

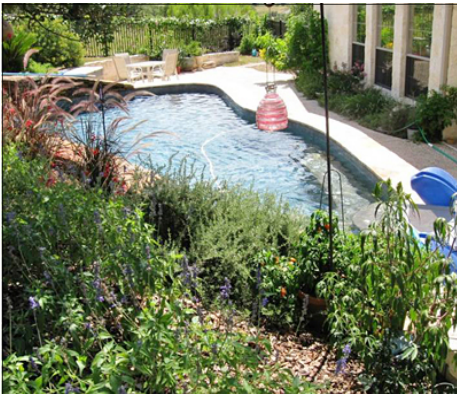


By Barbara Elmore, HCMG

OUR FAVORITE PLANTS, PART 3 Our 'Autobiography' Gardens

"Gardens are a form of autobiography," author Sydney Eddison once said about her lifelong passion. Hill Country Master Gardeners seem to agree; for this and in two former issues of our newsletter, we have shared our stories by naming favorite plants.

It's interesting that several gardeners did not like being asked to name only one favorite. "It's like naming a favorite of several children," complained one. So I hastily said to choose more. And some did.



Here are the last two members to name favorites. And since we are entering a second planting season with the onset of fall — we hope so, anyway — the list of favorites from the last two issues is included below. Maybe gardeners will find something in the list to add to their garden palettes before year's end:

Cindy Anderson "Here are some of my favorite flowers: 'Henry Duelberg' salvia (similar to Mealy blue sage but a richer, darker blue); Salvia darcy (vigorous grower with prolific red blooms); and purple fountain grass. They add stunning color beside our pool. Purple fountain grass and other lush plants border the pool and the fountain grass constantly waves in the breeze. I often shear back the two salvias, which makes them much thicker, with more branches producing more flowers."

"My favorite tomato this year was the Cherokee purple. Our April speaker, Keith Amelung of Heirloom Tomatoes, said it was his favorite, and now it is mine. It was the most delicious tomato I have ever tasted. I cut it back in late July, hoping for a second crop in the fall. Thank you, Keith!"

Sandy Martin "I love my smoke tree, Anacardiaceae Cotinus obovatus. This is a native tree found in the Texas Hill Country; it likes well drained soil in a sunny spot. The female tree puts on a show twice a year. In the spring the seeds are held on red to purple "clouds" that look somewhat like smoke, thus the name smoke tree. In the fall the leaves of this tree turn bright yellow or orange. It is a small to medium sized tree with a height up to 30 feet, but usually much smaller. I bought mine from Medina Nursery in Medina. I planted the one pictured two years ago."



A recap of our favorites, in addition to the above:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Any tomato plant | Mary Todd daylily |
| Copper canyon daisy | Mexican sage |
| Desert willow | Mona lavender (plectranthus) |
| Jerusalem Sage | Phlox paniculata (Fanick's phlox) |
| Juliet tomato | Red geranium |
| Lavender | Tall bearded iris (Iris germanica) |
| Lilacs | |