



The Scion

Newsletter



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Published by the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent – Bexar County Horticulture & Master Gardener Coordinator & the Bexar County Master Gardeners, a nonprofit 501c(3)
Kimber Briggs, Class 58, Editor



President's Message



Dear Master Gardeners -

The [2016 Texas Master Gardener Association State Conference](#) was well worth the trip to McKinney Texas despite the rainstorms. David Rodriguez, Lou Kellogg, John Sells, Ruth Rea and I represented Bexar County. There were some sound system difficulties that marred Neil Sperry's standing room only presentation, but he did his best and he was wonderful. Fortunately, the sound system was repaired in time for the Keynote Speaker - Amy Stewart - noted author and gardener. If you ever have the chance to hear her, don't pass it up. She's a delight to listen to.

At the Thursday night [Awards Banquet](#), **Bexar County was awarded First Place in five out of seven categories.** Our well-deserved awards are:

- First Place - Youth Junior Master Gardener Program
- Third Place - Project (2015 Home & Garden Show)
- First Place - Educational Program (Earth-Kind Water Conservation Workshop)
- First Place - Written Education (Youth Gardens Blog)
- First Place - Research (Watermelon Trials)
- First Place - Outstanding Individual Master Gardener (Andrew Waring)
- Second Place - Outstanding Master Gardener Organization

Congratulations to everyone who made our success possible and to **Barbara Lutz, Jan Craven, Anna Vogler, Ann Caldwell, Ruby Zavala and David Rodriguez** for ensuring our award submissions were of the highest caliber.

The [2017 State Conference](#), scheduled for [April 27 - May 1, 2017](#), will be on a cruise from Galveston to Cozumel and return. Speakers and tours are lined up and information about registering has been sent to every Bexar County Master Gardener via email. If you have any difficulties registering let me know and we'll get it straightened out for you. The Galveston County Master Gardeners invite everyone to stay a day or two after disembarking. On Monday, May 1st, after leaving the ship the [Galveston County Master Gardeners](#) will host a plant sale, multiple vendors and the [Annual Awards Luncheon at Moody Gardens](#). **Tickets to the Luncheon and tours will be available August 1, 2016.**

The [Southern Region Master Gardener Conference](#) in Arlington and Fort Worth is scheduled for [November 1-4, 2016](#). This is the first time Texas has hosted the Southern Region Conference and thirteen southern states will be represented at the conference. Information on the conference and registration is available at (817) 884-1945 or <https://2016southernregionmg.com>.

Thanks for all you do -
Jack Downey, President
Bexar County Master Gardeners

2016 Texas Master Gardener State Conference



(L to R) Mary Means, Ruth Rea, Jack Downey, David Rodriguez, John Sells



Photo Credit: Lou Kellogg

Congratulations BCMG Class 60!



Above:
BCMG Class 60 Graduates



Left:
Class Helpers:
(L to R) Lou Kellogg, Armin Bendele, Mary Duffy, Lorraine Keidel, Liz Malloy, Marybeth Parsons, Brian Roach

Right:
Newly Certified Bexar County Master Gardeners w/David Rodriguez

(L to R) John Maldonado, Grace Emery, Barbara Linick, Betty Butler, and Mike Tayloe



Photo Credit: Lou Kellogg

SCHOLARSHIPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

FROM ONE OF OUR PAST SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS...

Dear Bexar County Master Gardeners,

I want to first thank you for your amazing scholarship in 2013-2014 that has helped me and so many other people in their dreams. I wanted to contact you to say that my wife (Raquel) and I recently moved to Gatesville, TX to be closer to family and Raquel's work in Waco. While finishing up my Masters of Science in Sustainability I applied for a Family and Consumer Science position with the AgriLife extension office in our hometown Gatesville, TX. The job is focused on outreach to the community for healthy living. They recently put in a smaller community garden and are going to be moving it to a new location and hopefully a larger location and I will definitely be involved in that whether I get the position or not. I want to thank you again and ask that you pray that I get the position and hopefully one day if I get it I can come down and meet with you all to get community outreach ideas from all of you. I hope to hear from you.

Thank you,
Travis Lee

June Gardening Chores

Tom Harris, Ph. D., BCMG Class 13

"The Hill Country Gardener"

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.

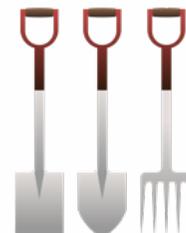
- Prune hedges on an as needed basis, but avoid severe pruning.

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.





BEXAR COUNTY MASTER
GARDENERS



JUNE GENERAL MEETING

...AND ELECTION FOR THE NEW 2016-2017 BCMG BOARD OF DIRECTORS



WHEN:

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

1 - 3 PM

SPEAKER:

MONIKA MAECKLE

TOPIC:

BUTTERFLIES: ORANGE
is the new **BLACK!**

Monika will tell us about Monarch Butterflies
and how to attract butterflies to our gardens.
Bonus: Milkweed may be available for sale at
the meeting!

WHERE:

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
OFFICE

3355 CHERRY RIDGE DR.
SUITE 208
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78230





Master Gardener of the Month

By: Ann Marie Caldwell, JMG 1



Henry Brune,
our **Master
Gardener for the
month of June**, is a
native born Texan,
having been born
and raised in

Columbus, Texas, which lies about 140 miles east of San Antonio. It was in Columbus that Henry learned his life-long love of working in Texas soil to produce food for his table. Henry's daddy always had a large garden, a habit Henry carried with him as he moved around Texas, living in San Marcos, Seguin, Floresville and Sealy, places where he worked for the Texas State Police as a highway patrolman. Then, in 1978, Henry was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and assigned to San Antonio as a Criminal Investigator for the Motor Vehicle Theft Department.

