



# Of Leaf & Limb

## Hill Country Master Gardeners Association

*"Promoting education on horticulture and the environment"*

September, 2007  
Volume 5, Issue 9

**Meeting 1:00 p.m.  
September 5,  
2007**

One of our most  
**talented**  
members will  
be our guest  
speaker...  
**Carol  
Seminara**  
on  
"Art in the  
Garden: Fine to  
Folk to Funky"  
You don't want  
to miss this!

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## President's Message:



**Anne Brown**

### Hi Everyone!

Are we going to make it through this very unusual summer without hitting 100 degrees? What a summer it has been. We are seeing bugs, fungus and weeds we haven't seen before in

the office, and our interns have been kept busy responding to all the questions which have been coming in.

The scholarship committee is formed. Thanks to Fay Drozd for agreeing to serve as Chair, and also to Shereena Spangler, Liz Althaus, Judy Fleming, Annese Thomas, and Sandy Martin for serving as members. Fay is going over to San Antonio to meet with David Rodriquez, the Horticulture agent who oversees the only other Master Gardener scholarship program in Texas. And yes, I think you can all congratulate yourselves once again on putting on such a great convention and earning enough money to start the fund. The first meeting of the committee will be on October 3 at 10:00 am at the Extension Office.

**HOT OFF THE PRESS.** Doug Welsh, coordinator of the Texas MG program and A&M Professor and Extension Horticulturist, has written a new book entitled Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac, to be released November 1. We have an opportunity to purchase the book in advance at a discount, so if any of you are interested, please let me

know and I will place an order. Most of you have heard Doug speak, and know of his knowledge and wit. I would think this would be a great addition to your home library. The cost will be \$18.71 plus tax.

**ANOTHER HOT OFF THE PRESS.** Texas Cooperative Extension is being phased out. It has been re-named Agrilife Extension Service, Texas A&M University System. I don't know why the change is being made, but I just wanted you to be aware that the change is in the works.

Fay Drozd took our check to Montgomery County as a sponsor for next year's convention (similar to the one Brazos County gave to us last year), and we received a nice thank you note from Kathleen Thies, this year's chair. She thanked us for our support, and said that the money was very welcome, as costs are expended before any revenue is received

We are meeting with the Kerrville Daily Times on the 20<sup>th</sup> to show off our Demonstration Garden. Hopefully, you will have seen the publicity by the time you read this. Thanks again to John Osborn for the design, and Tony Pacini for the installation. And, of course, to Maldonado's Nursery for all the materials they donated.

See you on the 5<sup>th</sup>. *Anne*

Website of the month:  
The Antique Rose Emporium  
<http://www.antiqueroseemporium.com>



Betty West



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

**September 1 – Deadline for our HCMG members to sign up for the Bamberger Tour scheduled for March 18, 2008. After September 1st, any remaining slots for the tour will be available for guests of HCMG members.**

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 4 – Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter**, will meet at 2:00 p.m. at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St, Kerrville. Phyllis Muska will discuss “*Invasive Plants: The Problem and What To Do About It.*”

**September 22 - HCMGs will once again be selling fall plants at Kerr County Market Days, Kerr County Courthouse, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Here’s your chance to get an early start on your fall garden.**

**September 5 - HCMG monthly meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Kerr County Extension Office. Carol Seminara will speak on "Art in the Garden: Fine to Folk to Funky"**

**September 25 - 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.

**September 8 – Guadalupe River Clean Up.** Contact Tara Bushnoe at [urgatmb@ugra.org](mailto:urgatmb@ugra.org) for further information.

**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.

**Kudos to:**

**September 12 – Fredericksburg Garden Club** meets at 2 p.m. at the Central Texas Electric Co-Op Bldg., 386 Friendship Lane, Fredericksburg. Larry Fagarason will address “*Landscaping with Cacti, Succulents & Native Plants.*”

**Carol Johnson** for serving as our Treasurer for the past two years. She’s one of the main reasons we were so successful hosting our recent convention. She handled registration, prepared a primo spreadsheet and kept track of all the incoming and outgoing funds for the convention. And that’s in addition to her regular duties as our Treasurer. *Talk about above and beyond the call of duty!!!*

**September 14/15 – Herb Association of Texas (HAT) is hosting their annual conference at the Antique Rose Emporium in Brenham.** Tours of gardens and greenhouses in the Brenham area and Jim Long, of Long Creek Herb Farm, is their featured speaker. You do **not** have to be an HAT member to attend.

**Anne Brown, Fay Drozd and Harold Pieratt** for teaching classes at Club Ed during the Fall semester. Anne Brown will discuss *Rainwater Harvesting*, Fay Drozd will present a program on *Gardening in the Hill Country* and Harold Pieratt will address *Hill Country Garden Roses*.

