete, thanks to **Rob DeRocher** who estimates he worked some 300 hours during the month of December--dawn till dark-- to complete the project before the coldest of the winter weather arrives. Peterson Bros. donated the time of some of their employees to help complete the roof installation.  
--Photos by Rob



## New GVST Website In the Works



Webmaster Andre Velthoen is at work creating a new site that will feature more information and more pictures of GVST at work and play.

We are also adding pictures and information about all of the plants that GVST will sell at this year's gardening events.

### Are You a Blogger?

There will also be a place for gardening blogs by GVST volunteers. Contact Anne at [anne@anneschiller.com](mailto:anne@anneschiller.com) or 380-3532 for more information.



## Community Garden

### Pruning Seminar

**Dr. Larry Stein** will conduct a fruit-tree pruning seminar at Fanick's Garden Center--**Saturday, January 21**, 9am-12n. Fanick's is located at 1025 Holmgreen Rd., off South WW White.

### Fruit Tree Adoption



GVST is a member of the Alamo Forest Partnership and AFP is sponsoring its second annual *Jammin' Jams* fruit tree adoption--**Saturday, January 28**, 9am-1pm at the Pearl Brewery Farmer's Market. Volunteers are needed to help distribute some 350 trees. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Anne at [anne@anneschiller.com](mailto:anne@anneschiller.com) or 380-3532. Shifts are 7-10am, 8-11am, or 11am-1pm. Selection will include apple, pear, fig, peach, plum, persimmon, pomegranates, pecan, and citrus.

### Children's Vegetable Gardening

Registration now open for the Children's Vegetable Garden Program at the Botanical Garden. Kids 8-13 can learn gardening from the Master Gardeners. Classes are every Saturday morning, **February 18-June 2**. Call the Extension Office at 467-6575 for more information.

### Wild Neighbors

Received a note from Texas AgriLIFE entomologist **Molly Keck** asking us to help spread the word about a free workshop--**Tuesday, February 28**, 2-4pm at the Extension Office at 3355 Cherry Ridge. **Judit Green**, Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist Judit Green will discuss "Understanding Your Wild Neighbors". Learn how to identify, prevent and manage the urban wildlife taking up residence in your neighborhood. If you would like to attend, let Anne know at [anne@anneschiller.com](mailto:anne@anneschiller.com) or 380-3532 and we'll send Molly a GVST headcount.



## Volunteer Bulletin Board

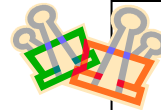
Sign Up by Contacting Anne Schiller  
[anne@anneschiller.com](mailto:anne@anneschiller.com) or 380-3532

### Earthwise Living Day Saturday, February 25

Leon Valley Civic Center  
6427 Evers Rd.

Shifts: 10am-12n  
12n-2pm

Sell plants and publications at GVST booth.



### SAWS Spring Bloom Saturday, March 10

SAWS Headquarters  
281 & Mulberry

Shifts: 8:30-11am  
11am-1:30pm

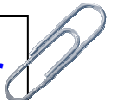
Assist SAWS in distributing plants; sell plants and publications at GVST booth.

### San Antonio Garden Center Annual Plant Sale Friday, Saturday March 29-30

SA Garden Center  
3310 N. New Braunfels

Shifts: 9am-12n  
12n-3pm  
Both Days

Sell plants (not GVST plants).  
GVST is a member of Garden Center so we contribute volunteers to this GC fundraising event.



### Be Ready for Spring Pruning & Trimming

Bring your hand-pruning tools to the next *Essentials Class* --Monday, January 23--and have them sharpened by Dr. Phix-It (aka **Tom Harris**) for just \$2 per tool--a donation to GVST.



# Annual Volunteer Dinner Meeting

Thursday, January 26  
6-9am

San Antonio Garden Center  
3310 N. New Braunfels

*New to GVST?*

*This is our one, "official" meeting of the year  
when we conduct official business:*

- Election of 2012 Board Members
- Distribution of GVST ID Cards for Discounts at local garden centers
- Distribution of Volunteer Directory, Event Calendar and Class Schedule
- Early bird sign up for Spring events

**Featured Speaker**  
**Mark Peterson, SAWS**

Bring a salad, side dish, dessert or vegetarian entree  
to compliment  
brisket and sausage from Rudy's

RSVP to [Anne@AnneSchiller.com](mailto:Anne@AnneSchiller.com)  
or 380-3532

## New Board Nominations for 2012

After our call for Board nominations in the December newsletter, two volunteers were nominated and agreed to serve on the 2012 GVST Board: **Alton Fischer** and **Helen Nolen**. Pending approval by the general assembly at the January 26 Annual Volunteer Meeting, they will join current Board members: **Ron Csehil, Rob DeRocher, David Eastman, Cheryl Gorhum, Linda Higby** and **Melody McMahon**. GVST bylaws, which are published in the annual volunteer directory, specify that the Board be comprised of between 7 and 9 members.



*Last but Certainly Not Least...  
A Note of Thanks to Those Who Have  
Contributed to GVST~*

**Tom Harris** and **Ron Csehil** spoke at the December Essentials Class, along with **Beverly Hayes** from the Botanical Garden. Beverly substituted on short notice for the originally scheduled speaker. Through the Texas CEMAP plant marketing program, funds were contributed through **Dr. Larry Stein** and **David Rodriguez** for greenhouse reconstruction. **Peterson Bros.** donated employee labor to assist with installing the greenhouse roof.



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