Henry was a very successful investigator, having recovered many stolen vehicles over the course of his 30-year career in that field. When asked about the best methods to keep your car or truck from being stolen, Henry was quick to reply: "Don't own one!" Henry's reply comes from bitter experience since he has had his own vehicle stolen! He claims that, despite lights, locks and even alarms, if thieves want it, they will get it. However, Henry concedes that the type of vehicle you own might serve as a deterrent to criminals. Right now thieves are looking for large trucks with extended or crew cabs and large capacity SUV's because these stolen vehicles are then driven to Mexico for use in transporting human cargo back across the

border. But it is not just large vehicles that are targeted. Criminals also specialize in extracting and selling parts from their stolen merchandise and also profit from their stolen goods in the resale market. Henry says that a favorite ploy of these crooks is to buy junk vehicles from auctions and then transfer their titles to a stolen car or truck for resale to some unsuspecting person. So, how did Henry catch so many of these criminals? Greed! Henry claims that these thieves could probably spend their lifetime in such criminal activities if they were satisfied with only a modest return for their efforts, but greed gets the better of them; looking for even greater profits, they finally call attention to themselves and eventually get caught.

After a professional life dealing with criminals, it is no small wonder that in his retirement years Henry would turn to the peaceful pursuit of gardening. While actively pursuing auto thieves Henry could not fit Master Gardening classes into his busy schedule, but, once he retired, he enrolled and graduated as part of Class 57. Since then he has helped Lou Kellogg with the succeeding intern classes. He has also worked with rodeo construction and set-up and he has served as a cook for the Awards Banquet for those children involved in the Children's Garden vegetable-growing activities.

Henry's two specialties are wine-making and composting. Even though he has made wine most of his life, Henry took the wine-making classes offered by the Master Gardeners and is looking forward to expanding his spirit-making ventures into

MG of the Month, Cont.

making beer. Henry also has specialist training in composting and gives formal presentations on that topic as part of the Speakers Bureau and informal presentations to interested people who stop by booths manned by Master Gardeners at the rodeo and the Festival of Flowers events. For his own vegetable garden Henry uses a technique that he has used down through the years. He deposits leaves from his own trees and those he has purloined from his neighbor's trees in the furrows between his vegetable rows. According to Henry, this practice serves three purposes: first, it keeps down the weeds; second, it cuts down on water use; and, third, it cuts down on beatings from his wife for dragging mud into the house! The final advantage is that Henry then mixes the leaves in with the dirt after harvesting his produce and they enrich the soil for the next planting.

For Henry, being a Master Gardener has increased the "thrill of victory" in successfully growing plants and has minimized the "agony of defeat" when his hard work ends in a fatality. Although he has gardened all of his life, since his Master Gardener training he knows what he was doing right and what he was doing wrong. He encourages all gardeners to get out and start digging in that Texas soil, experimenting with different plants and different techniques. Henry claims that everyone will do something right and experience the "thrill of victory" while having a lot of fun in the process.





Junior Master Gardener Page

Hello All! Welcome to the **Junior Master Gardener Monthly Updates Page**. Here you will find what our special JMG trained volunteers and Bexar County Master Gardeners have done for the Youth Gardens Program and some new volunteer opportunities with kids.

Children's Vegetable Garden

Congratulations to Ms. **Lyn Komada** for her excellent work on the Bexar Youth Gardens Blog. Because of her posts and beautiful pictures at the Children's Vegetable Garden the Bexar County Master Gardeners won 1st place in Written Education. Be sure to subscribe to start receiving her special weekly posts. <https://bexaryouthgardens.wordpress.com/>

Youth Summer Camps

Two to three volunteers are needed to help pass out supplies for activities, distribute snacks, organize, and clean up each day of the summer camps. Please contact Ruby Zavala if you would like to volunteer. *Volunteer Hour Activity # 980f Youth Camps.*

When: Mon-Thu, Jun 13-16, 9am-Noon
Where: Pan American Branch Library, 1122 W. Pyron Ave., 78221

When: Mon-Wed, Jun 20- 22, 9am-Noon
Where: Eco Centro, 1802 N Main Ave, 78212 (corner of Main and Locust)

When: Mon-Wed, Jun 27-29, 9am-Noon
Where: Northside Learning Center, 6632 Bandera Rd, TX 78238

When: Tue, Jul 5 and Tue, Aug 16, 2pm to 4pm each day
Where: BiblioTech South, 3505 Pleasanton Rd, 78221

When: Tue Jul 19 and Tue, Aug 2, 2pm to 4pm each day
Where: BiblioTech West, 2003 S. Zaramora, Bldg 10, 78207

When: Mon-Fri, Aug 8-12, 8:30-11:30am
Where: Phil Hardberger Park 13203 Blanco Rd (Salado Outdoor Classroom)

Basil Fest

Thank you to **Grace Emery, Nicholas Campanella, Andrew Waring, Jennifer and Linda Sierra, Mark Reis, Barbara Lutz, Robert Padilla and Rob DeRoche** for helping out at Basil Fest 2016. We talked to over 380 kids and showed them how to pot a plant!

Junior Master Gardener Summer Training

Come join us for the 2016 Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Adult Leader Training designed for teachers, educators, and volunteers from throughout the State in support of Youth Gardening. Educators will learn about "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences that will provide an appreciation for the environment and cultivate the minds of children. For more information contact Ruby Zavala at Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu





MASTER GARDNER GARDEN STARS

Awards and Achievements of Our Fellow Master Gardeners



Congratulations to the following members who have completed the Master Gardener certification for 2016!

They have earned the 2016 red jalapeno pin by submitting at least 30 volunteer hours and 6 CEU hours in May. The pins are available at the monthly meetings or at the BCMG office. Please contact Susan Noonan: susan.noonan@gmail.com with questions or other delivery options for the pin.



2016 BCMG Certification Pin

Adkins, Lorene K.

Andujar, Rebecca

Baker, Gladys T.

Brune, Henry

Butler, Betty

Cobb, Jane M.

Downey, Jack

Emery, Grace

Fernandez, Mary A.

Gorhum, Cheryl A.

Hyman, Betty

Laiche, Numa

Lopez, Chris

Mass, Randy

Mendiola, Pete

Moses, Bill

Noonan, Joseph M.

Noonan, Susan C.