**September 18 - Kerr Cactus and Succulent Society** meets at 7:00 p.m. at Butt Holdsworth Library, 505 Water Street, Kerrville.

**September 20 – Deadline for HCMG newsletter articles** (send to Eleanor Baldwin at [baldwin@kctc.com](mailto:baldwin@kctc.com))

Our new *Scholarship Committee* with **Fay Drozd**, as Chair, and assisted by **Liz Althaus, Judy Fleming and Shereena Spangler**. Funds earned from hosting the convention enable us to provide scholarships for deserving college students.

**September 22 – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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



### Counting Butterflies

By Tom Collins

A Hill Country MG asked me at the last meeting "How can you count butterflies?" My reply was simple. "They are so beautiful you can't miss them."

So what is a butterfly count? Patterned after the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Counts, the North American Butterfly Count (NABA or 4<sup>th</sup> of July Butterfly Counts) are conducted across the United States in June or July. The purpose is to census (count) all the butterfly species in a 15 mile diameter circle during a calendar day and keep score of the total individuals of each species, too. The results are sent to the sponsoring organization (NABA) and compiled in an annual report.



Tom Collins discusses the size of a butterfly with group doing Boerne Butterfly Count.

Three local counts were recently held: Kerrville, Center Point and Boerne. The totals for each

were Kerrville: 42 Species, 543 individuals, Center Point (39,300+) and the inaugural Boerne count (42, 348). As you can see the total species and individual counts were relatively close. Last year for comparison the Center Point Count had 35 species and 59,136 individual butterflies (estimated 59,000 Snouts!).

There were several new species seen this year that were missed last year. Good rains and abundant wildflowers produced Bordered Patches, Texan Crescents, Question Marks, Goatweed Leafwigs and California Sisters. With names like these why are you not curious enough to go out and buy Brock and Kaufman's "Butterflies of North America" today?

Our own HCMG Tom Collins received Texas Forest Service Land Stewardship Award. Pictured from left are Susan Sander( TFS), Sherry Collins, Clay Bales (TFS) and Tom Collins.



### Central Texas Gardener TV Program

A Central Texas Gardener" TV program will be featuring the garden of NPSOT members Alan and Maria Palmer, and hosting guest Dave Winningham from "Natives of Texas" nursery in Kerrville. They will also talk about the upcoming Wildscapes Workshop that is scheduled for September 22nd. Air times and dates are: KLRU (Austin) Sat. Sept. 15, 12:00 pm & 4:00 pm .and Sun., Sept. 16, 8:00 am..... KLRU2 (Austin) Sat., Sept. 15, 9:00 pm & Weds., Sept. 19, 10:00 am.....KLRN (San Antonio) Sat., Sept. 15, 11:00 am.



MG Intern Debbie McAlister - on the right - making a sale at Market Day at the courthouse.



And below is Debbie at the July meeting with fellow Intern Carol Brinkman



PICTURES OF OUR MEMBERS



With our June speaker Priscilla Stanley (on left) is Sherlie Vangnes and her husband.





Above is Education Chair Debbie Russell dressed for her role in a recent documentary film.

### What Do Our Committees Do?

*The Education Committee in a Nutshell*  
Debbie Russell

As the Education Committee Chair Debbie claims she has been able to work with a wonderful group of people over the last year and a half. As she starts her second full year,

Debbie has discovered this is one job she really enjoys.

What the Education Committee does is set up the class schedule and line up all the instructors for each class.

Once that is done - at the very first meeting of the Education Committee - the committee members are asked to pick several classes that they want to lead. That job is very important because each member is responsible for contacting the instructor prior to the class to insure that everything the instructor needs is available: equipment, handouts, and classroom setup. The day of the class the leader is to make sure the class runs smoothly and the students have everything they require such as the study guides for the next week, answer key for that weeks study guide, and that refreshments are out and everyone stays on track.

In the fall the committee works on getting the word out to the newspapers and nurseries as well as garden clubs in the many counties that are part of the Hill Country. Also some committee members help in conducting the perspective student interviews.

New members are always welcome. As of August 2007 the Education Committee consists of Marie Brown, Sandy Martin, Nina Wagner, Diane McMahon, Fay Drozd, Eileen Haden, Connie Townsend and Mary Allen Meriwether.

### Meet the *Of Leaf & Limb* Photographer, Marguerite Belec

Already a certified Master Gardener and Master Naturalist, Marguerite took on the additional challenge of learning to use her Christmas present digital camera. The results are obvious in this first issue to carry her photos.

Marguerite was born and raised in New Jersey, graduated from Oshkosh, WI high school, and obtained her Bachelors degree from the University of WI at Madison. Her Masters degrees are in Educational Administration, and National Security and Strategic Studies.



