



The Scion

Newsletter



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

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



President's Message



Hi Everyone,

April was a great month! Lots of rain, cool mornings and warm afternoons! I love spring. The trees have their leaves, the wildflowers have been outstanding, the grass is green, and the veggies are growing.

April was also a busy month for Bexar County Master Gardeners! We had quite a few events where our wonderful volunteers like **Donna Armstrong, Mary Valdez, Karen Gardner, Cyndi Tourtellot, Mary Newsom, Nancy Black, John Vann, Helen Henderson, Joyce Felter, Henry Brune, Barbara Rice, Mary Fernandez** and others shared their gardening knowledge. The Speakers Bureau gave a lot of presentations. **Sandy Justice** gave a great talk on Begonias at our Educational Seminar.

Our Bexar County Master Gardeners **Facebook** page has many members, both master gardeners and others who love gardening. Thanks go to **Lisa Nixon** and **Shawn Bowers** for hosting. If you are on Facebook, you need to join the group.

The state **Texas Master Gardener Conference** hosted by Bell County MGs

was informative and fun. We were fortunate to gather **five awards** at the conference: **First Place** in the *Outstanding Master Gardeners* category; **2nd** for *Project* (Rodeo) and *Research* (Strawberry Project); and **3rd** for *Educational Program* (Teacher Trainings) and *County JMG Program* (JMG Program at Children's Vegetable Garden Program). Joining me in representing BCMG at the conference were **Jack Downey, Lou Kellogg, John Sells, John Hernandez, Bill Manning, Anna Vogler, Doris Westbrook, Jamie Daily, Ruth Rea, Liz Malloy** and **David Rodriguez**.

Don't forget to enter your hours on our website. If you're having problems, contact me at bblutz@stic.com.

Enjoy your gardens,

Barbara Lutz



Master Gardeners Out & About!

2015 Texas Master Gardener Conference



BCMG Group



David Rodriguez, Barbara Lutz, Jayla Fry



Jack Downey, Jayla Fry



Awards Banquet



Jack Downey, Barbara Lutz, Jayla Fry, David Rodriguez

MG Out & About, Cont.



State Conference: Anna Vogler's workshop arrangement



*Standard Aero Earth Day
(Barbara Lutz, Mary Newsom)*



*Standard Aero Earth Day
(Nancy Black, Mary Newsom)*



RackSpace Green Day



*UTHSC Earth Day
(Mary Valdez, Karen Gardner)*



Sharon Kilmer

April BCMG Educational Seminar: "Begonias, Not Your Ordinary Garden Variety"



Joyce Dare (front) and attendees



Sandy Justice



May Gardening Chores

Tom Harris, Ph. D., BCMG Class 13

"The Hill Country Gardener"

www.thehillcountrygardener.com



Birds and Wildlife

- Lower the purple martin house to clean it out.
- Change hummingbird-feeder sugar water every week.

Color

- Get begonias and impatiens in. Wait until mid-month to plant periwinkles. Do not water overhead.
- Mandevilla, bougainvillea and Chinese hibiscus are great patio plants.
- Deadhead spent flowers.
- Hot weather plants: firebush, lantana, poinciana, Esperanza, firespike, caladium, coleus, begonia, moss rose, hibiscus, bougainvillea, purslane, cannas and blue princess verbena.
- Fertilizing potted plants with water-soluble product brings rich color.
- Fertilize roses for continued blooming.
- Let wildflowers go to seed before mowing.
- Flower seeds to be sown directly in the soil include amaranthus, celosia, morning glory, sunflowers and zinnias.
- Plant hibiscus, bougainvillea or mandevilla vines in containers.

Fruits and Nuts

- Peaches, apples and plums are ready to harvest when the base color changes from green to yellow.
- This is the month for pecan case-

bearer damage. Apply Lorsban or Malathion.

- Keep suckers pruned off fruit trees.
- Keep fruit trees well watered.

Ornamentals

- Control army worms and web worms with Bt, Spinosad, or Malathion.
- Hold bluebonnet seeds in the fridge until September.
- Firebush for sun and firespike for shade. Hibiscus, cigar plant, dwarf Chinese trumpet creeper, lantana, and firebush on the patio.
- Caladium corms can be planted now. Wait until temperatures are above 70 F.

