



# The Scion

Newsletter



TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

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



Bexar County Master Gardeners  
President's Message

*Dear Members,*

We ended the month with a tragic loss. **Carol Law**, our Office Manager and fellow Master Gardener, passed away in her sleep. I want to thank all the Master Gardeners who attended Carol's memorial service in a beautiful historic country church on a glorious spring day. I know it meant a lot to the family to see our demonstration of our high regard for Carol. She will be missed.

Our spring weather has arrived and gardening chores are front and center in our daily activities. To help us and our community, our County Extension Agent, **David Rodriguez**, is putting on some outstanding seminars on a variety of gardening topics on Saturdays at our local nurseries – check time and location in our website calendars.

Several new initiatives are underway that will transform our participation in the “for profit” gardening shows such as the *Spring/Fall Home & Garden Show* at the Alamodome and the *Festival of Flowers Show* at Alzar Shrine that we have participated in the past. In both of those shows, the Master Gardeners provide a lot of volunteers and knowledge to make them successful. Both of these shows are run as commercial enterprises with the organizers making a profit and sharing none of that with us. To replace these shows, **Anna Vogler, Lou Kellogg and others**, are developing two new gardening-focused events that will be driven by the Bexar County Master Gardeners. The first is “**Education Saturday**” where we will present a round-robin series of presentations and workshops on gardening issues; i.e., rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, turf grasses, composting, etc. We will charge for each seminar as well as have some exhibitors of gardening interest. The second event will be a spring “**Gardening Show**” along the lines of the *Home & Garden Show* but focused strictly on gardening. Stages will be available for informational presentation on gardening topics and booths will be available for plant sales, exhibitors, etc.

When we successfully introduce these two new initiatives, each will produce a line of revenue to

*President's Message, Cont.*

us, expand our reach to the community and lessen our expenses incurred by participating in the for-profit shows.

I had a nice experience recently. I ordered eight cubic yards of compost from **Burning Bush**. When it was delivered, unfortunately, the truck ran off the side of my driveway and crushed my irrigation and main water lines to the house. The damage was \$775. I took photos and went to visit the manager, Waylon, at their office. They wrote me check for the full amount of repairs without hesitation. That's customer service!

*Take Care,*



*Jack Downey, President  
Bexar County Master Gardeners*



### Bookkeeper/Office Manager Bexar County Master Gardeners



Support the Board of Directors by acting as the primary administrative focal point for the Bexar County Master Gardeners. Applicants should be computer literate in Word, Excel and QuickBooks. Responsible for all correspondence, filing systems, accounting for all revenue/expenses and membership support associated with the work of the Master Gardeners. Current work schedule is two half days a week (Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00am to 1:00pm). Hourly wage with no benefits. Forward resumes via email to [bcmgjack@gmail.com](mailto:bcmgjack@gmail.com) no later than April 7, 2017.



Thanks to those of you who have sent in your *Birdies for Charity* pledge or donation. It will really help support our many programs. If you haven't mailed in your donation yet, please use the forms you received in the mail and send them in.

You can also make your donation online at:

<http://www.valerotexasopen.com/birdies/>

Your contribution to *Birdies for Charity* can make a real difference in how well BCMG will succeed in its efforts to continue to support the programs we provide to the San Antonio community.

If you have questions or you want more information or need a pledge form, contact **Barbara Lutz** at 699-0663 or [bblutz@stic.net](mailto:bblutz@stic.net).

DEADLINE  
APRIL 15!!

**WE APPRECIATE YOU!**

*Please let us honor you at  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's*

**Volunteer Recognition Luncheon  
Tuesday April 18, 2017 @ 11 AM-1PM  
at the Blue Star Brewing Company**

**Lunch Menu:**

*Roasted Turkey with mashed potatoes and  
gravy served with a side of grilled seasoned  
vegetables.*

**RSVP to:**

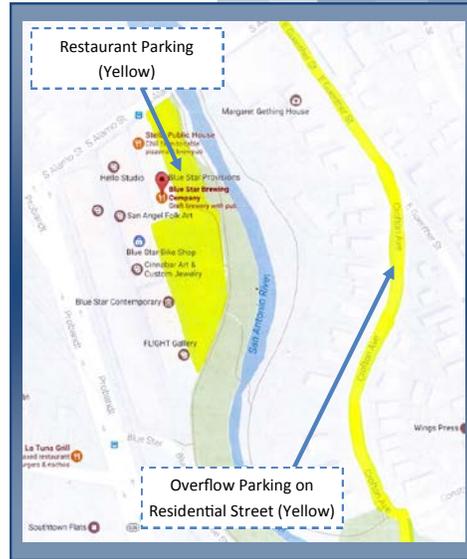
<http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/BexarCounty>

*By April 11, 2017*

*Free for registered volunteers  
\$20 per guest*



**1414 S Alamo St, San Antonio, TX 78210**



**PRAIRIE VIEW  
A&M UNIVERSITY**  
Cooperative Extension Program



**Adios Mis Amigos,**

Well, time has arrived to say "Adios" to all. I have truly enjoyed my time with the Bexar County Master Gardeners for the last 10 years. My last day at the office was Mar 24 and my official retirement date is March 31, 2017. It's hard to say 'Adios' after so many years. I have enjoyed the camaraderie and relationship with many Master Gardeners. I will continue to be a BCMG, Class 44. Thanks to all who made my stay at Bexar County Master Gardeners so enjoyable.

**Angel Torres-Luna, Office Assistant IV-Bexar County**

# Master Gardeners Out and About...



**MG Plant Sale at the Monarch Festival at the SA Zoo  
March 4-5**



**Back Row:** Pat Brown, Sue Buck, Nancy Soucher, Ann Moss, Joan Cornell  
**Front Row:** Barbara Linick, Betty Butler



**Andrew Waring and the USAA Golden Eagle volunteers at the Botanical Center Children's Vegetable Garden**  
  
(Left, Right & Below)



*MGs Out & About, Cont.*



**Another successful Master Gardener Educational Seminar - "Creating Awesome Containers" with Dr. Dotty Woodson!**

*Photos Contributed by: Jack Downey*



## April Gardening Chores

Tom Harris, Ph. D., BCMG Class 13

"The Hill Country Gardener"

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



### Birds and Wildlife

- Supplement your hummingbird-friendly plants with sugar-water feeders. Use one part sugar and four parts water.

