



# 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,*

I want to thank all the Master Gardeners for being so supportive this year as I have served as your President. I've been blessed with a great Board of Directors, wonderful volunteers and the best horticulture agent in the state.

It's been a good year with many changes, events and presentations. We got a great new website and newsletter. The change to a tent during Rodeo was challenging, but the MGs came through like champs. We had the most presenters ever at the Home and Garden Shows. The Children's Vegetable Garden sessions were once again successful. Our Festival of Flowers exhibits received lots of praise. We sold lots of plants to support our scholarships at the Poinsettia Sale, Spring Bloom and Festival of Flowers. Our Speakers Bureau provided speakers to educate people at clubs, meetings and senior citizen groups all over town. You have helped our youth program to grow and help more teachers, schools and children learn to garden. Our Facebook page has over 500 members. We have helped the community to make rain barrels and conserve water. We've supported AgriLife's other programs. It's no surprise Bexar County Master

Gardeners were recognized as Outstanding Master Gardeners Association at the 2015 Texas Master Gardeners Conference.

I look forward to volunteering with you next year and spending more time in my garden with my granddaughter and great-grandkids. Thanks for a good year.

Happy Gardening,

*Barbara Lutz*

*From all the Master Gardeners...*

*Thank you Barbara for all your hard work and dedication!*





# CONGRATULATIONS!

## Congratulations to MG Class 59!



Interns from Class 59 completed their training on May 27. Several are close to receiving their BCMG certification. They are a great group! Welcome to the Bexar County Master Gardeners, we look forward to seeing you volunteering at many events!



**Congratulations to the new BCMG Board of Directors!**

**They will assume their duties on July 1, 2015**

**2015 - 2016**

### **BEXAR COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT: Jack Downey '13**

**VICE PRESIDENT: Anne Marie Simmons '57**

**TREASURER: Theresa Ford '57**

**MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR: Inez Ornales '32**

**SECRETARY: Numa Laiche '41**

**MEMBERS AT LARGE:**

**Jamie Dailey '33**

**Ted Ritchie '6**



## June Gardening Chores

Tom Harris, Ph. D., BCMG Class 13

"The Hill Country Gardener"

[www.thehillcountrygardener.com](http://www.thehillcountrygardener.com)



### Birds and Wildlife

- To attract butterflies, you can plant coral vine, blue plumbago, butterfly weed, lantana, purple coneflower, and yarrow. Yes, the critters will eat the plants, but the plants will come right back.

### Color

- If you're looking for color for the hot part of the summer, consider periwinkles, esperanza, firebush, zinnias, poinciana, portulaca, purslane, or lantana.
- Plant vincas in full sun.
- Shade plants include coleus, caladiums, firespike, and begonias.
- Moss rose and purslane are showy all month long in full sun.
- Keep up the fertilizer on the roses.

### Fruits and Nuts

- Peaches, apples, plums and blackberries with developing fruit must receive regular moisture.
- Figs are especially sensitive to dry soil.
- Prune out old blackberry canes (the ones that bore fruit this year) to make way for the new canes.

### Shade Trees and Shrubs

- Newly planted trees need deep watering by hand when the soil dries to one inch.
- Remember to mulch 2-3 inches deep around new trees so that they don't have to compete with grass. Leave 6" clearance around the trunks.
- Use a weekly spray program to protect your roses from insects and black spot. Keep

fruit trees well watered if they're still producing.

- Prune hedges on an as needed basis, but avoid severe pruning.

### Turf Grass

- June's warm soils make this an ideal time to establish or renovate the home lawn. Bermuda grass for all sun/no shade; St. Augustine for all sun/partial shade; and zoysia for all sun/partial shade.
- Irrigate the lawn grass only if it hasn't rained in the last two weeks.
- Raise the blade on the mower to 3.5 inches or more if you have St. Augustine. Continue to mow the Bermuda at 1-1.5 inch.

### Vegetables

- Vegetables to plant now will include black eyed peas, okra, sweet corn, cucumbers, peppers, New Zealand "spinach" and squash.
- You can still plant eggplant and okra for mid-summer vegetables.
- Use Bt or Spinosad to control hornworms, fruit-eating pinworms, and other caterpillars.
- Pull non-producing plants—especially the tomatoes--before diseases and spider mites move in.
- Powdery mildew will probably take the vine plants this month. Pull them out and wait for fall.



# COMPANION PLANTING



Learn what plants, when planted together, will grow the happiest, healthy garden ever!!!