Padilla, Robert

Parsons, Marybeth

Pirttima, Sharon

Rea, Ruth

Riccelli, Nick

Smith, Sonja

Stramer, Melody

Tayloe, Mike

Thornton, Wendy J.

Master Gardeners Out and About...



Jr. Master Gardeners Picnic and Children's Vegetable Garden Awards Ceremony



Photo Credit: Candy Roach, Class 59



Blooming Gardener



Anticipation!



Artichoke Flower



Harvesting Flowers



Cactus Flower



John Maldonado grilling sausages



Brian Roach & Grace Emery tagging peppers



MG Out and About, Cont.

Let the judging begin...



Judging Peppers



(L to R) Judges John Opiela, Don Crites & Numa Laiche



David Rodriguez, John Opiela & Don Crites, Quality Control Mentors for Vegetable Entries and show Judges, narrow the selection.



Down to four...

...And the winners are...

Silly Vegetables (Below and above right)

Prize Winning Potatoes (Bottom right)



MG Out and About, Cont.



Grand Champion!
(Photo Credit: Lou Kellogg)



*First Place Hummingbird
Eggplant*



Thanks to Numa Laiche, John Opiela and Don Crites for judging. Grace Emery (Intern Class 60), Candy & Brian Roach (Class 59) helped with setting up the vegetable show, taking entries and placing ribbons on vegetables. **Thanks to ALL the Master Gardener volunteers who helped!!** Since we can't mention everyone, below are some more photos of volunteers at the Children's Vegetable Garden Harvest (Photo Credit: Barbara Lutz).

BCMG Volunteers at Children's Vegetable Garden Harvest



MG Out and About, Cont.



MG Out and About, Cont.

 Basil Fest 2016 

From Rob DeRocher, BCMG Research & Development Team:

The Basil Fest of 2016 was another success partly due to Ruby Zavala and her JMG's Activity. Children could pot up a basil plant to take home. **Nature's Herb Farms** donated plants, and potting mix was donated by "New Earth Soils and Compost" and "Lady Bug" brand. Rob DeRocher's event team or commonly called, "The Super Crew" of Andrew Waring, Robert Padilla and Nick Campanella were there to assist all participants and partners with set-up and tear-down and warming up for *Festival of Flowers*. They are also members of Dr. Jerry Parson's, Dr. Larry Stein, and David Rodriguez's R&D Team. (Photos: Rob DeRocher)

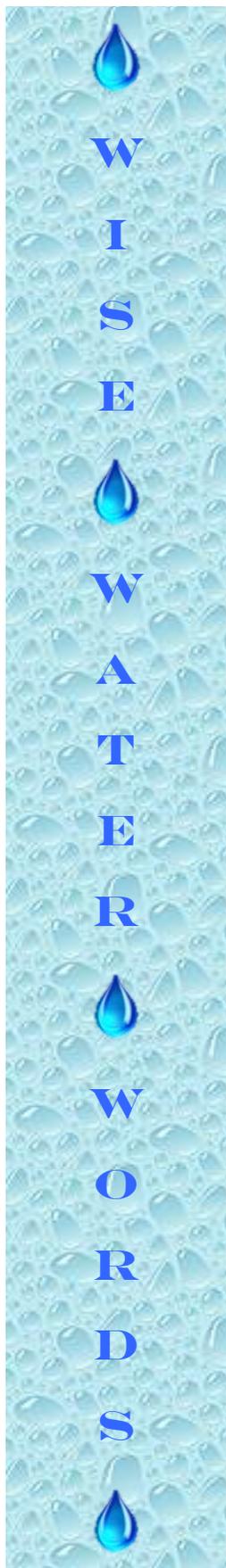


MG Out and About, Cont.



BCMG Volunteers at Basil Fest 2016 (Photo Credit: Barbara Lutz)





Hello fellow Master Gardeners,

We have had such an unusually rainy spring this year that I have considered stock piling lumber in preparation for building an ark. All kidding aside, the extra rain has not only reduced our watering requirements, but provided opportunities to harvest the extra rain. Hopefully most of you have at least one rain barrel or even just use extra containers to store some of that rain and use it when things occasionally dry out. If you don't have a collection system in place yet, now is a good time to consider adding a basic system, or expanding what you have to save more water for the inevitable dry times ahead. Not only will this save you money, but rain is also much better for our plants as it does not contain the salts and chemicals that are found in most city water. Rainwater, however, does contain a healthy dose of nitrates, which are an available form of nitrogen for plants. Irrigating with rainwater also helps to keep the soil pH balanced. There are several references online for rainwater harvesting (www.rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu, <http://www.texaswater.tamu.edu>, & <http://www.water.tamu.edu>) or, even better, you can take advantage of the training that BGMG conducts.

This is also a good time to consider water harvesting as BCMG is looking to increase our community outreach classes. We have many requests already for Rain Barrel Demonstrations and Rain Water Harvesting Seminars and are looking to expand even more. In order to support these programs, we will grow our current number of volunteers by providing Water Harvesting training to more Master Gardeners. The training consists of a lecture explaining the importance of rainwater harvesting, what is needed to harvest the rain, and how to accomplish the harvesting and storing of rain. We then have a training session on how to give the lecture and how to assemble the rain barrels. The first training class will be held on Wednesday, 8 June from 9:00 am - 12:00 noon at the BCMG classroom on Cherry Ridge Drive. There are still a few spaces available so let me know immediately if you want to attend (anna.vogler@bexarmg.org). We expect to do more training later in the summer as well so watch for more information in the Scion and the BCMG e-blasts.

Remember that water conservation is an ongoing challenge, regardless of how many rain events we have just had. I look forward to working with you in the coming months.