### Color

- Plant warm weather bedding plants such as lantanas, begonias, firebush, impatiens, portulaca, coleus and zinnias. Periwinkles in late May.
- Resist cool season plants on sale now. That season is over...that's why they're on sale.
- Maintain your spray program for roses.
- Fertilize the roses this month if not done last month.
- Let bougainvillea get root bound and stressed between waterings for blooms.
- Hibiscus food works well for container-grown plants.

### Fruits and Nuts

- There is still time to thin late-season peaches, apples and plums. Thin to one fruit per 6-8 inches of stem.
- Fertilize pecan trees in early April with 21-0-0 (1 lb. per inch of trunk diameter) to encourage good nut production.

### Ornamentals

- Remove pansies, snapdragons, dianthus, calendulas, kale and other winter plants when they get ragged.
- Plant caladium tubers after mid month. Impatiens, fibrous begonias, and coleus are summertime favorites for shade.
- Do not remove leaves of spring-flowering bulbs. They're feeding the bulbs while they're green.
- Don't place plants that have been indoors all winter into direct sunlight.

### Shade Trees and Shrubs

- Do **NOT** prune oak trees now.
- You can still plant new shrubs and trees this month if they are container-grown.
- It's too late to plant bare-root trees now.
- Prune pillar or climbing roses, wisteria, and Carolina jasmine after they flower.

### Turf Grass

- Does the lawn need some "fixing"? Fix the problem and not the symptoms. Replace dead grass with the same kind of grass.

*April Gardening Chores, Cont.*

- Fertilize lawn using a slow-release lawn fertilizer with a ratio of 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 NPK—Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K)—for example, 18-6-12, 19-5-9, 20-6-12. If you use organic fertilizer, use about twice as much.
- Don't start automatic sprinkler systems unless we haven't had rain for at least 2 weeks.

**Vegetables**

- Plant vegetables such as tomatoes, sweet corn, snap beans and peppers. You can also plant cucumbers, lima or butter beans, cantaloupe, okra, southern peas, pumpkin, squash, peanuts and watermelon.
- Write down what, when, and where you plant what so you'll know next time.
- Plant eggplant, green beans, sweet corn, radishes, and carrots later in the month.
- Mulch around the veggies with leaves, straw, or hay.
- Harvest potatoes after they start blooming.
- Control snails, slugs and pill bugs with baits or beer traps. (Note: they like Budweiser best.)
- Thinning vegetables is one of the most important follow up activities in gardening.
- Use drip irrigation on veggies.

**Questions?** Write [gardener@gvtc.com](mailto:gardener@gvtc.com); to get a complete list, go to: [www.thehillcountrygardener.com](http://www.thehillcountrygardener.com). and click on "Publications."

## ATTENTION ALL SHUTTER BUGS!

DO YOU HAVE SOME GARDENING OR MASTER GARDENER EVENT PHOTOS TO SHARE??

PLEASE SEND THEM TO:

KIMBER BRIGGS, SCION EDITOR

[briggskm@yahoo.com](mailto:briggskm@yahoo.com)

DEADLINE FOR UPCOMING ISSUE IS THE 25<sup>th</sup> OF THE CURRENT MONTH.

(For example: Publication in the May issue would need to be submitted by the 25<sup>th</sup> of April)

With your photo(s), please submit: Title, date, and the names of MGs in your photos.

T H A N K Y O U !

# April Master Gardener General Meeting

Meeting is FREE  
Master Gardeners earn 1.5 CEUs

## Environmental Horticulture

**When:** Thursday, April 20, 1 – 3 pm

**Speaker:** Dr. Barron Rector

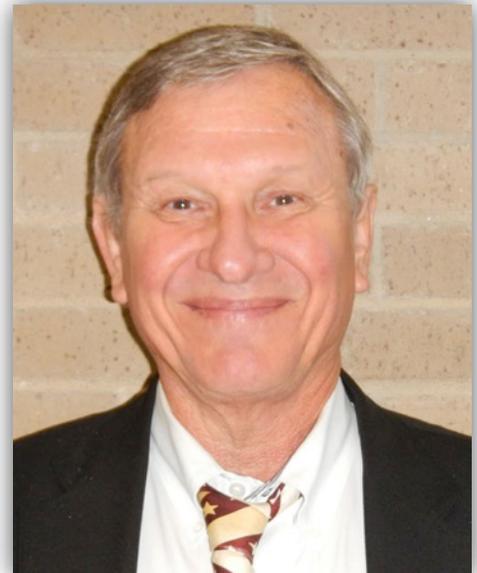
**Topic:** Environmental Horticulture – A comparison of the ecosystems of old and today.

**Where:** Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office  
3355 Cherry Ridge Dr., Ste. 208, 78230



Dr. Rector, Extension Range Specialist at Texas A&M University, is with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management. Dr. Rector received his B.S. (1972) and M.S. (1976) in Biology (with an emphasis in Plant Taxonomy) from Angelo State University. He received his Ph.D. (1983) from Texas A&M University in Rangeland Ecology and Management. From 1973 to 1981, he served with Texas AgriLife Research in San Angelo, Texas. His professional experience is biology, chemistry, plant taxonomy, environmental ecology and range animal nutrition.

Dr. Rector is recognized nationally and internationally for his plant identification skills, training workshops which include discussing poisonous plant issues, exotic, noxious weed management and plant materials important to agriculture and urban interests in native plants.





## 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.

### **Learn Grow Eat and Go!**

Our Learn Grow Eat Go schools, Graebner Elementary, Collins Gardens Elementary, and Schulze Elementary are going strong! We will be set to harvest soon and will need plenty of help for our garden harvest celebration. For more information on how you can help with our LGEg projects and schools contact Ruby Zavala at [Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu)

### **Children's Vegetable Garden**

Thank you to all the Master Gardeners who have started another season at the Children's Vegetable Garden! We have 65 registered kiddos and their families at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens! Be sure to check out the [Bexar County Youth Gardens Blog](#) for the agendas and fun gardening info! Thank you **Casey Harrington** for taking the lead on this project!

