



Of Leaf & Limb

Hill Country Master Gardeners Association

"Promoting education on horticulture and the environment"

July, 2007

Volume 5, Issue 7

1:00 p.m. July 11, 2007 meeting

Priscilla Stanley will speak on *Native Plants*, introducing us to xeric gardening. She'll discuss our "tried and true" drought-tolerant plants as well as some West Texas varieties that easily adapt to our area if given well-drained soil. This talk is open to the public.

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President's Message:



Anne Brown

Hi Everyone!

Don't forget that the July meeting is on the 11th. I hope you all have a safe and happy July 4th.

As you heard at the last meeting, we were asked by the County Commissioners to design the landscaping for the new airport terminal. **John Osborn** volunteered to do the design and work with the airport board and commissioners. His plan has been accepted by both the commissioners and the board, and will be implemented, hopefully after some drainage work is done at the site. A huge thanks to John for undertaking this project and carrying it forth to completion.

We also have been asked to help with landscaping at the courthouse; however, there are currently no funds available for the project, so I will keep you all informed how that progresses.

Carol Johnson and I purchased the CD for the scholarship, and we need to form the committee, which will recommend the guidelines under which the scholarship will be administered. Anyone interested in serving on this committee please contact me.

Congratulations to **Carol Hagemeier** for becoming a certified Master Gardener. Carol had previously been a MG, but had been inactive.

She retook the class, and did her community service hours (the telephone was waived), so she is now certified.

Thanks to **Carol Seminara** for making all the great signs for our front garden. She is hard at work producing the ones for the demo garden. Whenever we get them, and get the garden all weeded, we will have the media out and publicize the garden. If you haven't looked at it lately, please do so, because it really looks good, and will be of benefit to our community.

Again, happy 4th.

Anne



President **Anne Brown** hosted a celebration dinner Saturday, June 2nd at her ranch home for the State Conference Planning Committee. Our sponsor, **Roy Walston**, cooked up some great steaks and everyone enjoyed the food, fellowship, and camaraderie.



Roy holding a platter of his steaks.



Calendar of Events: Attendance at events other than Master Gardener meetings is optional; events are listed for those wishing to attend other educational offerings. Be sure to call and confirm event.

Betty West

July - Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter, meetings on summer hiatus - will resume in September.

July 7 – Center Point Butterfly Count. Meet at 8 a.m. at C.A.M.P. Camp in Center Point (\$3 fee) and they'll teach you all you'll need to know to participate in the butterfly count. Contact Tom Collins, HCMG, for more information at 830.634-3236.

July 11 - HCMG monthly meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Kerr County Extension Office. Please note the date change this month due to holiday. Priscilla Stanley will discuss xeric gardening (not cactus & succulents) and introduce us to some West Texas plants that adapt well to our area.

Do you have Scarlet leatherflower in your garden? If not, then you'll want to attend this program because Priscilla will share information about this and other lesser known plants. Priscilla gardened for 32 years in the northeast. Then she came to the Hill Country and began growing mostly Texas native plants. She and Jim - who is our speaker in August - grow all the plants that she will be discussing on their land

July 17 - Kerr Cactus and Succulent Society meets at 7:00 p.m. at Butt Holdsworth Library, 505 Water Street, Kerrville.

July 20 – Deadline for HCMG newsletter articles (send to Eleanor Baldwin at baldwin@kctc.com)

July 23 – Kerr County Market Days at Kerr County Courthouse, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Hill Country Master Gardeners will have a booth and plants for sale.

July 23 – Texas Master Naturalists meet in Kerrville at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville, at 7:00 p.m. Carolyn Vogel, Executive Director of Texas Land Trust Council, will discuss "Land and Water Trusts in Texas and the Texas Land Trust Council."

July 28 – Kerr County Market Days at Kerr County Courthouse, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Hill Country Master Gardeners will have a booth. Drop by and purchase your favorite plant selections.

July 31 - Native Plant Society of Texas, Fredericksburg Chapter, meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Gillespie County Historical Society Bldg, 312 W San Antonio St., Fredericksburg.

August 1 – HCMG monthly meeting at Kerr County Extension Office, 1 p.m. Jim Stanley, President of our local Texas Master Naturalists chapter, will be our featured speaker.

August 2 – Deadline for our HCMG members to sign up for the Bamberger Tour scheduled for March 18, 2008. After August 2nd, any remaining slots for the tour will be available for guests of HCMG members.

September 22 – 2nd Annual Wildscapes Workshop will be offered by Native Plant Society of Texas, Fredericksburg Chapter. Location is Fredericksburg United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 1800 N. Llano Hwy, Fbg., 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. with registration beginning at 8 a.m. Speakers booked are Calvin Finch, Jill Nokes, Skip Richter and Katherine Crawford. Garden tours will follow the workshop. Plant and book sale, raffle & drawings and lunch will be included. Cost is \$25 for NPSOT members, \$30 for non-members with \$5 discount for couples.