Conservationally yours,

Anna Vogler

Water Conservation Coordinator



Master Gardener Specialist Corner

Jamie Daily, BCMG Class 33

RAIN GARDENS

By Jamie Daily, Class 33

Rainwater harvesting has become quite popular as people realize the advantages of using rainwater over tap water. It is better for the plants, it is basically free and harvesting rainwater does not deplete the aquifer. However, rain gardens are only more recently becoming a popular form of rainwater harvesting. Rain gardens are referred to as passive rainwater harvesting because they are relatively easy to build, and little effort is required after the initial work is complete. Depending on the size and placement of the garden, it may be completed anywhere from a day to a week. Rain gardens may be as large or as small as you like. Many people recommend building what are really small rain gardens around the drip line of newly planted trees. In this case you would dig out around the hole for the tree and use the soil to form a berm around the drip line of the tree. As the tree grows the berm can be moved further out until the tree is established which usually takes a year or two. This has the advantages of keeping the water on your property, allowing the water to seep in slowly and keeping pollutants out of the waterways. These are all advantages of both small and large rain gardens. The EPA has stated that the pollutants as fertilizers, insecticides, pet wastes are among the greatest dangers to the water supply. By causing the water to stay in a rain garden, the pollutants are filtered out as they enter the aquifer and this also helps to prevent flooding of roadways and homes.

So-----what is a rain garden?

A rain garden is a shallow depression designed to absorb and filter runoff from impervious surfaces as rooftops, sidewalks, patios and driveways. A rain garden is not a pond and will not attract or breed mosquitoes. The water it catches will be absorbed in a day or two and mosquitoes require at least two weeks to go from egg to adult.

Ideally a rain garden would be built in close proximity to an impervious surface. If you want to channel the water into the rain garden from your roof, you can dig a shallow channel from where it falls to the rain garden should the location of the runoff be less than ten feet from the house. Rain gardens can also be built in an area of the property that collects water when it rains. If the area where water collects from impervious surfaces is not too close to the house, that could be an ideal place also. Other factors to consider are the slope of the land. A flat or gently sloping area will work. The slope should be no more than ten per cent. It might help to mark off the area you intend to use with a hose. This will allow you to see the size and location and determine if this spot will work. If you want to determine the slope you will need two stakes (rebar works well and is readily available), string, a level, and a tape measure.

Pound the stakes into the ground, one at the uphill slope and the other at the downhill slope. Use a

level to make sure the stake is level and tie the string to this mark. Then tie the other end of the string to the downhill stake at the same height. Measure the distance in inches between the downhill and uphill stakes. Then, measure the height in inches between the ground and the string on the downhill stake. Divide the height by the distance between the stakes and multiply by 100 to determine the slope.

The next step is to test for drainage. Dig a six inch round hole no more than a foot deep. Insert a ruler into the hole and fill with water to the six-inch mark. Time how long it takes the water to be absorbed. If it takes more than twenty-four hours, this is not suitable for a rain garden.

Once you have determined the slope and placement you are ready to decide on size and shape. A rain garden can be any size and shape. I personally prefer the softness curves add to the landscape, but rectangles and squares are also fine. It is a matter of personal preference. Try several sizes and shapes using a hose to lay out the configuration. Take pictures of each size and form that you try. This will allow you to compare them more effectively and find the shape and size that will work best for you. I know that I can get a better idea from pictures than I can from just seeing them one time outside. If I use five to seven shapes, everything seems to blur together and I cannot remember which one I really liked best. BUT if I have pictures and wait a while to view them, I can make a better decision.

FINALLY---YOU ARE READY TO DIG!!! If the area is fairly level, dig out the area to a depth of six inches. Put the soil you dig out over to the edge as this will be used to construct a gently sloping berm around the edge of the garden. If you have access to rocks, they can be incorporated into the berm also. Loosen the soil in the rain garden to a depth of three inches. After planting the garden cover with a layer of mulch.

Once the garden is dug out, you are ready to select the plants. Do not use seeds or seedlings as a heavy rain could destroy them. Texas natives and well-adapted plants as Texas Super Stars are probably the best choices. They can adapt to the crazy Texas temperatures and once established withstand droughts. Texas natives can take up to three years to become fully established, as they need to establish the deep root system they need to survive. Ideally you will want different sizes and textures of plants. If you want a particular color scheme keep that in mind when selecting. You will also want plants blooming at different times of the year for more interest. Since a rain garden is supposed to be attractive as well as environmentally friendly, you can accent it with concrete statues, shepherd's hooks or trellises. Large interesting rocks will also work. If you want to make your rain garden into a butterfly or hummingbird garden, select plants for this purpose. Hummingbird feeders can be hung from the shepherd's hooks if you like.

LISTED BELOW ARE SOME OF THE PLANTS THAT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN TEXAS RAIN GARDENS

Yarrow-1'X1' likes sun and dry conditions.

Flame Acanthus-4'X4' likes sun and dry conditions, attractive to hummingbirds.

Texas Columbine-1'X1', likes some shade, blooms in winter, can tolerate wet or dry conditions.

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)-3 Ft tall X 6 inches, excellent nectar plant also host plant for

Monarchs. Likes sun and dry conditions.

Crinum-2'X2' likes sun and wet or dry conditions. Has attractive lily like flowers.

Purple Cone flower-2'X2' likes sun and can tolerate wet or dry conditions.

Blue Mistflower- 8"X6" tolerates wet or dry conditions, likes sun.

Maximillian sunflower-5-7'X3', loves sun and dry conditions, birds are attracted to the seeds.

Turks Cap- attracts hummingbirds, can tolerate sun or shade, red, pink or white flowers, can tolerate wet or dry conditions.

Bee balm- is attractive to pollinators. 2'X2' likes sun and wet or dry conditions.

Goldenrod 2-4'X3-5' loves Texas sun, and dry conditions.

John Fanick Phlox-3'X3' likes sun or some shade, wet or dry conditions.

Mexican Mint marigold- 1-2'X1-3' likes sun and wet or dry conditions.

Texas Betony-red flowers preferred by hummingbirds, can grow to 1 foot, will tolerate shade or sun, wet or dry soil.

Passionvine-is a host plant for butterflies, will need a trellis to grow on, tolerates sun or shade and wet or dry conditions.

Zexmenia-can grow to 1' to 18 " tall, loves sun and dry conditions, is attractive to butterflies.

Blackfoot daisy- is attractive to butterflies.

Fall aster-beautiful plant in the fall. Will go dormant in hot weather.