### **Spring Break Nature Camp**

Thank you to **James Griffin, Catherine Rose, Tyler Causey, Jan Tauer, Julie Croisant, Gabby Mauldin, Leslie Butterwerth, and Cappy Bird** for helping out. We saw 24 students and taught them about plants, birds, insects, keeping healthy, eating healthy, and team work. Be sure to join us next year! ☺

### **Coming Up**

#### **Youth Speaker Bureau Training**

When: **Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 10am to 12pm**  
Where: 3355 Cherry Ridge Dr. San Antonio TX 78230  
*Volunteer Hour Activity # CEU- 2 credits 001 AgriLife Presentations*

INFO: Want to teach kids about gardening, but don't know where to start? Join this training and you will learn about potting a plant, plant lifecycles, herbs, and vegetables and the fun ways we teach kids about these topics. If you are interested contact Ruby at [Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu) before April 3<sup>rd</sup>.





## MASTER GARDNER GARDEN STARS

Awards and Achievements of Our Fellow Master Gardeners



## ANNOUNCING THE 2017 BCMG SERVICE PIN



The Bexar County Master Gardener pin for 2017 is a Texas themed boot! Once you submit your 30 volunteer hours and 6 CEU credits, you'll earn the 2017 pin. Remember that at least 3 of your CEU credits must come from monthly BCMG meetings. Turn in those volunteer hours you've worked and attend the next monthly CEU meeting to be one of the first to earn the 2017 Texas boot pin.

Please see Susan Noonan at the monthly meetings to pick up your 2016 jalapeno pepper pin. A limited number of replacement pins from previous years are available for \$3.00. You can also contact Susan at [susan.noonan@gmail.com](mailto:susan.noonan@gmail.com) for other delivery options.

### W A N T E D !

#### 2012 Trowel Pin and 2011 Blue Bonnet Pin

These pins are retired but several members have lost these pins and need a replacement. If you have an extra pin or know someone who is willing to give up these pins, please email Susan Noonan,

[susan.noonan@gmail.com](mailto:susan.noonan@gmail.com)



## AgriLife Advice



### A&M ag engineering scientist touts global water awareness at Vatican

March 24, 2017

Writer: Blair Fannin, 979-845-2259, [b-fannin@tamu.edu](mailto:b-fannin@tamu.edu)

Contact: Dr. Rabi Mohtar, 979-458-9886, [mohtar@tamu.edu](mailto:mohtar@tamu.edu)

COLLEGE STATION – Citing the need for heightened interest in water availability globally, Dr. Rabi Mohtar, biological and agricultural engineering professor at Texas A&M University, took center stage March 24 at Vatican City as part of Watershed, a conference to spark global conversations of the importance of water and the future.

Pope Francis addressed the general audience in Saint Peter's Square highlighting the importance of water and urged the Watershed conference to action around water values. The Watershed conference followed with a welcome session and first technical session on the water nexus, where Mohtar's keynote addressed the interconnectivity of the water system before more than 400 international leaders over over 80,000 Facebook viewers.



Dr. Rabi Mohtar, biological and agricultural engineering professor at Texas A&M University. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo)

"I was invited by the organizer, Pontifical Council for Culture, Vatican, the club of Rome and Circle of Blue to speak on the water values and the water nexus," Mohtar said. "The stage and the venue is critical with tens of thousands and probably many more tuned in to listen. It was a great opportunity to reach and disseminate the water value and the need for collective action. Our message that the water issue needs a holistic nexus approach is getting attention."

While water is a local issue, it's also a global challenge, he said.

"The issue of water is very unique in a sense it is a local issue but the implication and impact for water scarcity and food security are global," he said. "It can only be addressed with global coalitions. Texas A&M and the Texas A&M University System Water Energy Food Nexus initiative has the opportunity and the responsibility to help in the journey towards disseminating good science that will impact policy makers, industry and public practices on ways to reduce the stresses to our water system."

Mohtar is leading the Texas A&M University System Water, Energy, Food Nexus, a project that brings together broad expertise in engineering, agriculture, policy, geosciences, behavioral sciences, law and others to help bridge the anticipated water gap in Texas and abroad. Mohtar spoke at the

White House Water Summit held last spring. More information about the project is available at <http://wefnexusinitiative.tamu.edu/>.

"The WEFN is a platform for a system level approach has and continues to receive attention for its role in social, economic and environmentally sustainable solutions to the local and global water challenges," he said. "Questions related to governance and implementation of this system level approach were dominant in the live and virtual discussion during and following the session."

Mohtar said there are plans to organize the global community by the Vatican and the meeting organizer "to move forward" in the areas of education, resource management, funding, communication, collaborations, water security and quality, and governance.

"The universities, especially in the U.S., are least engaged in this process and I believe we have a lot to offer," he said. "I hope Texas A&M will be leading some of these imperatives towards a global impact."

# Announcements



Presented by the  
**Fancy Feather's 4-H Club**  
<http://www.fancyfeatherstx.org/>





## Backyard Poultry Basics

A great introduction in how to raise poultry as a family.

**FREE Admission**  
Donations to the Fancy Feathers 4-H Club is appreciated.



**RSVP to David Rodriguez**  
dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu  
210 631-0400

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
April 13, 2017, Thursday, 7-9 pm  
3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208  
San Antonio, TX 78230-4818

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES  
COMING IN APRIL...**

## Turf Grass 101: Do's and Don'ts for Your Lawn

**Sat., April 1 @ 10:30 am - 12:00 pm**  
FREE Earth-Kind Seminar  
**MILBERGER'S NURSERY - 3920 North  
Loop 1604, 78247 Ph# 210-497-3760**

David Rodriguez from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will discuss the basics of lawn maintenance through proper nutrition, mowing, weed control and irrigation. This seminar is very popular so arrive early for best parking and seating.