September 22 – HCMGs will once again be selling fall plants at Kerr County Market Days, Kerr County Courthouse, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

September 29 – Boerne Tour of Yards sponsored by NPSOT, Boerne Chapter. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tour some really gorgeous yards/gardens featuring native plants.





Greenhouse Watering

As most of you know, our greenhouse is the source of our major moneymaking for the chapter. **John Osborne** and his committee sell the plants we care for at our booth on Market Days. So the watering and care crew at the greenhouse deserve a big thank you.

The following people have worked in April, May or June: **Mildred Coggins, Shereena Spangler, Marguerite Belec, Marilyn Pease, Natalie Morgan, Carol Brinkman, Rochell Aymond, Carol Hage-meier, Jack and Dorothy Cremins, Betty Burton, David Buchen, Phyllis Knight, Jean Anderson, and Christine Miller.**

You can see that it takes a dedicated crew and that it is most important that we all water on the days we signed up for. Recently two days were missed by people who had contracted to do the job, on 90° days, and the result was near catastrophe. We really need you to call me if you cannot make it on your day and I will be happy to water. Call - do not e-mail me - as I don't check my mail each day. If you are a person who has trouble with this please - in the name of loving our plants - get your hours another way.

I wish to recognize three people who have also been a great help to me in this new job: **Anne Brown, Tony Pacini and John Osborne.**

Happy Gardening,

Marie Brown, Greenhouse Chair



Center Point Butterfly Counts

Butterflies are one of the most beautiful elements of the natural world, and scientists now recognize that they can also serve as one important indicator of the health of ecosystems. Local naturalists will soon be enjoying their beauty and contributing to a nationwide program that conducts long-term monitoring of butterfly populations. The public is welcome to participate, and while knowledge of butterflies is a plus, it is not necessary.

The Center Point Butterfly Count **will be held** on Saturday July 7. The USGS butterfly database lists 149 species of butterflies recorded in Kerr County. Center Point counters will meet at Camp C.A.M.P. on Skyline drive at 8 am to organize into groups. They will return at noon for lunch to review species seen and decide upon afternoon places to search.

To Participate or request more information about the Center Point Count, contact Bob Tanner at 830-370-3201 or Tom Collins at email towhee@maverickbbs.com.

Participants will divide into groups based upon their knowledge of butterflies. Groups will then go out to local parks and gardens to count species and numbers of butterflies they observe. A pair of binoculars can help bring the butterfly up close to facilitate identification.

Anyone can participate. There is a small fee of \$3 for adults to help fund the annual report and data analysis. Children under 12 are free. Individuals with flowering gardens can participate free as well and only need stay home and record the butterflies they see and call in their results to the compiler.

The North American Butterfly Association (NABA) Butterfly Count program has been held annually since 1975, when only 29 counts were held. In 2005, 467 counts were held in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Volunteers around North America select a count area 15 miles in diameter and conduct a one-day census of all butterflies observed within that circle. The count program is intended to promote interest in butterflies and provide results useful for scientific monitoring of this beautiful and fascinating group of insects.

North American Butterfly Association organizes the counts and publishes their annual reports. For more information on NABA and the count program, check out the website at www.naba.org.

Website of the month:
The North American Butterfly Association
<http://www.naba.org>



Carol Seminara

Over the Fence:

No Dinner Tonight, Deer

This month's topic is deer resistant plants. We all know there's no such thing as a deer-proof landscape and that if they're hungry enough, deer will eat just about anything including the bark off trees. But in an ideal world there ought to be some plants that Bambi and his family can resist snacking on.

MG **Eleanor Baldwin** reports that she lives on 10+ unfenced acres with a goodly number of whitetail deer and she's never seen them eat the following: Mealy Blue Sage, yellow Mexican hat, Cenizo (Green Cloud and silver sages), Rosemary, Cowpen Daisy (*Verbena encelioides*) and Mexican oregano.

Even in drought conditions, when the deer are hungry enough to make a meal out of *Salvia greggii*, Eleanor said they have not touched her Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia leucanta*). Her deer, she adds, love the nut grass that came in a load of soil she received as a Christmas present and, kind soul, she leaves the insidious weed to their pleasure.

MG **Betty West**, another hillside dweller sans fences, said it's her Jerusalem Sage (*Phlomis fruticosa*) that survives onslaught from a "thick as thieves" deer population. She planted a Jerusalem Sage last year and it's tripled in size despite the pushy deer who literally knock on her front door looking for a handout.

Betty also reports good luck with her *Salvia greggii*, Rosemary and Copper Canyon Daisies.

Rosemary, Mexican Mint Marigold and some other strongly aromatic plants are frequently classified as "rarely if ever eaten," but MG **Carol Biggs** advises that this is primarily true for mature plants, which have had sufficient growth time to develop their essential oils.