Shade Trees and Shrubs

- Do NOT prune oak trees.
- If red-tipped photinia leaves have black spots, remove leaves and throw them in the trash.
- Be careful with string-trimmers around young trees.
- Spray summer-weight oil to control scale bugs on euonymous.
- If red-tip photinias require constant pruning, replace with holly, nandina, xylosma, eleagnus, or pyracantha.

Turf Grass

- Don't bag lawn clippings.
- May is the month to fertilize buffalo grass but only every 2 years.

May Gardening Chores, Cont.

- If starting a new Bermuda grass lawn, use 2-3 lbs. of seed per 1,000 sq. ft. and water twice a day.
- St. Augustine grass will fill in drought-killed areas if watered regularly.
- There's still time to fertilize grass.
- Yellowing grass leaves with darker green veins signal symptoms of iron deficiency.

Vegetables

- Fruit set is sensitive to high temperatures; plant okra, Southern peas, peanuts, sweet corn, watermelons, cucumbers, squash, cantaloupes and eggplant the first part of May.
- Pick tomatoes when they change from green to green-white color.

- Keep the tomatoes well watered and mulched to avoid blossom-end rot. Avoid watering the leaves.
- Side dress vegetables with 1 cup slow release lawn fertilizer (2 cups of organic fertilizer) per 10 feet of row every 4-6 weeks.
- Harvest, harvest, harvest. If not, production will slow or stop.
- Onions are ready to harvest when the green tops fall over.



Have you visited the BCMG Facebook Page?



Bexar County Master Gardeners are on Facebook! Lisa Nixon and Shawn Bowers do a great job hosting the Bexar County Master Gardener Facebook page. It is a public group, so not all participants are from BCMG. There are close to 500 gardeners who belong to the group, many of whom share beautiful photos of their gardens and plants. Gardening questions are posted and solutions shared by others in the group. Lisa welcomes the new members, responds to questions, or gives the Texas A&M Horticulture site for the answer. Other Bexar County Master Gardeners like Brian Townsend, former BCMG member now living in Tennessee, Tom Harris and Shanna Ciano also share solutions.

If you want to visit or join the Bexar County Master Gardener Facebook page, you must first have a Facebook account. From your Facebook Home page, enter "Bexar County Master Gardeners" in the white box at the top (search Facebook) and click on the magnifying glass. That should take you there. You will need to ask for "permission" to join - this is to keep automatic spammers out of the group.

Thanks Lisa and Shawn for your time helping keep BCMG active in social media.

BCMG General Meeting and Educational Seminar

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Social 6 – 6:30 pm

Meeting & Speaker 6:30 – 8:00 pm

(Election for 2015-2016 Board of Directors will also be held)

Texas AgriLife Extension Service

3355 Cherry Ridge, Ste. 208, San Antonio, TX 78230

EDIBLE, POISONOUS AND SACRED PLANTS

PRESENTED BY

PAUL COX



Paul Cox, botanist, co-author of Texas Trees, a Friendly Guide, and former Horticulturist for the City of San Antonio. He was with the San Antonio Botanical Garden for 30 years.

Paul will share his expertise with us on plants that we might not recognize as edible, poisonous, or considered sacred.

Today, Paul continues to serve the botanical community through his writing, lectures and consulting for legal, municipal, commercial and residential clients.



Master Gardener of the Month

Lou Kellogg, our **Master Gardener for the month of May**, is a name and a face known to most Master Gardeners. If you have gone through Master Gardener training any time during the past ten years, Lou is personally known to you because that is how long he has been involved in this Training Program, for which he now holds the title of Education Director. When asked what all his duties are in this position, Lou quickly replied that his duties were to “be David’s slave, “David being David Rodriguez, the Bexar County AgriLife Extension Agent. Actually, Lou is more like David’s right-hand man. Having Lou to depend on frees David up to attend to other matters that might come up on a Wednesday evening and helps him to avoid hours of class preparation. In fact, having Lou in the responsible position of Education Director has made David the envy of other Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agents in the area.

With Lou’s vast knowledge of gardening, you would expect that he grew up on a farm or ranch or was carefully tutored in gardening techniques by a loving parent or grandparent. However, such was not the case. Lou only remembers one gardening experience from his youth, the summer he spent on a farm raising horseradish and corn, which he then sold at a small stand. But in this experience lie the key elements that were to mark Lou’s later success as a Bexar County Master Gardener: hard work to produce an agricultural product, and the development of a marketing strategy to sell it to the public.