1.5 CEUs, Code 001 for Master Gardeners who attend.

## Garden Gourmet

At  
**DON STRANGE RANCH**  
*Preserving & Serving the Harvest*

Wednesday, April 12, 2017



Sat, Apr 22, 10am-  
Noon: **A Taste of  
Fiesta** with David  
Rodriguez and Angie  
Gutierrez. Get all the  
details [online](#).

MGs Earn 2 CEUs - Code  
001



**To Purchase Tickets:**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/garden-gourmet-at-the-don-strange-ranch-tickets-32422666067>

*Announcements, Cont.*

BCMG General Meetings

**This Month:** Dr. Barron Rector, "Environmental Horticulture"  
 When: Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1 - 3 pm  
 Where: 3355 Cherry Ridge, 78230  
*Free - 1.5 CEUs - BCMG Code: 003*

**Next Month:** Andres Andujar, CEO of Hemisfair Redevelopment Corp. has been invited to present on the history and future of Hemisfair.



Join our  
**Master Gardener Group on  
 Facebook!**  
*Click Here*



**Lawn & Garden Show Podcast**  
*Click Here*



**ATTENTION MASTER GARDENER SPECIALISTS!**

If you are interested in writing an article about your specialty to share your experiences and inspire other master Gardeners, please contact BCMG President Jack Downey at: [bcmgjack@gmail.com](mailto:bcmgjack@gmail.com)

**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"

**MASTER GARDENER SPECIALIST COURSES IN 2017**

If you are interested in attending, please email **David Rodriguez**, Extension Agent-Horticulture, Bexar County. *BCMG CEU Code: 001.*

**TURF GRASS**, Apr 6-7, Belton - [TGMA Website](#)

**RAINWATER HARVESTING**, Apr 10-12, San Antonio - [BCMG Calendar](#)

**NEW - FIRST DETECTOR (PLANT PATHOLOGY)**, May 8-9, Ft Worth - [TGMA Website](#)

**TREE CARE**, May 17-19, McKinney - [Collin County Event](#)

**NEW - JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER SPECIALIST TRAINING**, Aug 1-4, Corinth - [DCMG Website](#).

**VEGETABLE**, Oct 17-19, Bexar County MGs, San Antonio

Learn more about MG Specialists Training & our Current BCMG Specialists at our [website!](#)



Announcements, Cont.

*Mostly Native*  
**PLANT SALE**  
*Cibola Nature Center & Farm*

April 1, 2017  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
*Kendall County Fairgrounds*  
1307 River Road, Boerne, Texas  
*Find native and non-invasive plants, tried-and-true for the Texas Hill Country!*  
\$5 Admission Per Person  
\$10 Raffle Tickets  
*Thank you to our sponsors!*

**Culligan** Texas Hill Country  
**THE BOERNE STAR**  
Proudly serving Boerne and Kendall County since 1906

**Native Plant Society of Texas**  
*San Antonio*

Our Spring Plant Sale will be held on April 8 at **Phil Hardberger Park** from 9am to noon. Click on the scientific name in our [plant list](#) to learn more about each plant's growing conditions, benefit to humans and wildlife, pollinator relationships, and more. Come early to get the best selection!



**AFRICAN VIOLET  
SPRING SHOW AND SALE**

**March 31st - April 1st, 2017**  
**San Antonio Garden Center**  
**3310 N. New Braunfels Ave.**  
**San Antonio, Texas**  
**(210) 824-9981**

**FREE ADMISSION**

**Friday, March 31, 2017**  
**Sale 9 AM — 4 PM**  
**Show 1 PM — 4 PM**

**Saturday, April 1, 2017**  
**9 AM — 3 PM**

**Hundreds of African Violets for Sale & on Display.**  
**Experienced growers available to answer questions.**

**From Soil to Sky: How Milkweeds and Monarchs Coexist.** [Dr. Anurag Agrawal](#), an amazing, award-winning ecologist who has studied Monarchs and their entire chemical ecology, will be discussing his book, "Monarchs and Milkweed: A Migrating Butterfly, a Poisonous Plant and their Remarkable Story of Coevolution," at the [San Antonio Book Festival](#) on **Sat, Apr 8 at 10am** with book signing at 11:15am. Mark your calendar and RSVP at the [Facebook Invite!](#)  
MGs – 1 CEU, Code 002



LIKE us on Facebook.



# Plant Sale April 22 10am-2pm

Early Admission for  
Garden Members at 9am!



SAN ANTONIO  
**BOTANICAL GARDEN**

cultivate yourself.

The Viva Botanica Plant Sale features a great selection of small trees, most native to South Texas:

Wafer ash - Mexican buckeye - Red buckeye  
Texas redbud - Mexican orchid tree

Additionally, find many more native and well adapted perennials, shrubs and bulbs to enhance your garden.

555 Funston Place | San Antonio, Texas | 210-536-1400 | sabot.org

JOIN US FOR VIVA BOTANICA,  
AN OFFICIAL FIESTA® EVENT  
APRIL 22 - 10AM - 2PM



## SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDEN 2017 Class Schedule



### Gardening & Waterwise Classes April and June

#### **Converting Your Garden to a Waterwise Garden**

**Instructor: Mary Irish, Horticulturist and Author**

SATURDAY, **APRIL 8**, 9:30-11AM

What are the chief techniques to turning a yard dominated by lawn and thirsty plants into one that is beautiful but uses less water? This class will teach both techniques and considerations in the conversion to a waterwise garden, as well recommended plants. Mary Irish is a horticulturist, author and manages the greenhouse at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. She has over 20 years experience.

Fee: \$20 (\$18 members)

#### **South Texas Lawn Care: I Want the Same Kind of Grass THEY Have**

**Instructor: Tom Harris, Master Gardener and Author**

SATURDAY, **APRIL 15**, 9:30-11AM

Lawn grasses in our area can be a beauty or a beast. Some require lots of water while others don't. All require at least some TLC in order to be lush and carpet-like. In this class we discuss the major varieties of grass that do well here, fertilizer for them, watering, and pest/disease problems.

