

May 2011  
Volume 9, Issue 5

**May 4, 2011,  
1:00 P.M. at Kerr  
County AgriLife  
Extension Office**

**Our speaker is  
Colleen Dietert  
of  
Red  
Wheelbarrow  
Plant Care**  
(See Page 2 for details)

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Texas AgriLife Extension's Partial Cost Recovery Practices  
To: Texas Master Gardeners

In March 2011, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service undertook a statewide effort to more consistently recover some of the costs associated with our educational programs and activities. To clarify how this affects the Master Gardener Program, we first want to share the following information.

Background

Historically, AgriLife Extension's base funding for educational programming has come from appropriations by our state, federal, and county government partners. This is the seed money that is leveraged and supplemented with contracts, grants, gifts, sponsorships, and cost recovery fees—to sustain our agency's full program development and delivery system. Until now, participant fees for Extension programs represented cost recovery only for event-specific and local, one-time costs. We did not direct any of these program revenues to the human resource and operating costs of the agency as a whole.

Current Budget Situation

Last year we experienced budget cuts that required reductions in administrative services, capital equipment expenditures, and workforce. For the next two fiscal years, beginning September 1, 2011, we expect further losses in state funding. Total base funds from our federal sources will also fall below current levels. Reorganization and cost-cutting, while important, are not sufficient. We are highly invested in the salaries and benefits of our faculty and staff, mainly the Extension agents and specialists who work with local clientele to plan, conduct, and evaluate programs. With 90 percent of our appropriated budget allocated to people, any loss of base funding is significant and necessitates the elimination of positions across our organization. Bottom line, we anticipate increased reliance on non-appropriated sources of funds in fiscal years 2012 and 2013. If successfully implemented, the partial cost recovery initiative described below could generate 10 percent of the additional funds needed.

Our Response

Facing these economic realities led us to introduce a "Partial Cost Recovery Initiative" to support our network of Extension educators. Basically, this initiative involves implementing program participation fees more uniformly statewide, with a remittance to the agency for partial recovery of organizational costs. When applicable, the remittance or "partial cost recovery fee" will be a minimum of \$10 per participant. If the meeting registration fee is over \$100 per person, the remittance rate will be 10 percent of the registration. This agency assessment is not about profiting nor about funding agency administration. It is not about raising revenue for our state, federal, or county funding partners. It is intended only to help offset base funding losses and mitigate further erosion of our program delivery capacity. The benefit may not be realized until fiscal year 2012, but we are challenged to start now.

Key Points about Partial Cost Recovery

Our grassroots strategic planning process, not the opportunity or need to collect fees, will continue to drive our program priorities. Our approach to fee-based programs is not "one size fits all." Clarifying points include:

- Following agency guidelines, Extension personnel at the local (county, district, regional) level will decide which Extension programs will be fee-based.
- We will carefully evaluate the cost recovery potential of all educational programs that AgriLife Extension oversees. This includes the Master Gardeners Program. However, this does not mean that MG programs must remit Extension's partial cost recovery fee for all their local activities.



**Calendar of Events**

by Betty West

*(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.)*

**April 23** – HCMG is hosting a booth at Kerr County Market Days – courthouse grounds from 9 am – 4 pm. Plant Sale and demo program.

**April 26**– HCMG training session. “Field Trip” for students only.

**April 26 - Fredericksburg** NPSOT meets at 7 p.m. at the Gillespie County Historical Society Bldg, 312 W. San Antonio St. Visitors welcome.

**April 27/29** – Texas State Master Gardener Conference, Somervell County Expo Center in Glen Rose, TX.

**May 3**– HCMG final classroom training session at 1:00 p.m. Malcolm Matthews will discuss “Landscape Development.” Graduation for those students who have completed the classroom training courses.

**May 4** – HCMG meeting at 1:00 p.m. Our speaker, back by popular demand, is Colleen Dieter of Red Wheelbarrow Plant Care. She will present the second part of her recommended bi-annual garden maintenance program.

**May 28** – HCMG is hosting a booth at Kerr County Market Days – courthouse grounds from 9 am – 4 pm. Plants Sale and demo program.

**May 31** - Fredericksburg NPSOT meets at 7 pm at the Gillespie County Historical Society Bldg, 312 W. San Antonio St. Visitors welcome.

**Green Step**



**FIRE ANT CONTROL**



With the explosion of the internet, we are inundated with organic solutions to our gardening problems. To feel confident you are getting the correct advice, always verify that the source is trusted and the advice is actually coming from the trusted source.



Dr. Howard Garrett, the Dirt Doctor, has been recommending the following treatments for years and people have confirmed it's success. (These are the only organic treatments that he recommends.)