BCMG Educational Seminar/General Meeting

Thursday, June 18, 1 pm - 3 pm

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office  
3355 Cherry Ridge Drive, Suite 208  
San Antonio, TX 78230

*Master Gardener Don Cites will help explain how you can attract the beneficial insects, repel the harmful insects, and/or improve the flavor or growth of the plants in your garden by using companion plants.*



## Master Gardener of the Month



**Barbara Lutz**, our Master Gardener for the month of June, should be a recognizable name and face for most of the readership, since she is presently the President for the Bexar County Master Gardeners, a position that she has twice held before this present term. Barbara is especially well known to rodeo volunteers because for many years she has directed the landscaping for the Master Gardener rodeo pavilion. Volunteers for the Folklife Festival also know Barbara because she regularly works with this event and has been the Chairperson for the Master Gardener Booth in recent years. In fact, Barbara is a regular at the Folklife Festival, having attended all but one since its inception 44 years ago. Events such as the rodeo, the Folklife Festival and the recent Festival of Flowers draw Barbara to them because they give her an opportunity to interact with the public. Barbara is a people person. She loves to work with volunteers, and she loves talking with the people who stop by the Master Gardener booths to chat or get information. In fact, Barbara confides, one of the perks of being President is that she gets to know so many of the Master Gardeners.

Gardening for Barbara is not so much digging in the ground as it is being grounded in the people who love her and share her interest in gardening. Her father held a very important

civilian position with the military that required him and his family to frequently move around the country. Despite being uprooted every couple of years, Barbara did have roots because every Christmas and summer she and her three sisters returned to Stillwater, Oklahoma, where both sets of grandparents lived. Both sets were avid gardeners who grew their own vegetables. Barbara has many fond memories of helping both grandpas in their gardens, memories that were to eventually lead her to gardening and to becoming a Master Gardener. She now continues the family tradition by sharing her love of gardening with her own grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Besides her roots in Oklahoma, Barbara always had another aide in combating the hardships of constantly having to adjust to new schools and to making new friends: Barbara had a ready-made friend she always took with her to new places, her twin sister Beverly. Barbara says the existence of Beverly was a real surprise for her parents, a surprise that arrived three minutes after they welcomed Barbara into the world. Barbara laughingly says that she was the youngest in the family for exactly three minutes, when she began to hold the difficult position of middle child. With the arrival of still another sister a few years later both twins then held that middle-child slot.

Growing up in a close relationship with her fraternal twin sister is a big factor in the value Barbara puts on people and relationships. Her greatest joy is her own family: her twin and her twin's family, who live in the area, her own two daughters, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, who also all live close by. Barbara loves to take the littlest grandchild, Megan age 5, and the three great-grandchildren, ages 9, 7 and 4, to gardening events and activities around town. She loves

### *Master Gardener of the Month, Cont.*

to share with them the same love of gardening that her grandparents shared with her many years ago. Due to a shaded backyard, Barbara cannot have the children help her with an extensive vegetable garden such as those of her grandparents, but she does have container gardens on her patio and each grandchild and great-grandchild has his or her very own pot that houses a fairy garden that reflects the child's unique interests and personality.

Barbara did not start out with any thought of gardening in her future. She arrived in San Antonio in her junior year of high school and graduated from Jefferson High School. She then went on to attend Texas Tech, where she majored in Fashion Merchandizing and Dress Design. Barbara is an accomplished seamstress, with an eye for color and design, but she did not like retail sales and hated being a buyer, which requires working long hours at night and on weekends. So, instead, she accepted a position teaching second grade at Converse Elementary School in what was then the rural Judson I.S.D. Barbara had found her true calling: working with little people, sharing with them, opening up their little minds to great possibilities. She fondly remembers being a coach for a program called Odyssey of the Minds, which puts teams of children in competition with other teams to find creative solutions to problems. All of these skills—creativity with color and design, the ability to challenge others to rise to their potential, the ability to foster creativity in others, and the gift of being open to other people—are the aspects of Barbara's character that have made her a great President and Master Gardener.