Fee: \$20 (\$18 members)

#### **The Chili Pepper Herb of the Year (2016) – Capsicum**

**Instructor: Leslie Bingham, Horticulturist and SA Herb Society**

SATURDAY, **APRIL 15**, 12-2 PM

This class will discuss the history, development, hybridization and use of the Chili first in Mesoamerica and then into the modern era. We look at the use of the chili in food, certain ancient beverages where chili was used as part of mystic rituals and then work our way up to the present era and examine the use of the chili in food production, the pharma industry and we find out how to “rate” heat in the chili and look at the production of some very new chili varieties developed right here in Texas.

Fee: \$20 (\$18 members)

#### **Texas Superstar® Plants**

**Instructor: Brigid Oman, Master Gardener**

SATURDAY, **APRIL 29**, 9:30-11AM

Texas Superstar® plants provide maximum beauty with minimal care. They come highly recommended for WaterSaver landscapes by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension. Learn from Master Gardener, Brigid Oman, about the variety of plants that have been subjected to statewide testing and been found to be hardy, tolerating the heat and drought conditions as well as proving to be disease and insect tolerant.

Fee: \$20 (\$18 members)

#### **Growing Up Wild**

**Instructor: Emma Trester-Wilson & Tim Roan, San Antonio Botanical Garden Staff**

SUNDAY, **APR 30**, 9AM-12PM

SATURDAY, **JUNE 10**, 9AM-12PM

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education program that fosters children's interest in the nature around them, while offering a range of activities and experiences that are important to establishing a foundation of positive impressions about the natural world. This program provides lifelong social and academic skills to children all while exploring wildlife and the natural world around them. Recommended for pre-school to elementary educators.

Fee: \$25

### **Family Drop-In Programs (No pre-registration Necessary) In April**

#### **Winged Wonders Family Drop-In Program Second Saturdays, 10 AM-12 PM**

**APR 8**

Join us for some hands-on family fun featuring pollinators! Programming will vary but will include activities such as creating a simple craft, playing a game, and taking part in a garden exploration activity.

Fee: Free with Admission

#### **Viva Botanica**

SATURDAY, **APRIL 22**, 10 AM-2 PM

Celebrate Fiesta® and Earth Day at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Enjoy Los Colores of spring in the Garden and learn about nature with fun, hands-on activities.

Fee: Free with Admission

**PLEASE NOTE:** Additional information, including codes and CEUs, for those classes which qualify for BCMGs are listed on the **Master Calendar** on the Bexar County Master Gardener website: <http://www.bexarmg.org/members/>



## Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities

### COMMUNITY GARDENS (Code 400)

**Green Space Alliance (Code 401)** Knowledgeable gardeners are wanted to regularly serve as garden mentors and occasionally help with special gardening projects.

**Contact:** Tia Moen, Community Outreach Manager at <mailto:tia@greensatx.org>

**Location:** Varies

**Website:**

<https://www.greensatx.org/upcoming-events/volunteer/volunteer-opportunities/> or <http://www.meetup.com/San-Antonio-CG/>

**Haven for Hope (H4H) (Code 402)** BCMGs have been helping to maintain the H4H vegetable and butterfly gardens. Also looking for a few individuals to assist with garden chores and who are available on Tuesday mornings between 8-11am. Additional times and dates are established as needed. There are two steps required to become a Haven for Hope volunteer as described at the website below. Please inform the staff you are a Master Gardener and are interested in helping in the garden.

**MG Contact:** Andrew Waring at [bcmg58@gmail.com](mailto:bcmg58@gmail.com)

**Location:** 1 Haven for Hope Way, San Antonio, TX 78207

**Website:**

<http://www.havenforhope.org/new/volunteers>

**Herff Farm (Code 403)** Volunteer to plant and maintain gardens used for inspiring the public to garden. Teach different ways to garden and how to do it organically. Workdays are Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings (email [Shanna Ciano](mailto:Shanna.Ciano) for exact times); Saturdays from 9am-1pm greet visitors and answer their gardening questions.

**MG Contact:** Shanna Ciano at [shannac@beecreek.net](mailto:shannac@beecreek.net)

**Location:** 33 Herff Road, Boerne TX 78006

**Website:**

[http://www.cibolo.org/difference/vol\\_section/](http://www.cibolo.org/difference/vol_section/)

**SA Food Bank Gardens (Code 404)** Help plant, maintain and harvest the gardens at SA Food Bank. For more information, check out the [SA Food Bank Guide for Garden Volunteers](#) at the website below.

**MG Contact:** Ted Ritchie at [tnritch@gmail.com](mailto:tnritch@gmail.com) or call: 210-744-4220

**Location:** 5200 W Old US Hwy 90, San Antonio, TX 78227

**Website:** <http://safoodbank.org/steps-to-volunteer/>

**Schultze Cottage (Code 405)** In past years, the Hemisfair Park Cottage was a centerpiece of Master Gardener demonstration gardening and a gardening gift shop. Consider rolling up your sleeves and working to renew and maintain our cottage

*Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities, Cont.*

as part of San Antonio's redeveloping Hemisfair Park.

**MG Contact:** Jack Downey at [bcmgjack@gmail.com](mailto:bcmgjack@gmail.com)

**Location:** 514 Hemisfair Park, San Antonio, TX 78205

**Wounded Warrior Gardens (Code 406)** Join the folks who maintain very special gardens for our seriously injured warriors. These gardens are designed to offer therapy as well as beauty.

**MG Contact:** Joyce Dare at [joyce\\_dare@satx.rr.com](mailto:joyce_dare@satx.rr.com)

**Location:** Warrior & Family Support Center, Bldg. 3628 Rawley E. Chambers Rd., Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234

**YOUTH PROGRAMS (Code 980)**

**Children's Vegetable Garden @ SABOT (Code 980a)** All interested and curious volunteers welcome for Fall and Spring programs at the San Antonio Botanical Garden CVG!

