



# Of Leaf & Limb

## Hill Country Master Gardeners Association

*"Promoting education on horticulture and the environment"*

August, 2007  
Volume 5, Issue 8

**Meeting 1:00 p.m.  
August 1, 2007**

**Jim Stanley will speak on "Cedar: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly."**

This month's program, presented by Jim Stanley (President of our local chapter of Master Naturalists) will address the much-maligned Ashe Juniper (aka "cedar"). He'll cover "the Good" (can't wait to hear what that is!), "the Bad" (ah, good old cedar fever) and "the Ugly" (hmmm?)

### Highlights

President's Message	1
Calendar & Food	2
Kudos	3
Bamberger Tour	3
Over the Fence	4
Meeting Minutes	5
Speaker Needed	5



## President's Message:



*Anne Brown*

### Hi Everyone!

Thanks to everyone who brought munchies to our meeting last month. It was very successful, and several visitors told me they were interested in our 2008 class. We are opening the meeting again in August, and will need y'all to bring something to this meeting. Please let me know if and what you can bring. This is a good opportunity to show off our organization, and get people interested in becoming a Master Gardener.

If you haven't seen the demonstration garden lately, you will be most impressed. John Osborn designed the garden, Tony Pacini obtained all the donations for the materials which were needed, and Tony and helpers did all the installation. Carol Semnara has written great descriptions of all the plants. This demonstration garden will enhance our ability to communicate with the community about what the plants look like, how they grow, etc. The turf grass sections will allow the community to see what various varieties that grow here look like, and what watering, maintenance, etc. are needed. As soon as it is finished, we will invite the media in to see the garden and hopefully get some publicity for it. The only items remaining to do are to remove the weeds from the walkways, and put up the descriptive signs, so we are almost there.

Our next project for the demonstration garden will be to obtain grants to put in a rainwater harvesting system to service our greenhouse and demo gardens.

John Osborn has completed the design for the airport building, and the commissioners were very impressed with his plan. A contractor has been hired to do the installation, and we will be there when they install the plants to insure that John's plan has been followed. The request to do a plan for the courthouse grounds has been put on hold pending obtaining some funding to do the project. However, I expect that the funding will become available and we will work on this project.

If you weren't at the last meeting, you did not get to hear the very complimentary letter we received from John Wilome, Executive Director of the Good Samaritan Center in Fredericksburg. He was most appreciative of the work of the Fredericksburg Master Gardeners who designed the gardens and maintain them. When making presentations around town, he constantly said that Good Samaritan had the prettiest doctor's office in town. He also said that his patients felt they were in a first-class facility receiving first-class care, thus minimizing the "charitable" aspect of their work. Congratulations to all the F'burg MG's for all their work.

See all of you on August 1. Anne





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

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

**August 1 - HCMG monthly meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Kerr County Extension Office. Jim Stanley, President of our local Texas Master Naturalists chapter, will be our featured speaker and he'll address the issue of "Cedar: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly".**  
***A Committee Chair meeting will follow our program and business meeting.***

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

**August 21 - Kerr Cactus and Succulent Society** meets at 7:00 p.m. at Butt Holdsworth Library, 505 Water Street, Kerrville.

**August 28 - 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 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.**

**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. Members only.

**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 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.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Refreshments Committee Volunteers?**

It was recently suggested and Anne agreed that we serve refreshments at our monthly meetings. July was the first meeting with refreshments and it seemed to be quite a big hit. I'll bet our visitors at the meeting were impressed – not only are we gardeners, but we also know how to eat well and have a lot of fun!

So ... to make a long story short ... would any of you be willing to bring some goodies for the August meeting? Let's spread the chores around so those members that didn't bring goodies in July; maybe you could bring something to the August meeting? Let me know if you can and I'll coordinate. If we have enough members volunteer, then we'll have a long break between refreshments duty. E-mail me, Betty West, and I'll set up a schedule. And this time, I'll bring a sign-in sheet for the Refreshments Committee so we know who to thank and who **not** to ask again for a couple of months.

Website of the month:  
Birds & Blooms magazine  
<http://www.birdsandblooms.com/>



**Kudos to:**

**Judy Fleming, Carol Hagemeier, Kathie Marlow and Shereena Spangler**, our latest Interns to complete their volunteer hours and become “certified” Master Gardeners.

**Tommie Airhart** for scheduling our workers for all our various projects. Without her organization and direction, we’d all be running around in circles and accomplishing nothing.

**Rochelle Aymond, Carol Brinkman, Marie Brown, Joan Bryson, David Buchen, Dorothy Buchen, Betty Burton, Roy Eliff, Sandy Martin, Mary Allen Meriwether and Carolyn Nall**, who recently weeded our demonstration garden so that it’s once again something we can be proud of and a good teaching tool for visitors.