Marguerite Belec, the new *Of Leaf & Limb* photographer

Prior to joining the US Navy in 1981, Marguerite lived in Orlando, FL for seven years. While serving in the Navy, Marguerite traveled all over the world and lived in many places. Her most memorable tour of duty was Training Officer in the aircraft carrier USS NIMITZ CVN 68. As one of three female Commanders onboard, Marguerite honed her "people" skills!

She retired to the Hill Country in 2004 to be near her mom and dad. Her family includes husband, Jim, a motorcycling fanatic, and 18 year old twins, Aaron and Danielle. She enjoys gardening, cooking, and volunteering.



**Don't forget our website:**

<http://www.hillcountrymastergardeners.org>



**Hill Country Master  
Gardener Association 2007  
Executive Committee**

President - Anne Brown  
Harold Pieratt - Vice President  
Sharon Johnson - Secretary  
Carol Johnson - Treasurer  
Fay Drozd - Ex-officio Advisor  
Roy Walston –  
C. E. A. Advisor

**Committees**

*Archivist*

Judy Russell, Chair

*Demonstration Garden:*

Tony Pacini, Chair

*Education:*

Debbie Russell, Chair

*Greenhouse:*

Marie Brown, Chair

*Horticultural Inquiry:*

Diane Whitney, Chair

*Jr. Master Gardener Program:*

Fay Drozd, Chair

*Market Days:*

John Osborn, Chair

*Mentors:*

Judy Simmons, Chair

*Nominating:*

Randy Simmons, Chair

*Programs:*

Dusty Gilliam, Chair

*Public Relations:*

Sally Ritch, Chair

*Record Keeping & Volunteer*

*Hours:*

Ida Luckey, Chair

*Speaker's Bureau:*

Pam Bresler, Chair

*Volunteer Coordination*

Tommie Airhart, Chair

**Newsletter**

Editor – Eleanor Baldwin  
Assistant Editors - Betty West  
and Kathie Marlow  
Photographer - Marguerite Belec  
Submissions to  
[baldwin@kctc.com](mailto:baldwin@kctc.com)

HCMG MEETING, AUGUST 1, 2007

Minutes Taken By Kathie Marlow

President Anne Brown opened the August 1, 2007 meeting welcoming Hill Country Master Gardeners and visitors to the Kerr County Extension Office.

Treasurer, Carol Johnson reported that the balance of the checking account for July 31, 2008 was \$11,135.85. A Certificate of Deposit in the additional amount of \$49,000 is in place as a future Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Committee consists of Fay Drozd, Chairperson, Liz Althaus, Judy Fleming and Shereena Spangler. This committee will be looking at the scholarship committee of Bexar County Master Gardeners for some insight on how to best set up the HCMG Scholarship Fund.

There are some reserved spots left for the Spring Bamberger Ranch Tour set for March 18, 2008. Please send checks for \$25 to Carol Johnson to reserve a place. On September 1, 2007, reservations will be opened up to spouses and friends.

In the next two weeks, the last "Clean Up The Greenhouse Party" will be scheduled. Some of the weeds have been killed but some "hands on" weed pulling will be required to get this project completed.

A committee report was given by the Speakers Committee Chair-person, Pam Bressler. Marie Brown passed around a sign up sheet for the watering schedule for the greenhouse, Debbie Russell announced that there would be a meeting of the Education Committee in September and at that time all of the guest speakers for the January 2008 HCMG class should be confirmed.

Judy Fleming requested plastic pots to help her in moving a friend's garden.

Anne Brown requested that members working on phone duty be very careful in filing the telephone messages. It was cautioned that members not put any paper work in the bottom tray until after the research has been completed and the client has been contacted.

Anne then announced the sad news that our Vice-President, Harold Pieratt will be moving to La Grange at the end of this year.

Dusty Gilliam introduced the speaker, Jim Stanley, President of the local chapter of Master Naturalists, whose presentation was on Ashe Juniper (Cedar): The Good, The Bad and The Ugly.

Our thanks to all who prepared the delicious treats for the meeting this month and last. They are Jean Anderson, Anne Brown, Tommie Airhart, Eleanor Baldwin, Sherlie Vangsnos, Marguerite Belec, Dusty Gilliam, Betty West, Kathie Marlow, Marie Brown, Dorothy & David Buchen, Ida Luckey, Shereena Spangler, Joan Bryson, Rochelle Aymond and Connie Townsend.



**Goodbye and thanks from the folks at *Of Leaf & Limb* to HCMG Carol Seminara who has resigned from our staff after many, many wonderful articles contributed to this newsletter. We hope she will continue to send us her commentaries as time and the spirit moves her.**