Lou actually spent most of his adult life being what he terms a “computer geek.” He worked for G.E. Medical Systems developing the programs needed to send digitized medical records to military installations around the world. His was a position involving a lot of stress, so much so that one day his doctor told him to either retire or die!

It was at his retirement party at Wilford Hall that Lou was catapulted onto the gardening scene. When asked what he planned to do in his retirement years, Lou jokingly quipped that he thought he’d sell plants at Home Depot. One of the attendees retorted by asking if he knew anything about the Bexar County Master Gardeners. Lou didn’t, but a computer search solved that problem. One month later he became a member of Class 40 and the next year he was assisting David with training Class 41, well on his way to his current position as Education Director.

It seems unbelievable that Lou’s only gardening experience prior to entering the Bexar County Master Gardener Training Program was that brief summer working on a farm, but he quickly made up for lost time. After the decision was made to get involved in gardening, Lou was off and running. While still in training he volunteered to work at the San Antonio Botanical Garden Greenhouse. It’s hard to believe now, but at that time the Greenhouse was not a profitable venture. Lou and Brenda Laureano agreed to take on the job of overseeing the Greenhouse operation to see if it could be saved. A trip

Master Gardener of the Month, Cont.

to a plant sale at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Farm alerted Lou and Brenda to some of the problems with the Botanical Garden's plant sales. Lou's long-ago experience working on that farm had taught him a valuable lesson: it is one thing to grow plants, but if you can't sell them your effort is all in vain. Profitable garden ventures depend as much on marketing as they do on hard work tilling the soil or propagating plants. Lou determined that the Greenhouse was producing too many plants of the same kind and not enough variety overall. Plants that did not sell then had to be discarded as a total loss. Therefore, Lou established a number of policies that changed the Botanical Garden Greenhouse project into a moneymaking endeavor.

Under his tutelage, the Greenhouse produced no more than 30 plants of a particular kind and a greater variety of plants that were in demand by the public. Unique plants offered for sale became a key quality of the Botanical Garden marketing. Once a plant became commercially available at plant retail outlets such as Home Depot, the Botanical Garden quit producing it. Marketing days were carefully chosen so as not to conflict with other events gardening enthusiasts might attend and, despite the naysayers, Lou introduced the policy of throwing a wine and cheese Members Only sale on the Friday before a big plant sale event. All of these marketing techniques were successful and business grew. It grew to the point where it became a job with long hours and stress, something Lou's doctor had told him to avoid. So, after about three years, he left behind a business that had turned around from being close to

bankruptcy to one that was grossing \$30,000 a year in funds for the Botanical Garden.

Although teaching is great for on-the-job training, it was not enough for Lou, who wanted more expertise in gardening subjects. To that end he enrolled in a number of Specialist Training programs on a wide range of gardening topics. The first one was a propagation workshop to help him with his work at the Botanical Garden Greenhouse, as well as with the Master Gardener training classes. He then took over the instruction on propagation techniques for the class attendees. After that, he and David developed a Composting Specialist training program. Then he became a Rainwater Harvesting Specialist. In this area Lou found something he was passionate about. He branched out into giving presentations on rainwater harvesting, especially at the annual Festival of Flowers. Attendance at



Lou's presentations is always high because he also employs marketing techniques to draw people in and keep them engaged until the end of the presentation, when he raffles off a rain barrel. Lou then rounded

Master Gardener of the Month, Cont.

out his knowledge of gardening by attending twice the course on Landscape Design given by Dr. William Welch in College Station, as well as becoming a Specialist in Oak Wilt, Irrigation Efficiency, the Junior Master Gardener Program, and EarthKind Roses. He has, as you can see, acquired knowledge of a vast repertoire of gardening-related topics in just a little over ten years.

As to his own garden, Lou just sighs and admits that it isn't much, just some patio plants, some Rodeo tomatoes and roses. But for these he has developed his own techniques for keeping them alive and thriving. He planted his roses so that the run-off water from his eaves would water them. All plants, according to Lou, do best with rainwater to drain off the impurities found in our local water. He regularly uses the rainwater harvested from his two systems to water his patio plants. For his tomatoes, which require a steady source of water to produce fruit without flaws, Lou has developed a self-watering pot that supplies that constant flow of water. So his home garden may be small, but it represents the years of gardening knowledge that he has acquired.