In addition to the very sizeable amount of time she spends working with the Master Gardener organization, Barbara also has other interests that enrich her retirement years. First, of course, is the time she spends with her family, but Barbara also devotes a lot of time to reading. She loves mystery stories and reads

three to four novels a week. You can also find her on the tennis courts or down at the coast, where she loves to go fishing in the Bay. But even with all of these interests, gardening included, Barbara is at heart primarily an educator and an organizer. Whether it is working with rodeo volunteers to teach them landscaping techniques; or organizing the recent State Conference held two years ago in San Antonio; or directing Master Gardener activities as President of the Board; or chatting with people who stop by the many Master Gardener booths she has manned; or giving presentations on gardening topics to children in various schools around the city; or just interacting with family members; Barbara is always sharing with others her talent for organization and her love of teaching. As a true people person, Barbara's advice to other gardeners is to resist the temptation to work only in their own gardens, but, instead, to reach out and embrace their fellow gardeners and those who just need a little nudge to get them involved in gardening. Digging in the ground is fun but being grounded in people is even more fun.

By: *Ann Marie Caldwell, JMG 1*





*Festival of Flowers - May 23, 2015*



*Plants That Thrive Exhibit  
prepared by Smitty  
(Sir Oliver Smith)*



*SAWS Plant Giveaway  
Mary Mangiapane, Mary  
Duffy, Judie Frisch*



*Lou Kellogg*



*Texas Super Stars Exhibit*



*Stanton Oneal, Jan Craven*

# Children's Vegetable Garden Vegetable Show May 16, 2015





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## Hello fellow Master Gardeners,

I hope your trees, plants and gardens are all thriving with this rain we have been blessed with. Though we have had more rain this spring than last, we are still under a hydrological drought. It is important that we still practice proper watering techniques and remember to turn off any irrigation systems that may be on pre-set schedules.

We also need to be conscious of our long-term water use, as we cannot count on adequate rainfall in years to come. Accordingly, I would like to call attention to The Stone Oak Property Association (POA) and all this association has done in the past 8 years to reduce the amount of irrigation water it used in the 78 city-owned right-of-ways and medians in the Stone Oak area. These areas are approximately 51 total acres, with most of these medians landscaped with grass and native trees. These areas were irrigated with in-ground systems using spray or rotor heads. Beginning in 2007, an irrigation project was undertaken to change all the irrigation systems to drip systems to reduce the amount of water applied to these areas. Their hard work and dedication has paid off in many ways. They have reduced their water costs by 54%. In addition to this remarkable accomplishment, they have succeeded in numerous other conservation efforts. Every year, the Association adds over 1,200 cubic yards of organic compost on all of these islands to condition and enhance the soil, plants and trees, as well as to help retain the water applied. The fountains in Stone Oak that are maintained by the Association have been converted to use recycled water. The maintenance team monitors the irrigation systems regularly, which allows them to catch problems and water waste quickly. In December of 2013, the Stone Oak POA was granted a commercial rebate of \$3,300 for the elimination of turf and installation of drip irrigation as well as drought tolerant plants and mulch. Stone Oak also had two very successful Rain Barrel Workshops given by our very own Texas A&M AgriLife Extension 2014. They continue to work with SAWS and other water conservation agencies to promote and educate their residents about the importance of conservation.

The Stone Oak POA conservation efforts serve as a great example of how all of us can look at our homes and in our communities for ways to lower our current and future water demands. This will not only help us in our current hydrological drought but can carry those savings into future years. I encourage all of you to go and see for yourselves what the Stone Oak POA Association has done to reduce their water use and increase the beauty in their community.

Conservationally yours,

*Anna Vogler* - Water Conservation Coordinator



## MASTER GARDNER GARDEN STARS

Awards and Achievements of Our Fellow Master Gardeners



**Congratulations to the following 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 May 14 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](mailto:susan.noonan@gmail.com)

**Lorene Adkins**

**Nancy Black**

**Edgar Bradley**

**Dwight Dare**

**Joyce Dare**

**Mary Fernandez**

**Theresa Ford**

**Karen Glaser**

**Albert Guzman**

**Donna Kadillis**

**Lou Kellogg**

**Carolyn Martin**

**Katherine Petersen**

**Keeley Porter**

**Ruth Rea**

**Joan Schneider-Cooper**



## AgriLife Advice

### AgriLife Extension experts: Texans should expect mosquito population explosion

by Paul Schattenberg - May 28, 2015

#### Residents can help control, protect themselves from mosquitoes

DALLAS – Anticipating a significant increase in the state’s mosquito population, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service entomologists are offering tips on how Texans can help slow mosquito breeding in backyards and protect from being bitten.

“Mosquito populations are booming throughout the state and will likely not go away anytime soon after all our rains and flooding,” said Dr. Mike Merchant, AgriLife Extension urban entomologist in Dallas. “Not all of the mosquitoes swarming us right now are likely to carry disease, but West Nile virus-infected mosquitoes are beginning to show up in traps.”