These are only a few of the plants that can be used in rain gardens. If the plants can tolerate dry conditions and sun, they would probably be appropriate for a rain garden. Gardening is learning, so try different things and see how they work.

Texas Master Gardener Specialists are a corps of Master Gardeners who support and expand the Bexar County educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Specialist training is designed to empower the Master Gardener with the knowledge and skills required to effectively support designated programs or projects, to include administration of projects, training of Master Gardeners, clientele presentations, and/or applied research and demonstrations.

Specialists have received a minimum of 16 hours of subject matter training: formal classroom training, field trips and tours, mentoring by experts, and/or self-directed study. Following completion of the training requirement, each individual has completed a minimum 20 hours of volunteer service in the designated program or project to obtain this title of Master Gardener Specialist.



AgriLife Advice



New Texas Superstar introduced: Whopper begonias

May 5, 2016

- By: Adam Russell, 903-834-6191, adam.russell@tylerpaper.com
- Contact: Dr. Brent Pemberton, 903-834-6191, brent.pemberton@ag.tamu.edu
- David Rodriguez, 210-631-0400, dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu

COLLEGE STATION — Wax begonias have long been a staple of Texas landscapes, but a recently introduced series has been distinguished as a bigger, brighter ornamental – Whopper begonias.

Whopper begonias have been named a 2016 Texas Superstar plant by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service horticulturalists after three years of field trials around the state.

To be designated a Texas Superstar, a plant must not only be beautiful but also perform well for consumers and growers throughout the state. Texas Superstars must be easy to propagate, which should ensure the plants are not only widely available throughout Texas but also reasonably priced.

All Whopper begonias tested so far have shown vigor in all regions of the state with larger foliage and flowers and an ability to better tolerate heat and direct sun than most other begonias, said AgriLife Research ornamental horticulturist Dr. Brent Pemberton, Overton.

With large leaves on large plants and enormous flowers held well above the foliage for a showy display, the Whopper lives up to its name, Pemberton said.

“They are outstanding in shade and partial shade and will tolerate full sun except in extreme heat, especially regions with low relative humidity,” he said. “Both green and bronze foliage types are available with red or rose flowers. Everything is bigger in Texas and Whopper begonias fit the bill.”

Whopper begonias have also shown vigor against pests and disease, though Pemberton noted the plants should not be overwatered to avoid crown rot.

AgriLife, Cont.

Whopper begonias planted in shade can reach 24-30 inches tall with a 12-16-inch spread but will be shorter and more compact with more sun. Small plants can be placed 8-10 inches apart for quicker fill, but up to 12-14 inches apart with larger plants in 6-inch to gallon-size containers.

Pemberton said it is best to plant Whopper begonias in spring just after frost, but they can be planted later. Plants tolerate heat and direct sun better if they are allowed to become well established prior to summer heat. A shady location is advised if planting in mid-summer.

A well-prepared bed with organic matter and good drainage is best, Pemberton said, but the variety is tolerant of various soil types. Whopper begonias are moderately drought tolerant and soil should be kept moist but not too wet.

AgriLife Extension horticulturist David Rodriguez, who serves Bexar County, recommends using a peat-based potting mix in containers that drain well and applying generous amounts of slow-release fertilizer.

Whopper begonias would also do well on patios, in large planters or as landscape border plants, Rodriguez said.

It is OK for the plants to dry down a bit, as they recover from wilt quite well; still the containers need to drain well, Rodriguez said.

The Whopper begonias performed very well in AgriLife Research and Extension trials as well as for selected growers and gardeners around the state, Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez said both the bronze- and green-leafed plants do well in direct sunlight in most regions, even through July and August. For the green-leafed variety, mid-afternoon shade or filtered light provides a good break from the summer sun.

Though Whopper begonias are considered annual plants, Rodriguez said the plant also performed as a short-lived perennial in some areas of the state.

Rodriguez said the Texas Superstar selections are being released just in time for Mother's Day. He said the annual plant would make a great gift because it is easy to grow and has



A row of Whopper begonias at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Service Center in Overton. Whopper begonias were tested in the field around the state for three years before being designated as a Texas Superstar plant. (Texas A&M AgriLife Research photo by Dr. Brent Pemberton)

AgriLife, Cont.

the vigor to succeed anywhere in the state.

“We’ve gotten very positive feedback and reports on the Whopper begonias,” he said. “It’s something different and unusual and would be a good choice for Mother’s Day.”

The variety was developed by Ernst-Benary Seed Co. and is sold exclusively through Ball Ingenuity. Plants are available from retail nurseries and garden centers across the state, and seed can be purchased by mail order.

Texas Superstar is a registered trademark owned by AgriLife Research, a state agency that is part of the Texas A&M University System. Plants are designated Texas Superstars by the Texas Superstar Executive Board, which is made up of seven AgriLife Research and Extension horticulturalists.



More information about other Texas Superstar plants and a list of wholesalers and retailers who stock them can be found at <http://texassuperstar.com/>.

Announcements



Remember, Master Gardeners, you need to get 3 of your CEUs for recertification from attending Master Gardener General Meetings!

All meetings are on a Thursday, alternating monthly between afternoon (1 - 3 pm) and evening meetings (6 - 8 pm).

**** UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES ****

THIS MONTH - **MONIKA MAECKLE** will be speaking on something we all want to know more about and will start seeing more and more of as the weather gets warmer... **"Butterflies"**

NEXT MONTH - **MARTY RUONA** will speak on using cactus in your landscaping.

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.