1. Apply dry molasses at 20 lbs. per 1000 square feet. This single step eliminates the pest completely in most cases.
2. Drench problem mounds with the Mound Drench formula - orange oil, molasses and compost tea. Commercial products are available.
3. Apply beneficial nematodes. These beneficial worms also help control termites, grubs, fleas, ticks and other soil inhabiting pests.

More detailed info on fire ant control can be found at: [http://www.dirtdoctor.com/organic/garden/view\\_question/id/2704/](http://www.dirtdoctor.com/organic/garden/view_question/id/2704/)

*Bernadell Larson*

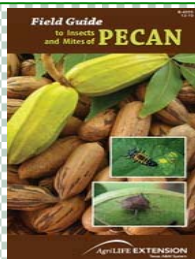
## Fabra Elementary Jr. Master Gardeners, Boerne

*HCMG Carrie Musetti* sends us these photos where she is the advisor. In the group picture, Carrie is on the left and the teacher, Tana Kehoe is on the right. There are two classes



participating. The kids call Carrie “The Worm Lady” because she added some worms when they planted and put them first in the children’s hands so they wouldn’t get grossed out. Some of the kids, amazingly had never held a worm.

Note what can be done with some very simple materials.



What’s eating your pecans? A new guide from AgriLife Extension will help identify 60 pests and beneficial insects commonly seen on pecans and pecan trees.

**The Field Guide to Insects and Mites of Pecans**, 144 pages, color photos, \$15. Order from [AgriLife Bookstore](http://AgriLifeBookstore)

HILL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS  
April 06, 2011, MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chris Seifert, President, at 1:45 pm after the conclusion of the presentation by Dr. Mack Barham on "Sex and the Single Orchid." There were 46 members in attendance.

Business Matters:

*Chris* announced that the March Minutes were amended to reflect the correct adjournment time of last month's meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the March meeting minutes.

*Roy Eliff*, Treasurer, stated that we have \$15K in the general fund and \$60K in the scholarship fund. Roy said that we currently have not received any applications for this year's scholarship.

Opportunities and Announcements:

Nominating Committee: Need to start looking for the Chair and Co-chair for the 2012 Officer Nominations. Our bylaws state a person can only stay in a position for two consecutive years. This year we need a new President, Vice-President and Treasurer.

Greenhouse: *Anne Brown* announced we had approximately 1,200 plants available for the Plant and Rain Barrel Sale this Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. She passed around a sign up sheet for both the plant sale and greenhouse watering schedule. Anne said that she and Faye Drozd had completed the irrigation efficiency program. They are requesting anyone with an automated irrigation system who would like a free analysis of its efficiency to contact them.

Kerr County Water Saver Landscape Contest: *David Lipscomb* presented the information/criteria on this year's contest. The contest will be judged by the Women's Chamber of Commerce. HCMGs can earn volunteer hours by being available to answer horticultural questions during the tours of the winners on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

New Member: *Barbara Elmore* introduced *Patty Zohlen* transferring MG from Houston. Patty has already started volunteering by making copies of the plant information sheets and working in the greenhouse. Welcome Patty.

Riverside Nature Center, Earth Day, April 16<sup>th</sup>: *Margaret McBride* volunteered to work in our information booth.

Harvest Partners Gardens: The two projects moving forward are Dietert Center and Habitat for Humanity Community Gardens. Volunteers needed as construction, operation and gardening mentors. MGs *Connie Townsend, Terri DeBusk* and *Gavin Walston* volunteered to work.

Mentor Training on Telephone Inquiry Desk: *June Sher* announced that *Anne Moss* will be providing "mentor/computer training for interns" on the telephone inquiry desk on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The students will be graduating on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be starting their required telephone duties in May and June.

Volunteer Opportunities and Interest Form: The form will update information on the member's skills, interests, experience and knowledge. The form will be provided to those in attendance at the meeting today, and we will work on getting the forms to those members not in attendance. This data will be input on each member's profile in our data base and can be easily accessed when volunteer opportunities arise.

Class of 2011 Graduation: *Debbie Russell* stated that graduation will be Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 1 pm, after the presentation of Malcolm Mathews on landscape design. Debbie invited MGs to audit the landscaping design class and stay for graduation and welcome our new interns.

Demo Garden: *David Buchen* announced a clean up on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> and passed around a sign up sheet.

Photos for Profile Sheets: *Jim Latham* is available after the meeting to take new photos for our Member Profile Sheets.

Tom Daniels Elementary School's Science Expo Day, March 11<sup>th</sup>: We have received thank you letters from the students. Many thanks to MGs *Sandy Martin, Carol Hagemeyer, Jane Clint, Julie Bartosh, Dorothy Coppinger, Dusty Gilliam, Bev Weidenfeller, Bernadell Larson* and *Terri DeBusk* for their participation.