The Asian tiger mosquito shown here is one of the two mosquito species known to



commonly transmit the chikungunya virus. The other is the closely related yellow fever mosquito. Both species are found in Texas. (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service photo by Dr. Mike Merchant)

Texas Department of State Health Services

recently announced the first 2015 case of West Nile virus in the state, and Dallas County Health and Human Services just issued a health advisory reporting its first positive mosquito pool of the year.

Merchant added that chikungunya, another disease transmitted by mosquitoes, is on the radar of U.S. and state health officials as a growing concern. He said the virus is regularly brought into the U.S. by travelers, but as yet a human-to-mosquito-to-human cycle has not developed in Texas.

“This could change, however, as it did last year in Florida where a handful of cases occurred among Floridians who had not traveled to the Caribbean,” Merchant said. “The principal mosquito vectors of chikungunya include the Asian tiger mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, and its close relative, the yellow fever mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*. Chikungunya frequently comes with a very bad headache, joint pain, rash and fever. There is no treatment for or vaccine to protect from this disease.”

For more information about where mosquitoes can breed, and how to identify *Aedes* and other mosquitoes, Merchant suggested going to AgriLife Extension’s Mosquito Safari website, <http://mosquitosafari.tamu.edu>.

Humans are not the only ones to suffer from mosquito-borne diseases, AgriLife Extension experts noted.

“Mosquitoes can also be vectors for dog heartworm,” said Dr. Sonja Swiger, AgriLife

*AgriLife Advice, Cont.*

Extension livestock/veterinary entomologist in Stephenville.

According to Swiger, an infected mosquito can pass tiny heartworm parasites on to any uninfected dog it bites. Heartworm causes lasting damage to heart, lungs and arteries, and can affect the dog's quality and length of life. In addition, horses are susceptible to several encephalitis diseases, including West Nile virus, and should be vaccinated every year.

Swiger said that to control mosquitoes effectively and economically, everyone should understand their basic life cycle and be familiar with the important mosquito types. According to Swiger, mosquitoes can be divided into two groups based on where they lay their eggs. For example, floodwater mosquitoes lay eggs on the ground in low spots, and these eggs hatch when it rains and the low area fills with water.

"With the unusually high May rainfall, these mosquitoes are common now and likely to remain so during the duration of the rain," she said. "Floodwater mosquitoes are good fliers and can travel many miles from their breeding sites in temporary pools, roadsides and low lying areas."

She noted there is little people can do on their own property to protect themselves from floodwater mosquitoes, other than stay indoors or wear repellent.

"We have more control over other mosquitoes that breed in containers and live closer to town," Swiger said. "Container breeding mosquitoes include some of the most significant species that may negatively affect human health, including the common

house mosquito."

The entomologists referred to what they called "the four D's" as a general means for people to help manage mosquitoes and protect against bites. These are:

- Dusk/Dawn – Avoid being outside when mosquitoes are searching for a blood meal, which is usually in the early morning hours and just before the sun goes down. While some species are daytime biters, most prefer to feed at dusk and dawn.

- Drain – Empty standing water from "containers" around your home and work areas, such as buckets, wheelbarrows, kiddie pools, toys, dog bowls, water troughs, tires, bottles, etc. Make improvements that allow standing water to run off following rains.

- Dress – If out during mosquito feeding hours, wear long sleeves and pants in plain colors. Avoid attracting them by wearing excessive amounts of perfume or aftershave.

- Defend – Any time you go outside for an extended period of time, wear an insect repellent.

Dr. Charles Allen, AgriLife Extension entomology program leader in San Angelo, said mowing tall weeds and grass can help eliminate some mosquito resting areas.

"When mosquito populations are high, labeled contact insecticides can be used to knock down adults," he said. "For greatest effectiveness, sprays should be directed to shady mosquito resting areas. In addition, insecticide-based misting systems can be effective short-term, but repeated applications can cause insecticide resistance or be harmful to non-target insects and may result in loss of control. These systems are

*AgriLife Advice, Cont.*

most likely to be effective if timers are set to spray when mosquitoes are most active.” Allen said there are also techniques that can help control larval stage of mosquitoes in water.

“Mosquito dunks containing insect growth regulators or Bti, the mosquito larva’s bacterial natural enemy, can be used in water that cannot be dumped or drained to reduce mosquito populations,” he said.