*Join our
Master Gardener Group on
Facebook!*

[Click Here](#)



Lawn & Garden Show Podcast

[Click Here](#)



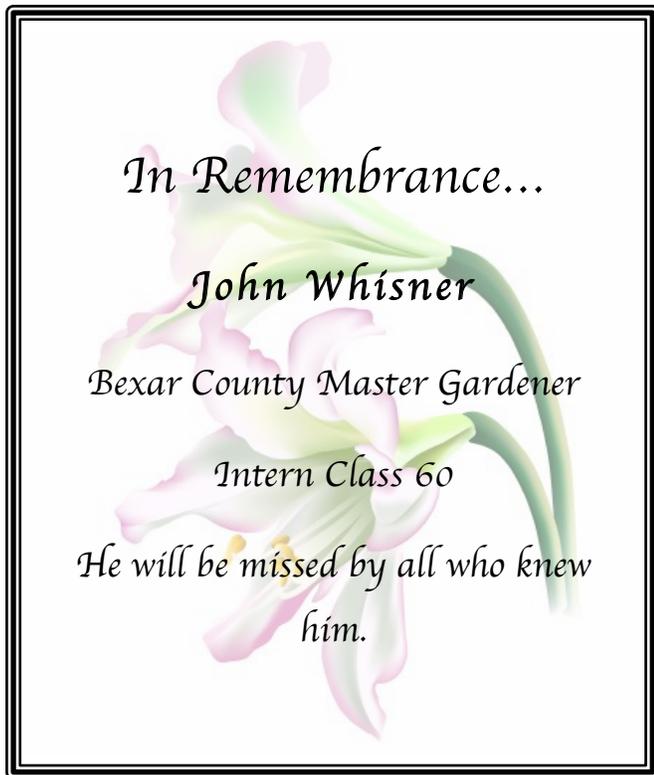
REMEMBER TO... VOTE!
**ELECTION FOR THE NEW BCMG
2016-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE
MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING ON
JUNE 16 (1 - 3 PM)**

NOMINEES

- | | |
|---|---|
| <u>Pres. - Jack Downey</u> | <u>Members at Large</u> |
| <u>Vice Pres. - Ruben Lozano</u> | <u>Robbie Farmer</u> |
| <u>Treasurer - Lori Bindseil</u> | <u>Ann Marie Pease</u> |
| <u>Secretary - Sherry Cantrell</u> | |
| <u>Membership Dir. - Inez Ornelas</u> | |

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor



Announcements, Cont.**MG Specialist Courses in 2016**

- ❖ **Composter** - June 22-24, BCMGs, SAT
- ❖ **Jr. MG** - Youth Educator - July 27-29, BCMGs, San Antonio
- ❖ **Earth-Kind** - Aug. 3-5, Fort Bend MGs, Rosenberg
- ❖ **TX Superstar** - Sept. 20-22, BCMGs, San Antonio
- ❖ **Vegetable Specialist** - Nov. 9-11, BCMGs, San Antonio

Contact: [David Rodriguez](#) for more information!

NEED TO REPORT YOUR HOURS?

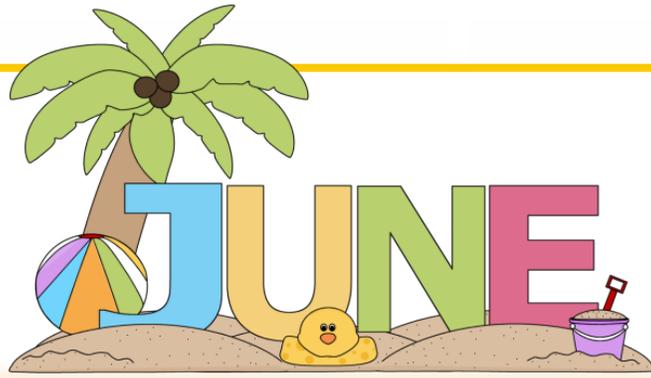
Go To: www.bexarmg.org
 Click on "Members"
 Scroll down and click on "Report Your Volunteer Hours"

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.



ONGOING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

➤ Green Spaces' Community Gardens

Knowledgeable gardeners are wanted to occasionally help with garden projects, and regularly serve as garden mentors. We have two staff; everyone else is a volunteer loving the chance to garden a little. Contact Tia Moen at tia@greensatx.org or check out one of our volunteer pages at www.greensatx.org or www.meetup.com/San-Antonio-CG/.

➤ San Antonio Botanical Garden

Greenhouse, Terrarium Ecosystem Program: contact SABOT Volunteer Coordinator [Nadezhda Garza](mailto:Nadezhda.Garza@sabot.org) 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

Contact Joyce Dare at 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. Call 210-467-6575 or ask by [email](#).

➤ 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 –



Minutes – BCMG Board of Directors Meeting May 12, 2016

Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Jack Downey, May 12, 2016, 4:00 p.m.
- Board Members present: Jack Downey (President), Anne Marie Simmons (Vice President), Lori Bindseil (Treasurer), Sherry Cantrell (Secretary), Jaime Daily (Member at Large), Ted Ritchie (Member at Large).
- Absentee Board Member: Inez Ornelas (Membership)
- Other Attendees: Ruby Zavala (Youth Program Coordinator), Lou Kellogg (Director of Education), Barbara Lutz (Past President), Anna Vogler (Water Conservation), Robbie Farmer (intern)

Approval of Minutes for April BOD Meeting

- April meeting minutes were distributed via email March 29. Motion to approve the April minutes made by Anne Marie; 2nd by Ted. Approved by unanimous acclamation.

CEA Report – David Rodriguez (not present)

- No report.

Youth Program Coordinator Report – Ruby Zavala

- NISD Environmental Fair was very successful, with all 5th grades in attendance.
- Viva Botanical event went well, considering it rained the entire time. Ruby expects the event will be even better next year. She got to know SABOT's new Educational Coordinator, Emma.
- The last week of April was the last week of The Learn, Grow, Eat & Go (LGEG) program. Certificates were awarded to 540 kids from 10 different schools. The program received great reviews from the schools.
- Plans for Basil Fest are underway.
- Beds are being prepped at Palo Alto Elementary (Baptist grant project).