**John Osborn**, our in-house Landscape Designer, who has designed our new Extension Office garden area, as well as the new Airport gardens. These gardens will make a great impression on our Hill Country visitors.

Our **Master Gardeners in Fredericksburg** who are maintaining the Good Samaritan gardens. This certainly raises the spirits of those who are visiting the facilities for medical care.

Our **Refreshments Committee members** who provided the goodies at our July meeting. This was an unexpected and welcomed treat. We didn’t have all the names of members who brought food/beverages but want to thank all of you!



**Bamberger Ranch Preserve Tour**

Back in '69, J. David Bamberger searched for the worst piece of ranchland in the Texas Hill Country to see if he could restore it back to a productive ranch. This 5,500-acre ranch surpassed his dream and is now one of the largest habitat restoration projects in Texas and has won many awards. He concentrated on clearing much of the Ashe Juniper (aka “cedar”) and planted native grasses. Long absent springs reappeared and now flow constantly. Bamberger Ranch is a model of habitat restoration and good land stewardship.

Thanks to Anne Brown and Carol Johnson, on March 18, 2008 (Tues.) we have scheduled a Master Gardeners tour. The tour starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at noon. Then we’ll have lunch on the grounds (lunch is included in the cost of the tour). We’ll have to carpool over early that morning so we can be “front and center” at 9:00 a.m. The ranch is located near Blanco so we’ll have to leave before the crack of dawn. I’ll provide information about when and where we’ll meet to carpool at a later date. The cost of the tour (for now) is \$25 per person. There may be a slight increase depending on the cost of the lunch. Carol Johnson has stepped up to the plate ... she’s willing to collect all the money and pay Bamberger with one check from Master Gardeners. The tour is limited to 40 people so if you wish to go on this tour, make your check for \$25.00 payable to Hill Country Master Gardeners and note on the check this is for the Bamberger Tour. You may give your check to Carol Johnson or leave it in her tray at the Extension Office.

Effective September 1<sup>st</sup>, if there are any spaces still available, **guests** of Master Gardeners may reserve a seat on the tour and their cost is the same (\$25). As soon as their check clears, they’re guaranteed a slot. So ... if any of our Master Gardeners are dragging their feet, you’d better decide and pay before September 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be no refunds issued. If you pay for a space and then discover you can’t make it, it’s up to you to find a replacement and get reimbursed.

Betty West

**Wanted - Committee members for the 2008 Master Gardener Education Committee. Meetings of the committee will be the morning of the monthly meeting from 10 to 12.**

**If interested please email me at [russhill@kct.com](mailto:russhill@kct.com).**

**Our first meeting will be Sept.5th**

**Thanks, Debbie Russell**



### Let's Be Safe Out There

Last month we asked the HCMG membership if they wanted to chat about how they dress for success in the garden. I guess it was a silly subject because no one had much of anything to say, but it got me to thinking perhaps this wasn't such a frivolous topic after all.

What we wear is important, not so much a matter of fashion, as one of protection.

*Carol Seminara*

Let's start at the top. Teamed with a quality sunscreen or sunblock with an SPF of 15 or higher, a good hat is the first line of defense against sun damage, premature aging and skin cancer.

When selecting a hat, the most important factors affecting sun and ultraviolet (UV) protection are brim size and shape, and hat material.

A wide brim (between 3 and 5 inches) is preferable for blocking direct UV from reaching your face. Brims that curve down and sit close to your face provide better protection than straight brims against reflected UV. Reflected or dispersed UV is light that can bounce up underneath the brim of the hat striking your cheeks or chin. Too, a dark colored underbrim will absorb slightly more reflected light that could bounce down on your face and reducing glare. Hats with flaps that cover your ears and neck can almost completely protect those areas from reflected UV.

Sun hats are made in a wide range of construction materials from natural fibers such as raffia, straw, cotton and linen to synthetic nylon and polyester-based fabrics. Some fabrics are treated with UV inhibiting ingredients to increase their capacity to block UV. The most protective sunscreen hats are made from materials that are rated UPF 50+, which means an Ultraviolet Protection Factor that can block 98 per cent of the sun's direct UV rays.

The sun can damage your eyes as well as your skin. Long-term exposure to UV radiation is thought to contribute to eye disease, especially cataracts. Sunglasses should provide at least 98 per cent protection from both components of UV: UVB and UVA. Ultraviolet-B (UVB) are short-wave solar rays and generally cause sunburn. These rays are the main cause of basal cell carcinomas and are a significant cause of melanoma. Ultraviolet-A (UVA) are the long-wave solar rays that penetrate the skin deeply and, while less likely to cause sunburn, are considered a primary factor in wrinkling and "photoaging" and can increase UVB's cancer-causing effects.

Other kinds of sun protective clothing include wearing garments with long sleeves, full-length trousers (not shorts) and collars. Generally, light-colored, lightweight and loosely-woven fabrics do *not* offer much protection from the sun. The easiest way to test if a fabric can protect your skin is to hold it up to the light. If you can see through it, then UV rays can penetrate it.