When asked what advice he had for *The Scion* readership, Lou replied without hesitation that being a Master Gardener is all about having fun. That is exactly what life should be all about too: having fun by fulfilling your passion and using that passion to serve your fellowman. Lou does this by his involvement in gardening projects, his teaching, and also in his hobbies: amateur photography, which started in high school, and his long time pastime, brewing beer, a skill which he also

has shared with his fellow Master Gardeners. We as Master Gardeners can thank God, and that attendee at Lou's retirement party, that he did not retire to sell plants at Home Depot, but instead plunged head-on into the vast pool of gardening knowledge.

By: *Ann Marie Caldwell*, JMG 1





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Hello fellow Master Gardeners and Happy Spring!

Congratulations to you all!! The Bexar County Master Gardeners were awarded “Outstanding Association” at the recent Texas State Master Gardener Conference in Belton, Texas! What a fabulous achievement and it is well deserved; BCMG is an exceptional organization and each of you are a part of this success!

This month, I thought I would highlight some of the presentations that we were fortunate enough to hear at the state conference. Bell County Master Gardeners hosted a great event and had a wonderful lineup of speakers. Topics ranged from “Why Bats” to “Water Rights in Everyday Lives of Texans” and various gardening topics in-between.

One of my favorites was done by Beekeeper, Clint Walker, who gave a wonderful presentation on his perspective of animal habitat and forage. We all know the impact of pesticides and the importance of limiting exposure and using sparingly. He also enlightened us on the importance of offering a variety of plants to our pollinators. Just as a balance in our diet is important to our health, so is it in the health of our smallest neighbors. He reminded us that backyard gardens are an important part of the pollinator eco-system and necessary to help support this critical population.

Water rights expert, Charles Porter gave us a very informative lecture regarding water rights in Texas and his 7 workable solutions to water management. Closest to home for us, were irrigation efficiency and education, as two of the seven solutions. Most importantly, he taught that, “water must become precious to us ALL!” We can continue to make an impact by sharing our Master Gardener knowledge with our neighbors and across our community. For more on information on Charles Porter and his topic, visit his website at charlesporter.com.

Belton County Master Gardeners were gracious hosts and did a wonderful job down to the smallest details. If you have not yet attended a state conference, I urge you to consider attending next year’s conference in Collin County at Myers Park & Event Center in McKinney, 17-19 May, 2016. These conferences are a wonderful way to connect with fellow Master Gardeners from across the state as well as to learn more about a wide range of environmental topics.

I look forward to volunteering with you soon.

Conservationally yours,

Anna Vogler - Water Conservation Coordinator



BCMG GARDEN STARS

Awards and Achievements of Our Fellow Master Gardeners



Congratulations to the first members who have achieved their Bexar County Master Gardener certification for 2015!

They have finished and submitted at least 30 volunteer hours and 6 CEU credits by April 8 to earn the **Grandma Yellow Rose** pin.

The pins are available at the monthly Bexar County master Gardener meetings. For other delivery options or questions, please contact Susan Noonan: susan.noonan@gmail.com



Donna Armstrong

Gladys Baker

Jacobo Caceres

Jan Craven

Jamie Daily

Jack Downey

Mary Duffy

Karin Foote

Cheryl Gorhum

Stephanie Jones

Lynda Klein

Helois Laiche

Numa Laiche

Chris Lopez

Barbara Lutz

Tera Marshal

Pete Mendiola

Lisa Nixon

Robert Padilla

Carolyn Randall

Ted Ritchie

Melody Stramer

Wendy Thornton

Anna Vogler

John Wantz

Andrew Waring





A little garden humor contributed by
Mary Ann Johnson, BCMG Class 39

Horticulture Jargon

Adapted from an article in *Southern Living*

Flat – 1: a shallow, rectangular tray used for germinating seedlings. **2:** the state of your flowerbed after a Great Dane naps in it.

Flush – 1: burst of new, green growth. **2:** what to do with gardening advice that comes from Pennsylvania.

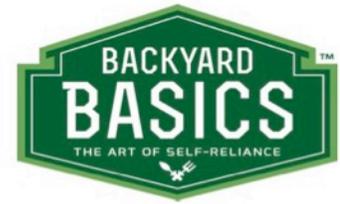
Layering – 1: the process of propagating a shrub by bending a lower branch to the ground until it roots. **2:** the stack of gardening books, magazines, seed and plant catalogues on the floor next to your favorite chair

Leggy – 1: a tall, gangly shrub or herbaceous plant with disproportionate top growth and few branches or leaves along its bottom. **2:** Betty Grable.