Products that apply a surface film or oil on the water can also be used to reduce larval mosquito and pupal populations by preventing them from getting air through their breathing tubes, he said. The use of films or oils should be limited to locations without any other organisms, since it will prevent oxygen to the non-target organisms as well.

According to Merchant, insect repellent is still the best overall defense against those “less savory insect and mite biters.”

“I always suggest people keep a bottle or can of repellent just outside their doorway to remind them to spray exposed skin, even if they plan to be outside just a short while,” he said. “Keeping repellent in your car is a very good idea too.”

The entomologists agreed that repellents with DEET remain the gold standard for protection.

“DEET has some of the best persistence. However, there are good alternatives to DEET if you aren’t going to be outside very long,” Merchant said. “The natural repellent, oil of lemon eucalyptus, is a good alternative to DEET for those who prefer an organic product. The most important thing is to find a repellent that works for you and to use it.”

Merchant periodically posts news updates on mosquito activity on his City Bugs website, <http://citybugs.tamu.edu>. He also has developed four short videos on different aspects of mosquito control that can be found at <http://bit.ly/1F8cZkg>.



### 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.


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 Calvert,  
Commissioner  
Precinct 4

**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](http://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!

*Join our  
Master Gardener Group on  
Facebook!*

[Click Here](#)



*Lawn & Garden Show Podcast*

[Click Here](#)





*Announcements, Cont.***AgriLife Volunteer Recognition Breakfast****When: June 15, 9 - 11 am****Where: MacArthur Park, 1611 NE Loop 410, 78209**

Please RSVP - Register Online, or call (979) 845-2604.

**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](mailto:fernandez.m1978@gmail.com) or Anne Marie Simmons at [am-simmons@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:melodym1222@yahoo.com), Thursday contact: [joyce\\_dare@satx.rr.com](mailto:joyce_dare@satx.rr.com).

➤ **[Earth Kind Speakers Bureau](#)**

Contact Sandy Justice at [sandy@sandyjustice.com](mailto: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](mailto:khollyj@satx.rr.com)

➤ **[Plant Hotline](#)**

Our Plant Hotline answers phone and email questions daily. Contact Angel at [matorres@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:matorres@ag.tamu.edu) for information.

➤ **[Plant Trials](#)**

Contact David Rodriguez at [dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu](mailto: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



May 14, 2015

**David Rodriguez** reported that the Men's Garden Club and Milberger's gave donations to the Children's Vegetable Garden program.

The CVG Vegetable Show, Recognition and picnic is upcoming.

Twenty pounds of red bluebonnet seeds were collected from the Food Bank gardens, they will be planted at Wildseed Farm.

The Texas Strawberry Project has been completed. Next is the watermelon trials.

The summer JMG Class for youth leaders has been scheduled for July.

**Barbara Lutz** reported on upcoming events: Festival of Flowers, Precinct 2 Health and Wellness Fair, Folklife Festival, and May and June General Meetings.

**Lou Kellogg** said that Class 59 is going well.

**Anna Vogler** reported on Water Conservation Team participation at Rackspace, Hill Country Retreat, Potranco Run and Bulverde Village, and discussed plans for Landscape Classes in September.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **President**

Barbara Lutz

[President@bexarmg.org](mailto:President@bexarmg.org)

### **Vice President**

Jack Downey

[vp@bexarmg.org](mailto:vp@bexarmg.org)

### **Treasurer**

Theresa Ford

[Treasurer@bexarmg.org](mailto:Treasurer@bexarmg.org)

### **Secretary**

Anne Marie Simmons

[Secretary@bexarmg.org](mailto:Secretary@bexarmg.org)

### **Membership**

Inez Ornelas

[Membership@bexarmg.org](mailto:Membership@bexarmg.org)

### **Members-at-Large**

Anne Browne

[Member1@bexarmg.org](mailto:Member1@bexarmg.org)

Ann Marie Caldwell

[Member2@bexarmg.org](mailto:Member2@bexarmg.org)

### **Immediate Past President**

Lisa Nixon

[PastPresident@bexarmg.org](mailto:PastPresident@bexarmg.org)

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

[board@bexarcounymastergardeners.org](mailto:board@bexarcounymastergardeners.org)

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## ... Upcoming Meetings ...

**BCMG Ed. Seminar/Gen. Mtg.**  
**Thurs., June 18, 1-3 pm**  
**3355 Cherry Ridge Dr., Ste. 208, San Antonio**

**Topic:** Companion Planting

**Speaker:** Don Crites

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

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**BCMG Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Thurs., June 11, 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](mailto: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](mailto:President@bexarmg.org) that you will be attending.