Water Conservation Report – Anna Vogler

- The Earth Day Fair, held April 20, was deemed a success, with a large number of attendees expressing interest. They enjoyed the give-away pepper plants, but many wanted to use them as indoor house plants.
- Anna will attend a Safety & Wellness Expo being put on by Tesoro at the Parkridge Building (Tesoro HDQ) on Tuesday, 24 May, from 1:30pm–4:30pm. BCMG will have an info booth to explain the benefits of growing your own vegetables in respect to both eating fresh vegetables as well as the exercise and fresh air that comes with gardening.
- Anna helped students at the Construction Careers Academy at Warren High School with their landscaping plans for the tiny houses they are constructing, as part of a Parade of Homes building competition. In this program, teams of students build small micro homes that will later be auctioned off.
- All volunteer needs for Festival of Flowers, May 28, are met.
- Rain barrel trainings for the public are scheduled for June 4 and June 18. A seminar to train BCMGs on how to teach rain barrel collection and harvesting is scheduled for June 8.
- Anna reiterated the need for new speakers. Speakers are not just needed for teaching rain barrel harvesting, but for all other topics as well.
- Jack reminded everyone of the importance of the sign-in sheets to meet the requirements of SAWS. This is critical for BCMG to receive SAWS money. He suggested teams of two to ensure sign-in sheets are completed fully and correctly. He explained the money we receive is allocated both by number of participants and for speaking events (e.g. block payments of \$50 for 1–10 attendees, \$75 for 11+, and additional payments for talks, etc.).
- Anna said Lynn Cox has volunteered to work with the Speakers Bureau to review our existing presentations in regards to quality and branding and identify any that may need updating.

Education Report– Lou Kellogg

- Lou asked about shirts for speakers and who will be in charge of distributing the shirts. Jack suggested the Speakers Bureau (Karen Gardner) take on this responsibility. All agreed this was the logical choice for coordinating who should receive a shirt and distributing, accordingly.
- The Presenters Lunch will be June 7, 9 am–1 pm.
- The rain harvesting seminar to train BCMGs, scheduled for June 8, will be held at our Cherry Ridge location, starting at 9 am.
- Compost training is scheduled for June 22–24.
- Lou reported there are two weeks left of the new intern class. He has asked Inez to provide him with the names of those who have completed their volunteer hours, as he would like to get their badges ordered

Membership Report– Inez Ornelas (not present)

- Previously, Jack reported on the difficulty that some members were having selecting project numbers. He investigated the possibility of having some highlighting or bolding added, but found out it is not possible. Barbara made the following suggestion: Event leaders should provide the correct number for reporting hours for the specific event. This number could also be written on the sign-in sheet. Everyone agreed this was a great idea.
- Inez reported to Jack that out of 330 MGs, 111 of them have not yet reported any hours for 2016. We need to encourage MGs to report their hours in a timely fashion and to not wait until the end of the year.

Treasurer's Report – Lori Bindseil

- Lori reported there was nothing exceptional to report. The \$1000 payment to the Guadalupe Master Gardeners will be made at their monthly meeting scheduled for June 16. We were reimbursed \$607 for lumber expenses at the rodeo.
- Proposed budget was distributed:

- o Jack pointed out that only \$50K of the total \$72,500 of SAWS money is being budgeted. This is because we do not want to overstate our projected revenue of SAWS money due to the likelihood that we cannot provide the number of presentations required to claim the money. If we can increase the number of speakers available to provide more presentations, we will be able to utilize more of the SAWS money available to us.
- o The new budget now reflects the monies associated with various Texas Agrilife projects under 5113. This is an improvement over past budgets where the dollars for these projects were difficult to visibly see as they were embedded with and spread across other budgeted items. Jack and Lori are still exploring options to improve how these projects are tracked and reported.
- o Jack requested the board to review the budget, as approval will be voted on at the June BOD meeting.

President's Report – Jack Downey

- Jack reminded everyone the election will take place at the June BCMG meeting and that nominations will be accepted from the floor.
- An intern from the current class has expressed interest in the Garden Leader opening at Cambridge Elementary School in Alamo Heights, but he has not yet completed his 50 volunteer hours to be a Master Gardener.

New Business

- Robbie Farmer, current intern, made a presentation regarding our clothing line. After investigating suppliers and getting quotes, it appears that EmbroidMe still provides the best price and service to meet our needs. They were the only one who did not require a large quantity for a price break. We can get a reduced price if we order 6–8 pieces vs. 1. She provided some sheets from their catalog as an example of available products. A jacket was also passed around as an example of quality. After much discussion of colors (e.g. Fifty Shades of Green), a decision was made to order Irish Green for the Speaker shirts. Robbie will obtain a sample for viewing. Robbie and Jack agreed to work on selecting other colors for additional products.

- Motion to give Robbie and Jack the authority to move forward on ordering some inventory to have available for purchase at the June BCMG meeting was made by Jaime; 2nd by Ted. Approved by unanimous acclamation.
- Jaime reminded everyone about the upcoming BCMG monthly meetings: In May, David will present Earth-Kind Gardening. In June, the speaker will not only address the importance of milkweed for the Monarch butterfly, but will also speak about other nectar plants that are needed to provide nourishment and help prepare them for their long flight to Mexico. Because of the expected turnout for these two events, Barbara agreed to investigate the availability of Colonys North for either or both of these meetings.
- Master Gardener of the Month was selected: Henry Brune. No motion was made but approval was given by unanimous acclamation.
- Ted asked if anyone was familiar with Mueller Buildings. Every year, Mueller, Inc., selects a deserving non-profit organization in Texas to receive a free Mueller building. Several were familiar with the program but weren't sure that we could compete with the type of non-profits normally selected.

Upcoming BOD Meeting

- Date and time for next BOD meeting is June 9, 2016, 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned by Jack Downey, May 12, 2016, 5:15 p.m

Sherry Cantrell

Secretary

Jack Downey

President

**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

**BCMG Board of Directors
Meeting**

Thurs., June 9, 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 that you will be attending.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Jack Downey
President@bexarmg.org

Vice President

Anne Marie Simmons
vp@bexarmg.org

Treasurer

Lori Bindseil
Treasurer@bexarmg.org

Secretary

Sherry Cantrell
Secretary@bexarmg.org

Membership

Inez Ornelas
Membership@bexarmg.org

Members-at-Large

Jamie Dailey
Member1@bexarmg.org

Ted Ritchie
Member2@bexarmg.org

Immediate Past President

Barbara Lutz
PastPresident@bexarmg.org

To Send an E-mail to the entire Board

board@bexarcountymastergardeners.org





As you know may have heard, the 2017 TMGA Conference will be held on a cruise ship! TMGA has procured some very great rates to sail on the Carnival Liberty™ April 27-May 1, 2017, leaving from Galveston, TX. But the fabulous package rates expire **July 1 THIS YEAR!!** There also are some special prize opportunities for those who book their spot by June 1st!