Texas Master Gardeners Conference: Chris wished good luck to our HCMGs who will be attending the Annual Conference in Glen Rose on April 27-29.

Archivist Chair: Chris announced that *Ida Luckey's* husband was injured in a motorcycle accident. We wish them both well.

*Continues on page 10, middle column*

Continued from page 1:

- Master Gardeners are trained by and represent the Texas AgriLife Extension Service as volunteers. As such, annual association dues and monthly MG business meetings will not be subject to the agency's cost recovery fee.
- Current registration fees for the initial certification training of Master Gardeners will be subject to the agency cost recovery fee.
- Master Gardener volunteer-presented lectures and talks, in general, would not be subject to the cost recovery fee. Master Gardener association fund raising events, in general, would not be subject to the cost recovery fee.

#### In Closing

All of us in the Texas AgriLife Extension Service recognize and respect your dedicated, highly effective volunteer work. We have always touted the accomplishments of Extension volunteers, more than 100,000 strong, as an unparalleled return on the public investment in Extension education.

Still, the number of volunteers we can train and oversee directly correlates with our staffing level, as does the number of programs for which we are able to collaborate and conduct with you and our many, many other partners.

In addition to partial cost recovery, we are actively pursuing additional revenue sources and improving our use of technology to reduce costs. These efforts and the expanded partial cost recovery initiative will help retain a viable program delivery network.

These necessary actions present challenges and adjustments for all of us. We'll do our best to respond to your questions and concerns and we ask for your patience and support as we work through this transition. As Master Gardeners, you make a difference in your communities that makes us feel incredibly proud and grateful. We appreciate your support for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and hope you'll also support our efforts to make Extension education more self-sufficient and sustainable in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Douglas F. Welsh  
Associate Department Head



It is interesting that certain foods target certain body functions and the foods mimic their human body part in appearance.

A sliced **Carrot** looks like the human eye. The pupil, iris and radiating lines look just like the human eye. Science now shows carrots greatly enhance blood flow to and function of the eyes.

A **Walnut** looks like a little brain, a left and right hemisphere, upper cerebrums and lower cerebellums. Even the wrinkles or folds on the nut are just like the neo-cortex. We now know walnuts help develop more than three (3) dozen neuron-transmitters for brain function.

**Kidney Beans** actually heal and help maintain kidney function and yes, they look exactly like the human kidneys.



## One more item for the garden list

By Barbara Elmore

Here's a gift for gardeners who also happen to be obsessive list makers: a longtime gardener and teacher advocates

list making. Not just one list, but two. Or even three: a daily list, a master list, and a "punch" list for handyman chores.

List-making is not every gardener's habit, nor does it have to be. But the list makers among us recognize vindication when we see it. And Sydney Eddison, garden author (*A Passion for Daylilies*), vindicates us all with *Gardening for a Lifetime* (Timber Press, 2010). Even though she was a late-comer to the wisdom of lists, she understands them now.

Eddison, born in 1932 and still gardening in Connecticut, extols the benefits of list-making in Chapter 6, "Sanity Saver: Learning to Make Lists." More of a seat-of-the-pants gardener, she learned about lists from one of the people she hired as a garden helper for a few hours each week. The new aide was making a career change from corporate life to gardening, and she knew that the overwhelming job of helping manage Eddison's garden could be conquered only if Eddison decided what was most important (prioritizing). And Eddison could prioritize only if she made lists. While setting priorities and writing them down were foreign to this woman who had done everything herself, she recognized their value in attaining the organization she wanted.

But lists are not the only new tools Eddison found useful as she learned how to garden wiser. And no matter the age, every gardener can learn something from Eddison. Sections at the end of each chapter titled "Gleanings" sum up what she discovers in the process of aging with her garden over a 30-year span. She finds ways to feed her passion even as she compromises because of physical challenges.

For example, she learns the value and magic of flowering shrubs; of accepting nature's imperfections; that shade-tolerant plants can be easier to grow than sun-lovers; that loppers are hard on one's hands, so one should lop judiciously; and that major life changes, such as the loss of a spouse, can lead to new gardens or to gardening in new ways. She describes how she found helpers to work in her garden, even on a limited budget.

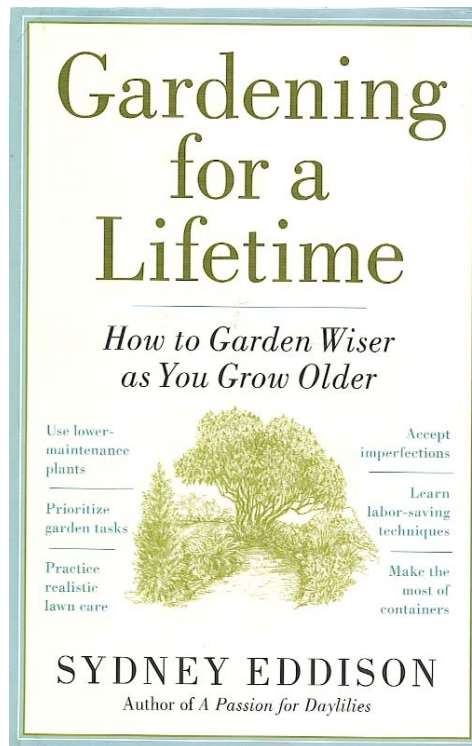
Eddison's advice is not cutting edge. She writes about practices that today's gardeners have already adopted because of a lack of time, space or money — container gardening, for example.