Sucker – 1: a fast growing shoot that usually arises from the base or roots of a plant. **2:** anyone who orders mosquito-repelling plants, climbing strawberries or a hanging planter for growing tomatoes.

Till – 1: the process of loosening and turning the soil. **2:** what you quickly empty at the **Festival of Flowers:** Saturday, **May 23**, 9am – 5pm at the San Antonio (Alzafar) Shrine Auditorium, 901 N Loop 1604 West!





Backyard Poultry

By Roy Flora, County Extension Agent-Bexar County

Introduction to Chickens & Poultry

May 19, 2015

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Texas A&M Agrilife Ext Svc
3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208
San Antonio, TX 78230

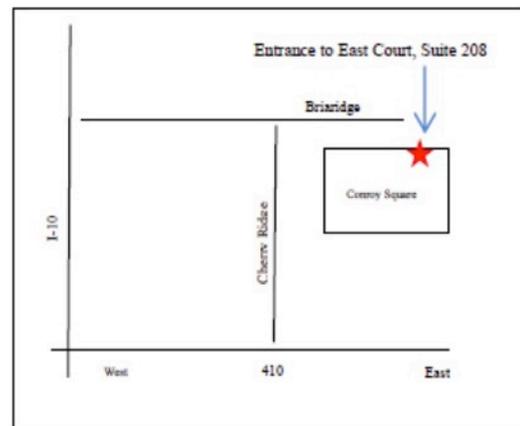


Come and learn on how easy it is to raising domesticated poultry, like chickens, quails, turkeys, duck and geese.

Registration fee is \$15.

Call Angel Torres at 210 467-6575 to RSVP.

Educational programs of Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, age, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.



AgriLife Advice

Drought Survivability Study

Project goal: learn how little water is necessary for landscape plants to survive and still look attractive.

A nine-month drought of epic proportion began in February. This one, however, is restricted to a small plot of land in southern San Antonio that the **Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources** (IRNR) uses for research. When the scientific findings become available next year, they should be a boon to home and business owners who want lovely landscapes that require little or no watering.



Calvin Finch, Ph.D.

“This project will tell the person who doesn’t want to use supplemental irrigation which plants can be used together to provide 12 months of color in a landscape,” said Calvin Finch, director of IRNR’s **Urban Water Program** in San Antonio.

Inside a **drought simulator**, volunteers armed with shovels planted 1,600 popular landscape plants in four separate plots. Each

plot will be subjected to varying levels of drought stress. The structure, built in 2006 by A & M, tested turfgrass’s ability to survive and recuperate from drought. It now will put to the test **100 of our most popular small trees, shrubs, perennials, vines, groundcovers and ornamental grasses.**

Finch and fellow researcher **Raul Cabrera** suspect the field study will show that many of the test plants can prosper on even less water than currently is recommended.

The Drought Survivability Study is funded by the **San Antonio River Authority**, the **San Antonio Water System** and the cities of Austin and Georgetown. Later this year a similar field study will be conducted in Georgetown, where a simulator is being built.

Bexar County Master Gardeners were among the volunteers who planted. Other volunteers included viewers recruited by KSAT-TV meteorologist Steve Browne, Gardening Volunteers of South Texas, listeners of KLUP-AM’s Gardening South Texas show, Ameri-Corps, and Texas A&M students.

How many of these drought resistant plants are in your landscape?

This was adapted from:
www.therivardreport.com/testing-toughest-plants-drought-tolerance

Contributor: Barbara Lutz, BCMG Class 40

AgriLife Advice, Cont.

Plant List - Drought Survivability Study

| Common name |
|----------------------------------|
| Small Trees and Shrubs |
| Crape Myrtle |
| Possumhaw Holly |
| Yaupon Holly |
| Texas Mountain Laurel |
| Evergreen Sumac |
| Sabal Minor Palm |
| Pride of Barbados |
| Plumbago |
| Agarita |
| Cenizo/ Texas Sage/Purple Sage |
| Esperanza |
| Flowering Senna |
| Anacacho orchid |
| Texas Lantana |
| Belinda's Dream Rose |
| Knock Out Rose |
| Marie Daly Rose |
| Turk's Cap |
| Lynn's Legacy cenizo |
| Grandma's Yellow Rose |
| Thryallis |
| Burford Holly |
| Martha Gonzales Rose |
| Carefree Beauty Rose (Katy Road) |
| Fall Aster |
| Texas Sotol |
| Pittosporum |
| Sandankwa viburnum |
| Duranta |
| Butterfly Rose/ Mutabilis |
| Kumquat |
| Viburnum tinus/ Spring bouquet |
| Primrose jasmine |
| American Beautyberry |
| Red Yucca |
| Glossy Abelia |
| Oleander |
| Pomegranate |
| Sago Palm |
| Nolina |