**MG Contacts:** Mary Fernandez at [fernandez.m1978@gmail.com](mailto:fernandez.m1978@gmail.com), or John Mayer at [JMayerUDRetired@yahoo.com](mailto:JMayerUDRetired@yahoo.com), or David Rodriguez at

[dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu) SABOT Contact: Volunteer Coordinator Nadezhda Garza at [ngarza@sabot.org](mailto:ngarza@sabot.org) or call 210-207-3261 or 210-536-1415

**Location:** 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209

**Websites:** <http://www.bexarmg.org/what-we-do/childrens-vegetable-garden-program/> <https://www.facebook.com/BexarCountyYouthGardensProgram> <https://bexaryouthgardens.wordpress.com/>

**Children's Vegetable Garden @ Hardberger Park (Code 980a)** The Phil Hardberger Park Children's Vegetable Garden is busy with

new classes of children planting delicious seasonal vegetables. The garden could use more volunteers in a variety of jobs. The Hardberger Park CVG works with the children on Tuesday mornings, and always needs MGs for the Watering Team.

**MG Contact:** Nancy Brown at [nan.bro@att.net](mailto:nan.bro@att.net) or 210-315-5015

**Location:** 1021 Voelcker Lane, San Antonio, TX 78248

**Website:**

<https://www.philhardbergerpark.org/events/kid-friendly-events/childrens-vegetable-garden/1376-cvg-season-2>

**Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Activities (Code 980c)**

**MG Contact:** Ruby Zavala at [Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu)

**Location:** Varies

**School Gardens (Adopt-a-School) (Code 980d)**

**MG Contact:** Ruby Zavala at [Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu)

**Location:** Varies

**Terrarium Project (Code 980b)** Work with children on an age-appropriate, TEKS-based lessons, building a terrarium to keep, and touring the Conservatory. Training is provided.

**Contact:** SABOT Volunteer Coordinator Nadezhda Garza at [ngarza@sabot.org](mailto:ngarza@sabot.org) or call 210-207-3261 or 210-536-1415

**Location:** 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209

**Youth Speakers Bureau (Code 980g)** Take fun gardening activities (insects -- plants -- soils) to a youth garden class!

**MG Contact:** Ruby Zavala at [Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Ruby.Zavala@ag.tamu.edu)

**Location:** Varies

*Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities, Cont.***ADDITIONAL GARDENING OPPORTUNITIES...**

**MG Helping Hands (Code 304)** Help BCMG with mailings or other work at our office.

**MG Contact:** Holly Julian at

[khollyj@satx.rr.com](mailto:khollyj@satx.rr.com)

**Location:** Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 3355 Cherry Ridge Drive, Suite 208, 78230

**MG Hotline (Code 503)** The BCMG Plant Hotline answers phone and email questions daily. It is a very good way to learn about a variety of gardening topics. For those of us who don't tolerate heat well, it's great!

**MG Contacts:** Jim Strong,

[jrstrong44@gmail.com](mailto:jrstrong44@gmail.com) and Anne Goode,

[buagoode@outlook.com](mailto:buagoode@outlook.com)

**Location:** Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 3355 Cherry Ridge Drive, Suite 208, 78230

**Website:** <http://www.bexarmg.org/what-we-do/bexar-county-master-gardener-hotline/>

**MG Speakers Bureau (Code 900)** The Speakers' Bureau needs your help! Join the speaker request notification list to volunteer as a Speaker (Codes: 902=preparation; 903=presentation; 904=tear down), or as a Speakers Bureau assistant to accompany each speaker on their engagement to manage handouts and sign-in sheets, and to return completed sign-in sheets to the BCMG office (Code 901).

**MG Contact:** Karen Gardner at

[karen.gardner@bexarmg.org](mailto:karen.gardner@bexarmg.org) or call 210-571-3903

**Location:** Varies

**Website:** <http://www.bexarmg.org/what-we-do/educational-program/>

**MG Training Class (Code 202)** Tell Lou you would like to serve as a mentor for intern class participants!

**MG Contact:** Lou Kellogg,

[bexarmg1@gmail.com](mailto:bexarmg1@gmail.com)

**Location:** Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 3355 Cherry Ridge Drive, Suite 208, 78230

**Websites:**

<http://www.bexarmg.org/about/35-2/>

and <http://www.bexarmg.org/get-involved/>

**Plant Trials (Code 950d)** Email David to be added to a list of MGs who will be contacted directly when help is needed for a project.

**Contact:** David Rodriguez at

[dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu)

**Locations:** Food Bank, San Antonio Botanical Gardens and others as identified.

**San Antonio Botanical Garden (Code 800)** Master Gardeners can participate in Plant Propagation (Code 801) working in the SABOT greenhouse under the direction of Mary Irish, or in General Gardens Help (Code 802) which includes various seasonal gardening chores (watering plants, cleaning up plants, dead leaves, deadheading, pruning, etc.).

**Contact:** SABOT Volunteer Coordinator Nadezhda Garza at [ngarza@sabot.org](mailto:ngarza@sabot.org) or call 210-207-3261 or 210-536-1415 for day and time information.

**Location:** 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX 78209

## 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.



### **Minutes – BCMG Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting – March 22, 2017**

(Board Reviewed by Email; Formal Approval @ Apr 20<sup>th</sup> BOD Meeting)

#### **Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order by President Jack Downey, March 22, 2017, 4pm.
- Board Members Present: Jack Downey (President), Lori Bindseil (Treasurer), Ann Marie Pease (Member at Large), Marybeth Parsons (Member at Large)
- Board Members Absent: Ruben Lozano (Vice President), Sherry Cantrell (Secretary), Inez Ornelas (Membership Director)
- Other Attendees: David Rodriguez (CEA), Lou Kellogg (Education Director), Barbara Lutz (Past President), Anna Vogler (Water Conservation Coordinator), Ruby Zavala (Youth Gardens Coordinator).
- Jack asked for someone to record the minutes; Ann Marie volunteered.

#### **Approval of Minutes for the February 2017 BOD Meeting**

- Motion to approve the February minutes was made by Lori and seconded by Marybeth; approved by unanimous acclamation.