Dark colors and heavier weight fibers such as twill or canvas, while providing greater sun protection do have the disadvantage of retaining heat, something to consider on a hot Texas day. Also, wet fabric can lose up to 50 percent of its UPF.

Several manufacturers are now making special sun-protective clothes that are treated with chemical UV absorbers or with a special sunblock. You can even wash UV protection into your clothes with a special laundry additive called Sun Guard that contains the sunscreen Tinosorb. This product is said to increase the UPF of your garments and the protection lasts through 20 washings.

Long sleeves and trousers provide more than protection from the sun, they also save your skin from direct contact with scratchy branches or prickly plants. Something to consider if you're working around rose bushes or other thorny shrubs.

Which brings us to shoes. Flip-flops and open-toes sandals are never good choices for digging in the garden. Better to wear sturdy soled shoes that are comfortable and, if possible, waterproof. Save your Crocs for wearing while you cut flowers or do light weeding. You need a solid, preferably steel insole for spading and digging. And if your gardening efforts have you working in areas of tall brush, then leather boots that cover your ankles will help provide protection from potential sprains caused by traversing uneven terrain and possible snake bite.

Speaking of bites, none of us enjoy being on the bottom rung of the food chain so it's a good idea to use insect repellent to protect yourself from mosquitoes and ticks. Ticks may carry Lyme disease and mosquitoes, in addition to being bothersome, can transmit West Nile virus and Encephalitis. DEET is the active ingredient in many insect repellents and, when used according to directions, does not present a health concern to most people.

DEET was developed by the U. S. Army after World War II, when deaths by malaria caused innumerable deaths during the Pacific campaign. The military began using DEET in 1946 and it was introduced to the civilian population in 1957. A DEET concentration of 100 per cent can provide up to 12 hours of protection, while lower concentrations (20 to 34 per cent) offer only about 3 to 6 hours of protection. DEET products should not be used under clothing or on broken skin. In some rare cases, it may cause skin irritation.

A natural alternative to DEET is using products containing picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus, though they may require more frequent applications to provide continued effective protection against mosquitoes. Picaridin is found in repellants marketed under the Cutter brand and, unlike DEET-based products, does not act as a solvent on plastics.

To glove or not to glove is a personal choice. I almost always double-glove, wearing thin latex ones under my heavy, orange Neoprene pair. And there are times when my hands need the heavier protection of leather gloves.

It may not be an actual jungle out there, but it doesn't hurt to be prepared.

**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,  
Carol Seminara and Kathie  
Marlow

Submissions to

[baldwin@ktc.com](mailto:baldwin@ktc.com)

HCMG MEETING, JULY 11, 2007

Minutes Taken By Kathie Marlow

President Anne Brown opened the July 11, 2007 meeting welcoming Master Gardeners and visitors to the Kerr County Extension Office.

Presentations of Texas Master Gardener Certificates were given to Carol Hagemeyer, Judy Fleming, Kathie Marlow and Shereena Spangler, members of HCMG class of 2007.

Carol Johnson reported that the balance of the checking account is \$11,135.85 and a Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$49,000 has been made. It will be used to fund a scholarship for a horticultural student. Anyone interested on being on that committee should get in touch with Anne Brown.

The next meeting on August 1, 2007 will go back to the original first Wednesday Meeting time.

There are some (19) 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.

Gillespie County Native Plant Society member Peggy Benson was collecting registration money from members who are planning to attend the Waterwise Gardening for Birds, Plants and People, Wildscapes Workshop on September 22, 2007 at Fredericksburg United Methodist Church.

Peggy also brought a warm and sincere thank you note from John Willome, head of the Good Samaritan Center in Fredericksburg. He thanked the HCMG for making the Good Samaritan Center "the prettiest doctor's office in town."

John Osborn was having a ½ price sale on plants in the greenhouse. He reminded everyone of the Market Days sale on July 28. On that Saturday, Roy Eliff will be in charge while John is on vacation in Wisconsin.

John gave thanks to all of those who have worked so hard and diligently on the demo garden which is coming along beautifully.

Dusty Gilliam introduced Priscilla and Jim Stanley, Certified Texas Master Naturalists, Hill Country Chapter. The program, entitled Native Plants for Hill Country Landscaping explained potential benefits to your landscape for growing native plants.

After the program, guests and members feasted on some delicious treats made especially for the meeting.

**Our Hill Country Master Gardeners were asked to provide a speaker on "Shrubs and Small Trees for the Hill Country" for the Medina Garden Club's February 13th meeting at 2:00 pm at the Medina Community Center. If you are willing to present this program for the garden club, please phone or e-mail me. Thanks. Pam Bresler 792-3830 or [bregal@ktc.com](mailto:bregal@ktc.com)**