| Common name |
|------------------------------|
| Perennials |
| Red Columbine |
| Yellow Columbine (Hinkley's) |
| Blackfoot Daisy |
| Mexican Mint Marigold |
| Firebush |
| Flare Rose Hibiscus |
| Hymenoxys/ Four Nerve Daisy |
| Bicolor Iris |
| Garden Phlox |
| Pink or Red Skullcap |
| Purple Coneflower |
| Rock Rose/ Rose Mallow |
| Salvia greggii (many colors) |
| Jerusalem sage |
| Mexican Bush Sage |
| Society Garlic |
| Rosemary |
| Brugmansia |
| Henry Duelberg Salvia |
| Mystic Spires Salvia |
| New Gold Lantana |
| Victoria Perennial Phlox |
| Blue Princess Verbena |
| Dutch/ German Iris |
| Daylily |
| Milkweed |
| Chile Pequin |
| Gaura |
| Mistflower |
| Crinum lily |
| Shrimp Plant |
| Fall Obedient Plant |
| Moy Grande Hibiscus |
| Mexican Oregano |
| Mexican Honeysuckle |
| Cotoneaster |
| Common name |
| Vines |
| Butterfly Vine |
| Coral Vine |
| Passion Vine |
| Carolina Jessamine Vine |

AgriLife, Advice Cont.

| |
|-------------------|
| Coral Honeysuckle |
| Trumpet Vine |
| Cross Vine |

Common name**Groundcover**

Mexican Dwarf Petunia

Monkey Grass

Prostrate Rosemary

Asiatic Jasmine

Liriope

Spreading/ Creeping juniper

Santolina

Dwarf Plumbago

Purple Heart

Common name**Grasses**

Purple Fountaingrass

Mexican Feathergrass

Sideoats Grama

Gulf Muhly

Lindheimer Muhly

'Princess Caroline' Napier Grass

Little Bluestem

Indian Grass



Announcements!



**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 Adkisson,
Commissioner
Precinct 4

*Join our
Master Gardener Group on
Facebook!*

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/120167268026499/>

Lawn & Garden Show Podcast
<http://www.woai.com/media/podcast-woai-lawn-and-garden-show-gardenshow/>



ATTENTION ALL BCMG!

Please visit the new [Bexar County Master Gardeners website](#) 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"

The **GARDENS and PLANT TRIALS** at
THE SAN ANTONIO FOOD BANK

NEED YOUR HELP!

[Click here](#) to find out more!

SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN

**Children's Vegetable Garden
Vegetable Contest**

Saturday Morning, May 16

Check Out their GREAT Gardens!!



Announcements, Cont.

FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

ALZAFAR SHRINE AUDITORIUM

SATURDAY, MAY 23 - 9 am to 5 pm

Visit the BCMGs

Plant Sale, Plants that Thrive, and Texas SuperStar Exhibits!

ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

➤ [San Antonio Botanical Garden](#)

Greenhouse, Terrarium Ecosystem Program: contact SABOT Volunteer Coordinator, [Veronica Dallahan](#) 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](#)

Tuesday contact: Melody McMahon at melodym1222@yahoo.com, Thursday contact: 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. Contact Angel at matorres@ag.tamu.edu for information.

➤ [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.

BCMG Board of Directors Meeting



April 9, 2015

David Rodriguez - Several plant trials are underway and volunteer help is needed. The red bluebonnets are beautiful and their seeds will go to the Wildseed Farms. Possible future SuperStar.

The Children's Vegetable Garden doing well after missing two Saturdays because of weather.

Lou Kellogg - Class 59 is progressing nicely. Interns have been volunteering for different programs.

Ruby Zavala - The Learn, Grow, Eat and Grow webinar went well and more training sessions are scheduled. The 10-week program will be in some schools next year. She has been visiting many school gardens.