#### **County Extension Agent (CEA) Report – David Rodriguez**

- David has a number of presentations scheduled this Spring and is appreciative of the many Master Gardeners (MGs) who are assisting him at venues across the county.
- Lots of work needed with tomato and watermelon trials, especially in early to mid-April.
- David offered a Big Thanks to all the MGs for the amazing work being done across the spectrum of activities.

#### **Youth Gardens Coordinator Report – Ruby Zavala**

- Last week's Spring Break Camp, co-organized with Molly Keck, was another success with 24 kids participating. Ruby misses all those children.
- Jack asked how many schools have outdoor gardening classrooms. Ruby responded that 60 schools had participated in the training and received supplies. Also, she added that five MGs are involved in regularly advising some of the schools. David recalled that early on he had contemplated a goal of each MG adopting a school, but the idea has been on hold.

#### **Water Conservation Report – Anna Vogler**

- The Spring Home & Garden Show (Feb 24-26) had very slow sales until Sunday. Following some discussion, Anna recommended that BCMG not participate in the future and the Board concurred.

- Plans for the proposed Fall Education Saturday and an Early Spring MG Garden Show are progressing. Anna and Lou have toured facilities with good parking and identified fees (very reasonable) for using Church of the Nazarene, 10715 West Ave, 78213 (just off NW Military). The “working concept” for the Fall Education Saturday includes offering four to six topics. Attendees could register to rotate through three topics for a workshop fee of \$25 each and \$40 for a couple, or one topic for \$10 per person and \$15 per couple. No general admission would be charged. Demonstrations and vendors would be available throughout the day. Anna is considering a September date. The Early Spring Garden Show may be a February event.

#### **Education Report – Lou Kellogg**

- Class 61 is going well! Ruby’s idea of organizing the seating with 5 interns to a table has worked well for the presentations and also for intern discussions and bonding.
- The Irrigation Efficiency Specialist Course with Dr Dotty Woodson went well this week. And the Rainwater Harvesting Specialist Course, April 10-12, has 15 enrolled to date.

#### **No Membership Report – Inez Ornelas (not present)**

#### **Treasurer’s Report – Lori Bindseil**

- Our bottom line is significantly improved. Some Rodeo expense reimbursement issues are still being worked. Lori indicated the financials do not reflect a significant amount of unbudgeted revenue, such as the rain barrel money from SAWS. None of the members had questions on the financial report that Lori provided by email prior to the meeting.
- Jack will send an email to 29 MGs, and some JMGs and Honorary MGs who have not paid membership dues for 2017 (deadline was March 1<sup>st</sup>) giving them an extension until April 15<sup>th</sup> to make this payment.
- Status on the CD Ladder implementation was tabled owing to Ruben’s absence.
- Ann Marie reported that she, Ruben and Kate Radomski have been reviewing four options for point of sale (at events, etc.) and online (at our website for dues, etc.) credit card acceptance: First Data (which Jack found is presently partnered with Frost Bank); Square (used by Ruben and Kate); Verifone (suggested by Lou); and Shopify (a TechSoup recommendation for non-profits). An important criteria in selection is data security for our members and other cardholders who would use the processing service. Ann Marie is still waiting for First Data’s response to some questions. Research still in progress.

#### **Old Business**

- Jack reported that the Nomination Committee chaired by Ruben has received candidates for all open board positions, except the offices of President and Vice

President. Obviously, the Board needs to talk with MGs about the opportunity to serve and lead this very active organization. Voting will take place at the BCMG meeting in June.

- A membership vote for approval of the By-Laws change to provide for electronic voting by the Board will be on the agenda at the BCMG meeting this evening.
- Barb and David will insure the remaining 2017 Membership Cards will be mailed out to members; they will contact Holly Julian (MG Helping Hands) for assistance.
- Festival of Flowers has contacted Jack to enlist BCMG participation for the 2017 event. Following much discussion the Board decided to decline all participation for this event with one exception. Anna has been offered the opportunity to provide a lobby display on Rain Gardens with SAWS collaborating on providing some materials, along with set-up and clean up. SAWS would provide a \$1500 grant for BCMG to design the display and staff the area with MGs who could address Rain Garden construction and maintenance questions. Since Anna will be out of the country at the time of the event, a lead and a team would be needed. The Board decided that with Anna's involvement in the planning (before her departure) and her work with a lead and team that BCMG would agree to provide the lobby display and education staff. Jamie Daily, who has Rain Garden expertise, and San Antonio River Authority (SARA) and Water Garden Gems will be consulted.

#### **New Business**

- The Board approved a donation of \$1000 to the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners for support they provided to BCMG during Rodeo construction and the entire Rodeo event.
- It was confirmed that only the President and the Membership Director were authorized to post sign-up events and membership information in the Volunteer Management System (VMS).
- Monarch Festival at the Zoo (Mar 4-5) was a rainy, wet Saturday, but a great success on Sunday. Jack noted that a workday was needed at the storage unit in order to clean some items, identify items needing repair/replacement, and to reorganize the contents.
- Jack recommended that the Board continue to assess how BCMG may change its participation for Rodeo 2018, based on funding issues, which occurred in 2017. BCMG had approx. \$700 in expenses and nearly \$3000 in shuttle van/gas costs which were well under the \$8000 ceiling agreed upon with San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo. However, payment for the van and gas are in dispute. Members suggested weekend only participation or only a booth for plant sales. This information will be conveyed to the 2017-2018 Board for their consideration and decision.
- Speaker of the Month for April is Dr Barron Rector.