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Oak Hairstreak (*Satyrium favonius*) on Green Antelope Horn Milkweed (Photo Credit: K. Briggs)

### What is a Master Gardener?

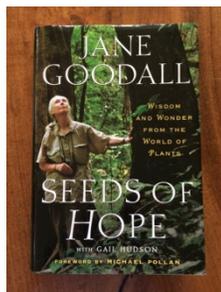
Bexar County Master Gardeners are trained, certified volunteers who support the educational horticulture programs and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension service in Bexar County. We work with County Extension Agent-Horticulture David Rodriguez to help create and maintain gardens that showcase plants for our 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.

## 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**



In the May issue of *The Scion* I introduced Jane Goodall's newest book, *Seeds of Hope*, and discussed the first two sections. If you want to re-read it, you can find the May issue in the archives on the Member's Page of the

BCMG website and click on "Scion Back Issues," or click on "The Scion Newsletter" in the drop down menu under "Members" on the home page of the website. This month I will finish my review of Parts 3 and 4 of her book.

Part 3 gets a little more serious starting with the "Uses and Abuses of Plants." What I took away from this section was the realization that we need to rethink what we are doing to "Nature's Drug Store," because the reality is that all of the medicines we need in order to cure our laundry list of ailments already exists in nature - either in its purest form from the plant itself, or the adulterated formulations of the pharmaceutical companies. There is not an unlimited supply, and some supplies of our most common plant remedies are running low. "Some of the most common over-the-counter herbal remedies in the United States, such as American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*), goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), and Echinacea, also known as purple coneflower (*Echinacea angustifolia*), are now listed as endangered, mainly because of the increase of unsustainable harvesting methods" (171). Additionally, the

cost in human lives in harvesting (e.g. cotton, rice) and using the products produced from some plants (e.g. tobacco, coca, etc.) is also examined.

Probably the most chilling section of the book had to do with genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in our current food supply. I know this is a contentious and controversial subject for some people, so I'll only say that Ms. Goodall does a good job of presenting a well researched theory with a lot of reliable scientific proof as to the probable outcome of continuing to rely on this type of "farming" to cure the worldwide food shortage problem, which was what it was originally introduced to solve. Unfortunately, it hasn't solved that problem and instead has created new problems for us to solve.

"The Way Forward" (Part 4), the final section of the book, discusses the future of agriculture - a hopeful one - and some of the more positive and life affirming trends that will create an ethical and sustainable food supply including growing our own food, even in the inner cities. As an example, cities like Detroit: "In one neighborhood where thirty houses were torn down...people are growing vegetables, fruit orchards, and flowers..." (272).

Another chapter discusses saving our forests, the "lungs of the world," by making it more beneficial for communities through special programs that emphasize not only

conserving the forest, but also giving attention to poverty issues by involving the indigenous people of a community in forest management, and also focusing on conserving the biodiversity of the forest through data collection. The Jane Goodall Institute has implemented a program working with 52 villages in Tanzania to conserve their remaining forests.

The final two chapters are especially encouraging since they deal with "Hope for Nature" which discusses nature's ingenious way of regenerating itself. In the March issue of *The Scion* I discussed the restorative process of a prescribed burn for the prairie at Cibolo Nature Center. Ms. Goodall gives some amazing accounts of restoration in areas where it would not seem possible. As an example, she discusses cleaning polluted water and soil through the use of "mop crops," or phytoremediation. "A major threat to human health and the health of ecosystems is the high level of poisons and heavy metals that have contaminated soils and waterways. Through careful research, a growing number of mop crops have been identified to help in the job of purifying this contaminated land and water...Some plants can even help to clean up radioactive contamination" (312).

In the final chapter, "The Will to Live" we are introduced to some incredible trees that have also shown almost unbelievable resilience. The most impressive of these, to me, were the two 500-year-old camphor trees that survived the bombing of Nagasaki. They were discovered two months later during an assessment of the damage to the city; the trees were battle worn and mutilated, but alive. One of the survivors was designated as a national monument in 1969.

This was a most incredible book, which is

why I made the decision to make the "review" a two-part series - trying to condense everything into a two or three column space just wouldn't have done it justice. Nevertheless, it is my hope that I have encouraged a few of you to read the book, and possibly be moved to some sort of positive "action" on behalf of nature, because everyone does make a difference - every action has an impact.

"Indeed, nature is resilient. Therein lies our hope" - Jane Goodall

Your Editor,  
*Kimber Briggs*