Barbara Lutz - BCMG Facebook page has over 400 members. Hosts have done a good job promoting AgriLife and referring questions to A&M Horticulture website. Probably will be at least 7 BCMGs attending TMGA state conference. Plans for Texas SuperStar exhibit at *Festival of Flowers* discussed.

Inez Ornelas - Reporting of hours (7,384.90 volunteer hours 578.85 CEUs) is ahead of last year. New system is working well. Emails will be sent to those who have not turned in hours.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Barbara Lutz

President@bexarmg.org

Vice President

Jack Downey

vp@bexarmg.org

Treasurer

Theresa Ford

Treasurer@bexarmg.org

Secretary

Anne Marie Simmons

Secretary@bexarmg.org

Membership

Inez Ornelas

Membership@bexarmg.org

Members-at-Large

Anne Browne

Member1@bexarmg.org

Ann Marie Caldwell

Member2@bexarmg.org

Immediate Past President

Lisa Nixon

PastPresident@bexarmg.org

To Send an E-mail to the entire Board

board@bexarcounymastergardeners.org

From Your Board of Directors..., Cont.

Jack Downey – Survey on Leadership Positions and Skills for database will be sent to membership. The policies discussed last month were revised and approved for inclusion in the policy book.

Theresa Ford - Balance sheet was presented.

Revision to Document Destruction Policy included in policy book. Budget Committee will be formed.

Anna Vogler – Spring Bloom and Backyard Basics plant sales were successful. The Water Conservation team continues to do neighborhood fairs and events.

... Upcoming Meetings ...

BCMG Ed. Seminar/Gen. Mtg.
Thurs., May 21

Social 6 – 6:30 pm Meeting 6:30 – 8 pm
3355 Cherry Ridge Dr., Ste. 208, San Antonio

Topic: Edible, Poisonous & Sacred Plants
Speaker: Paul Cox

BCMG Ed. Seminars/Gen. Mtgs. are (usually) held on the afternoon of the 3rd Thurs. every month. For more info., contact Barbara Lutz: President@bexarmg.org

BCMG Board of Directors Meeting
Thurs., May 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, President@bexarmg.org that you will be attending.

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.

Election of 2015-2016 BCMG Board of Directors
Election will take place at the General Meeting on May 21, 2015



The Nominees are:

President: Jack Downey '13

Vice President: Anne Marie Simmons '57

Treasurer: Theresa Ford '57 **(I)**

Membership Director: Inez Ornales'32 **(I)**

Secretary: Numa Laiche '41

Members at Large: (2)

Donna Armstrong '36

Anne Browne '55 **(I)**

Ann Caldwell JMG1 **(I)**

Jamie Dailey '33

Larry Easley '16

Jack Hoover '43

Ted Ritchie '6

Note: **(I)** Represents "Incumbent"

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



Seeds of Hope - a two-part review

Jane Goodall is my hero. She has been since I was an undergraduate studying primatology for my BA in Anthropology. I've stood in lines to see her, waiting patiently to be that lucky ticket holder for one of her lectures. I've read most of her books (and the ones I haven't read are in my reading "pile"). Most of her written work to date has had something to do with animals, the most notable being her work with the Gombe chimpanzees. However, what you might not have heard about her is that she is a UN Messenger of Peace, and founder of the Jane Goodall Institute (janegoodall.org), which is a non-profit organization, dedicated to a holistic approach to not only save the planet, but the people in it as well. Her "Roots and Shoots" (rootsandshoots.org) organization, which she developed in 1991, empowers young people from Kindergarten to college level to take action on behalf of all living things, and has now spread to over 130 countries with 150,000 members and growing. She's an amazing woman.

So it wasn't too surprising to learn that she recently published a book about PLANTS, which we as Master Gardeners, of course, hold near and dear to our hearts. The book is over 300 pages, has some beautiful photographs, and is jam-packed with all kinds of fascinating information. It is a wonderful book for anyone, gardener or non-gardener. So, I thought I would share with you a few of the many interesting facts

and summarize the general scope of the book, which is written in four sections. However, due to the comprehensive nature of this book, it resulted in my having to turn this into a two part series. This month I will cover sections 1 and 2, and next month I will finish with sections 3 and 4.