- Jack requested it be recorded that he objects to selecting Master Gardeners of the Month too far in advance as done at the February meeting.
- Jack has prepared a request for applications for the Office Manager position, which will be published next week via eBlast/Leaflet.
- Jack announced that Barb had reserved the San Antonio Garden Center for Sunday, December 10, 2017 to hold the annual BCMG Christmas Party from 1-4pm.
- Barb conveyed the appreciation of the San Antonio Garden Center for all the work of MGs and interns at the Garden Center Plant Sale (March 16-18).
- David announced the Agri-Life Volunteer Recognition Event would take place from 11am-1pm on Tuesday, April 18 at the Blue Star Brewery. Invitations would be out soon.
- Anna started a brainstorming session as she mentioned that Lynn Cox has suggested the BCMG prepare a Vegetable Gardening Guide. Lou added it could be a digital version to be sold on Amazon. Other ideas such as a cookbook with recipes focusing on certain vegetables; nutritionist input required. Also, a gardening calendar was discussed.
- Jack noted the 2017 TMGA State Conference is scheduled to cruise from Galveston TX on the Carnival Cruise Line from April 27, 2017 to May 1, 2017. Five MGs and guests are planning to attend: Angel Torres-Luna, LaVunn Mims, Donna Armstrong, Jack Downey and Ruben Lozano. The Awards Luncheon will take place at Moody Gardens in Galveston on Monday, May 1st with some MGs planning to attend.
- Jack reported that Betty Butler has been asked to serve as the next Speakers Bureau Scheduler upon the resignation of Karen Gardner whose work in this position has been much appreciated!

#### **Upcoming BOD Meeting**

- Date for the next BOD meeting is Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 3pm.

#### **Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned by Jack Downey at 5:35pm, March 23, 2017.

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Ann Marie Pease  
Acting Secretary

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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

**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

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

**Vice President**

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

**Treasurer**

Lori Bindseil  
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**Secretary**

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**Membership**

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

**Members-at-Large**

Marybeth Parsons  
[Member1@bexarmg.org](mailto:Member1@bexarmg.org)  
Ann Marie Pease  
[Member2@bexarmg.org](mailto:Member2@bexarmg.org)

**Immediate Past President**

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

**To Send an E-mail to the entire Board**  
[board@bexarcountymastergardeners.org](mailto:board@bexarcountymastergardeners.org)

**BCMG Board of Directors  
Meeting**

**Thurs., Apr. 20, 3:30 - 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 that you will be attending.



On Saturday, Mar 24th, the life of Carol Law, our friend, BCMG Office Manager & fellow Master Gardener was celebrated at the historic Zion Lutheran Chapel with standing room only attendees in brightly colored clothing. The table of memories in the reception hall included her love of Master Gardening (photo below by Lisa Nixon).



## In Memoriam



Carol Law  
December 17, 1947 - March 13, 2017

### 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*

Spring has sprung! And I, like I'm sure most of you Master Gardeners, am thrilled with the warmer weather and the opportunity to be back in the garden getting my hands dirty (along with the rest of me!). Besides taking care of my own yard, I also volunteer at the San Antonio Botanical Garden and this is a busy time for weeding, weeding, and more weeding! I wrote an article back in March 2016 about *Oxalis* and my challenge of trying to eradicate it from the beds at the Botanical Garden. This year, my nemesis is *Galium aparine*, also known by a variety of other monikers: cleavers, goosegrass, barweed, catchweed, sticky Willy, sticky weed, bedstraw, begger's lice, scratchweed and Velcro plant! There's probably even more, but these were the most common ones I came across. Having pulled up enough of it to probably make at least one trip around the planet if the sticky "straw" was tied end to end, I think I would go with "sticky weed" or "Velcro plant" as the most descriptive.



I researched *Oxalis* last year and found some interesting information, so once again curious about another successful "weed" I went in search of information about *Galium aparine*...

First of all, *Galium aparine*, derives its common name, "cleavers," "catchweed," "sticky weed," "Velcro plant," et al. from the bristles on the stems, leaves and fruit that cleave, or cling, to anything it comes in contact with: clothes, animal hair, other plants, and, I annoyingly found out, garden gloves. Beware of having skin to plant contact - for some people sticky weed will cause skin irritation (hence the term "scratchweed"?). The odd common name, "goosegrass," is due to the fact that this plant is a favorite food of geese, but maybe not people. Although it is an edible plant, it has a bitter taste and if eaten raw the tiny bristles give it an undesirable texture.



Like *Oxalis*, sticky weed is found just about everywhere. According to the USDA Plant Data Base, it can be found in the lower 48 states of North America, including Alaska, Canada and Greenland. Other sources also list

*From the Editor, Cont.*

Europe, North Africa, and Asia from Britain and the Canary Islands to Japan, Mexico, Central and South America, Australia, New Zealand...did I say it could be found just about EVERYWHERE? It grows best in shady, moist environments.

As mentioned before, it is edible, and because it is in the same family as coffee, the fruits can be dried and roasted and used as a coffee substitute (although it doesn't have as much caffeine as commercial coffee beans). Additionally, its roots can be used to make a red dye. Another useful property, historically in medieval times, and from which it gets the name "bedstraw," was its use as a mattress stuffing primarily due to its clingy nature. I experienced its ability to create "springy mats" first hand while collecting it from garden beds. I think I could have easily stuffed an entire mattress with the amount I pulled up!



Surprisingly it also has numerous medicinal benefits, including detoxifying the body and boosting the immune system. Used as a sieve by ancient Greek shepherds to strain milk, this practice is still in use today by the Swedish who believe consuming the filtered milk has healing benefits. Dried, it can be

made into a tea that has the benefit of removing toxins from the body, assisting with weight loss, and treating urinary tract infections. As a poultice, it can be used to soothe skin irritations, wounds and insect bites. One source I consulted even claimed it had the ability to act as a "detoxifying agent in serious illnesses such as cancer," ([Alternative Nature Online Herbal](#)).

Even with all the benefits listed above, maybe you still want to rid it from your garden? If so, it is recommended to remove the plant in the early spring before it can flower and produce seeds, followed by mulching the area to discourage further growth. In my own experience both at home and at the Botanical Garden, I've found removing the plant relatively easy after rain or irrigation due to its shallow roots.

I will say after doing some research on this particular plant, I am once again amazed how something I initially found to be so annoying has turned out to be such a beneficial plant!

I highly encourage anyone frustrated with having to do a lot of weeding in their garden to try investigating the bothersome invader. You might be pleasantly surprised to find that the weed you're trying so hard to eradicate is actually a beneficial plant that may be the answer to a mystifying and difficult medical issue for yourself or someone you know!

Your Editor,  
*Kimber Briggs*