Carol said she's seen deer pull up and devour young Rosemary cuttings. Three months is about the right length of time needed for the young plants to develop the pungent aroma associated with *Rosmarinus officinalis*.

Some other plants deemed highly deer-resistant on a list compiled by Hill Country, landscapers and nurserypersons include: Mountain Laurel, Agarita, Boxwood, Dwarf Yaupon Holly, Oleander, any stout-spined Cactus, Santolina and Dusty Miller.

For more information and a comprehensive list from the experts on-line at Texas A&M, check out: <http://plantanswers.tamu.edu/publications/deer.html>

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Thanks to those who shared their deer-resistant plant stories with us. Plant lists are helpful, but our neighbor's experiences are often our best source of practical information.

*Our topic for next month was suggested by one of the newly minted HCMGs. For next time, we want to know: **What Do You Wear to Work in the Garden?** HCMG are mostly hands-on folks and that means getting down and dirty. If we dropped in on your latest gardening session, what would you be sporting: a lucky garden hat? Safety goggles? Or a faded Becker Vineyards tee-shirt?*

Please e-mail your garden fashion stories to our editor Eleanor Baldwin or to me, Carol Seminara, at: carol@carolsworld.tv by July 15.

We want this column to serve as a forum for exchanging ideas among the entire membership. If you don't like this topic, please send us your suggestions. We want to hear from everyone.

Thank you, and until the next time we visit Over the Fence, here's dirt under your nails!

Carol Seminara

Remember our website:
<http://www.hillcountrymastergardeners.org>



**Hill Country Master
Gardener Association 2007**

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Carol Johnson - Treasurer
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Newsletter

Editor – Eleanor Baldwin
Assistant Editors - Betty West,
Carol Seminara and Kathie
Marlow

Submissions to
baldwin@kctc.com

HCMG June 6, 2007 Monthly Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Anne Brown at 2:05 PM on June 6, 2007 following a presentation on Turf Grasses by Tim Goode of Turtle Creek Sod Farm.

Since the minutes from the May meeting did not get published in the newsletter. Anne read the minutes which were approved by all present.

Treasurer's Report. Carol Johnson reported an end of month balance of \$59,405.27. Income from the conference was \$132,258.96; expenses were \$81,577.59. The conference cleared over \$50,000. One thousand dollars will go to Conroe for seed money for next year's conference. Anne indicated that Security Bank will pay 5% interest on a CD purchased from them. Several members mentioned that other banks are paying higher interest. Anne will check around. A motion was made and approved by all present to purchase a CD for \$49,000. The interest will fund a horticultural scholarship. A scholarship committee will be formed to work out the details of the scholarship.

Market Days and Greenhouse. The next Market Day is June 25. There are still open slots for volunteers. The Market Day in May was canceled due to a bad weather forecast. The Greenhouse has lots of plants for sale. A sign-up sheet for greenhouse watering was passed around. John Osborne reported that the airport board asked him to submit a grounds design for the airport. The board approved the design. The county will use a contractor to implement the design if they have the funds. If Community Service workers are used to do the work, John volunteered his services along with other MG volunteers to supervise the workers. Anne thanked John for doing the project. The county has also approached Anne for help with the courthouse grounds. As of now there are no funds for the project.

Education Committee. Debbie Russell will be the education committee chair again this year.

Nominating Committee. Randy Simmons would like anyone who is interested in serving as an officer in 2008 to contact him. Also, if anyone would like to nominate someone, contact Randy. Carol Johnson has volunteered to serve another year as treasurer. It was pointed out that the current by-laws state a maximum of 2 years for officers to serve. Anne mentioned that we could consider an amendment to the by-laws. Anna Osborne stated that the by-laws committee does not wish to reopen the by-laws revision.

Phone Desk. Diane Whitney stated that there have been some vacant days. The phone coverage policy this year has limited interns to one time slot per month. However, to avoid vacant time slots, the policy will be waived to allow interns to volunteer for vacant time slots even though they have already filled a time slot for the month. They should call Jamie the day before to see if any times are available for the next day.

Bamberger Ranch Tour. Betty West has arranged for a group tour to the ranch on March 18, 2008. Cost of the tour is \$25.00 which is non-refundable and is limited to 40 people. It is first come, first served. Fifteen have signed up so far. Spouses or friends will only be allowed if less than 40 members sign up. Give checks to Carol Johnson. She will write a check for the total.

Plant ID Signs. Anne showed a sample of the plant description signs that will be placed in the demo garden and in the plant area in front of the Extension Office building. Thanks to Carol Seminara who did all the plant descriptions for the signs.

Next Meeting Date. The next meeting will be on July 11 due to the 4th of July holiday which falls on the first Wednesday in July.

The meeting was adjourned at 3PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon K Johnson