The one thing I absolutely love about her writing is that she makes you feel like she's sitting there with you, having a cup of tea perhaps, and casually chatting about her latest travels abroad, but always there is an underlying message and urgency in her voice that we need to step up to the plate, so to speak – for our planet is in peril. Understand, it's not all doom and gloom, hence the name of the book, Seeds of Hope. However, the book does leave you with a sense of wanting to go out and DO something beneficial for Mother Earth, however small that something might be. She empowers the reader to believe that each one of us can make a difference in the future of this planet based upon how we treat the individual species in it – plant, animal and human, however because everything is interconnected, balance can only be maintained by taking a holistic approach.

In her introduction Ms. Goodall states the intention of her book: “And so I have written a book to acknowledge the enormous debt we owe to the plants and to celebrate the beauty, mystery, and complexity of their world. That we may save this world before it is too late” (14).

From the Editor, Cont.

Beginning with Part 1, she takes the reader on an unexpected and thorough exploration of the plant kingdom, discussing both the familiar and unfamiliar, as well as the role that plants play in both the plant and animal worlds. She even makes photosynthesis sound “cool”:

Our exhalations are nourishing the plants as they capture CO₂, and the plants’ exhalations allow us (and them) to breathe. How utterly amazing – awe-inspiring really. *One cupful of CO₂, a few tablespoons of water, mixed with a beam of sunlight:* the ultimate and only recipe for the food that supports all plant life, including algae and other such forms. And since we depend on plants, either directly, by eating them, or indirectly, by eating animals that themselves depend on plants, the process of photosynthesis supports almost all life on Earth (22-23).

In addition to the different kinds of plants, Ms. Goodall delves into the parts of plants, like roots (e.g. aerial, adventitious, stilt). Then gives some really interesting examples, like the strangler fig whose “seeds germinate in the branches of other trees and send out roots that slowly grow down toward the ground...The roots hanging down all around the support tree grow into saplings that will eventually strangle the host” (19). She demonstrates with a photo (the book has some awesome photos) of a giant strangler fig in Angkor Wat, Cambodia that has literally completely engulfed a temple (with its roots!), with the strangler fig and building completely dependent upon each other for

support.

And then there are the leaves. Although we find the different shapes, sizes and colors of leaves “interesting,” imagine a plant that has only TWO leaves which continue to grow throughout the plant’s lifetime, which, for the *Welwitschia mirabilis* can be over 1,000 years! (21)

Ms. Goodall also covers carnivorous plants, seeds and fruits, and reproduction; whereby she discusses flowering plants which have the most complex reproduction and mentions the largest single bloom in the world, the “corpse flower,” *Rafflesia arnoldii*, which measures a yard across, weighs 15 lbs. and looks and smells like rotting flesh (28). Part 1 continues with a discussion of plant defense strategies, and communication (there are two ways: airborne chemicals and underground through the roots).

Trees have their own chapter, the most interesting fact here for me was learning about “Methuselah,” a bristlecone pine tree carbon-dated at 4,845 years old (44). She also writes about the wisdom of trees, friendships (special bonds with trees) and communication (can trees communicate with humans?). After trees, we get into the more complex system of forests and the challenges we now face with managing them and not losing the dwindling ancient forests we have left.

In Part 2, “Hunting, Gathering and Gardening” are discussed. I didn’t even know there were “plant hunters,” but apparently Carl Linnaeus was even one and there are more who have had experiences that would outdo even the most adventuresome explorers (and pirates!).

From the Editor, Cont.

Botanical gardens are examined and their role in education, historical preservation, and research as well as the newer role of saving endangered species: “twelve thousand of the thirty-three thousand plant species that are listed as globally threatened are known to be in botanical-garden collections” (94).

Another chapter is devoted to “Seeds” (and seed banks), which isn’t such a surprise considering that without seeds there are no plants. However, I learned that seeds are pretty extraordinary in what they can do and how long they can last: a two thousand year old date palm seed found by archaeologists in King Herod’s mountain fortress was later planted and grew! (105) There is even an entire book that was written about seeds: Wolfgang Stuppy’s Seeds: Time Capsules of Life.

Next, the chapter on Orchids will make you look at that species of flower in a whole new light - the “history” of the orchid reads like a James Bond 007 movie.

In the final section of Part 2, Ms. Goodall discusses gardens, both ancient and modern, and reminds us that: “The garden was not just a place for growing things and learning about nature. It was also a place for nurturing the soul” (135).

Hopefully, this first part of my review has already inspired some people to read Seeds of Hope, but if you need more convincing, next month I will finish examining the second half, Parts 3 and 4, of Ms. Goodall’s book.

Your Editor,
Kimber Briggs