Included in this information from TMGA are two very important items which they want each and every Master Gardener to have the opportunity to view NOW so BCMGs can take advantage of this exciting opportunity.



First is a video highlighting the cruise ship and amenities. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhQoM5NAKmY>

Second is tri-fold brochure highlighting the primary details regarding the cruise. <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B1-rxf7suh-MMzVHR0F2TnFNQ0Ntb2twbEIXbjplWEVtRHpz>
Of course, all information is included on our website, texasmgconference.com.



Please view the video and read the brochure!

Response to the cruise has been very overwhelming and excitement was extremely high during our 2016 TMGA conference in McKinney this past week. TMGA wants to make certain that every Texas Master Gardener has the opportunity to participate in this very special event!

If you have any questions, please contact the 2017 TMGA Conference Chair Nicky Maddams at texasmgconference@gmail.com or [979-458-8456](tel:979-458-8456) or Donna Hagar, 2017 TMGA Conference Treasurer at dmthagar@gmail.com or [254-396-0844](tel:254-396-0844).



Follow us on Facebook!



2017 TMGA Cruise Website!

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

"The Magic Is In The Details"

Did you ever learn about something and then want to share it with someone just because it was really interesting or exciting? Anytime I delve into the natural world, I am continually amazed by all the cool and interesting things that nature has to offer, just as it is, without even trying! As humans, we often have to really work at impressing people, whether it is work related, or a social occasion. Not so with nature. It's just "there" in all its splendor, not trying at all, just "being." I think that's pretty impressive.

So this month I thought I would share with you a couple of encounters with nature that occurred while I was camping at South Llano River State Park a few weeks ago that resulted in a little follow-up research afterward, but definitely had a "wow" factor right from the get-go.

My first notable encounter happened while I was hiking with my trusty sidekick, Gibson, on a trail that started at the lush, green pecan groves of the bottomlands and went up a steep hill leading to a more arid and scrubland environment. Although there were some colorful blooming plants at the summit like mountain pink and yellow stonecrop, it was mostly cacti, sumac, juniper, dried out grasses and rock. The trail was lined on either side with granite and limestone rock, short bunch grass, and an occasional prickly pear. Suddenly Gibson pulled me to the left side of the trail, and of course I looked over to see what he was leaning toward: it was a rattlesnake. Fortunately, it was a rather lethargic rattlesnake because it simply lifted its head, looked at us and moved a few inches away from the trail and into the brush. It scared the living daylights out of me. If I could have magically

teleported at that moment back to our campsite, I certainly would have, but we had a ways to go, and I was "sort of" disoriented by the lack of signage on the trail and was relying on my compass to get us back. I had not been very smart in packing my gear for this hike. I had opted for my ankle high hiking boots instead of my snake boots (a mistake I'll never make again), water, a snack, a compass, a map, and my phone that was only good for taking pictures of the snake since I had no cell service. I didn't have anything else with me. If either one of us had been bitten, we wouldn't have made it back to camp - we were too far away and on every occasion prior to this I had not seen a single person - either park staff or other campers - on any of the trails. So, that made me think about what I would have done HAD I been bit?

On another (less scary) occasion during my trip, I came across some gorgeous pearl milkweed vine (*Matelea reticulata*) and discovered something about it that I had never really observed before when I took a macro close-up photo of its center. There's a reason that vine is given the name "pearl" and it has to do with the center of the flower that looks like a pearl. But there really is much more to it than that. Upon closer inspection, I saw that the center is really more like a multifaceted diamond than a pearl! It has glistening flat sides, more like a gemstone than a round pearl. By really examining this specimen close-up, you could really see the beauty in this unique flower. I just thought it was really cool.

So how does my encounter with the snake have anything to do with my encounter with the milkweed vine? Believe it or not, they are intertwined - like all things in nature.

Editorial, Cont.

When I got home, I decided to look up the milkweed vine in one of my plant books. However, I was really more interested in this plant's "story" than the generic information you can find in most plant books, so I went to Elizabeth Silverthorne's book, Legends and Lore of Texas Wildflowers. There, in the chapter on "Milkweed" I found some very interesting information about the different medicinal uses of the milkweed plant, one of them (*Asclepias texana*) being a "cure" for rattlesnake bites! Although the story is one I would not want to stake my life on, I feel a little more comfortable having this information in my "toolbox" than the utter lack of information I had when I was on the trail with nothing. And, I find it interesting how my encounter with the rattlesnake dovetailed into my discovery of the milkweed vine – serendipitous? Additionally, besides being useful as a treatment for rattlesnake bites, milkweed sap was used by the Native Americans for a variety of cures for other ailments: warts, ringworm, poison ivy, and skin sores. For women, a tincture could be made from the plant to increase lactation, and as a contraceptive. Milkweed roots could be boiled to treat dysentery, rheumatism, dropsy, tapeworms, asthma, heart palpitations, and syphilis (Silverthorne, p. 94).

Now, the above certainly isn't all inclusive of all the interesting things the milkweed plant can do. Most gardeners are familiar with its relationship with the monarch butterfly, but it also has a very interesting reproductive cycle that is "equaled only by that of the orchid family" (Silverthorne, p. 95).

Are you impressed? I certainly was and continue to be by the unlimited array of beauty and wonder that is in nature and available for us to explore every time we step outside. So far, we've had a mild (albeit wet) spring this year so take advantage of the beauty that surrounds you and get outside and explore!

Your Editor,
Kimber Briggs



"Everything made by human hands looks terrible under magnification—crude, rough, and asymmetrical. But in nature, every bit of life is lovely. And the more magnification we use, the more details are brought out, perfectly formed, like endless sets of boxes within boxes." –Roman Vishniac