But if her advice does not create light-bulb moments, reading her book is like having a conversation with a friend. "How beautiful can you make your garden with the resources you still have at your command?" she

asks. "This is the question I keep asking myself. I don't have the answer, but I'm working on it."

Her point is that gardeners should not let go of what they love because of new challenges. Make use of your surroundings, she advises. Make the most of what you have left.

If you are making a list, *Gardening for a Lifetime* should be on it.



## Sources for Herbs

by Judy Fleming

With Spring upon us, everyone is busy in the garden. I am always excited to plant new herbs and new varieties of favorite herbs. If some of your favored fennel, parsley, thyme or oregano was killed off in the freeze this winter, take advantage of the space to plan and replant your patch with something new.

Rather than focusing on one herb, I would like to provide our readers with additional sources for information on herbs and herb gardening.

The Herb Association of Texas (HAT) encourages the use, cultivation and benefit of Texas herbs and herbal products. This is a great place to start your inquiry about herbs. Their web site <http://www.texasherbs.org> provides a description of the most common herbs grown and used in Texas, crafting with herbs, cooking with herbs, herbs as medicine, books, etc.

Rain Tree provides a database of the tropical and medicinal plants of the Amazon Rainforest. This database is authored and maintained by Dr. Leslie Taylor,

ND and much of the information can also be found in her book, *The Healing Power of Rainforest Herbs*. As new plants are discovered they are added to the database. This is a scientific view of the plants, their characteristics and uses. Check it out at: <http://www.rain-tree.com>.

If you would like some quick general tips, review <http://herbgardens.about.com> for information about type of herbs, herb garden design, preserving herbs and several other subjects.

The American Herb Association promotes the understanding and ecological use of medicinal herbs and aromatherapy. Membership is open to anyone interested in herbalism, so take a look at their web site: [www.ahaherb.com](http://www.ahaherb.com).



## TIMELY TIPS FOR MAY LANDSCAPE GARDENING

by Kathie Marlow

It has been said that there is a *time to plant and a time to reap* that which is planted.

The month of May is the time to be checking on the early plantings of March and April. It is the time to prune the suckers that sprout from those newly planted trees and shrubs. It is also time to apply granular fertilizer to the crepe myrtles and other blooming shrubs to encourage extra flower blooming.

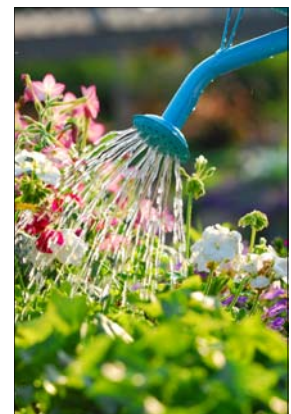
For your annual plants, weed, water and fertilize as needed. Watch for signs of pests and diseases. Cut your flowers in the early morning of longer-lasting arrangements. Deadhead or cut back perennials after flowering to promote plant vigor and extra blooming. Apply summer mulch to your beds. Watch for black spot and powdery mildew on your roses.

By mid-May it may be time to fertilize *lightly* if your lawn has lost some of its color or is not growing well. Watch for fungus diseases such as anthracnose, brown patch and necrotic ring spot. Watch for insect damage.

Monitor your patio and container plants daily for water needs and pest control. Pinch back straggly growth and deadhead as needed. Plant your pots with heat hardy annuals such as marigolds, periwinkle and zinnias.

Discard diseased plants and remove insects by hand if possible. Use insecticides as a last resort.

These May garden tips should get you ready to reap the pleasurable rewards of your earlier plantings and diligent nurturing.





**WHAT'S THAT ROUND, FUZZY, KNOBBY, LUMPY, . . . (PICK ONE). . .THING ON MY OAK TREE?**

by Marilyn Pease

We've all seen those funny looking knobby, fuzzy or smooth growths on our garden plants and trees. These are usually excessive growths or hypertrophies of plant tissue commonly known as galls. Mainly caused by wasps, flies or Eriophyid mites, there are some 2000 types that will infect just oak trees alone. Of these, only two or three are harmful to our oaks. The gall-producing organism will usually infect those trees that bud out earliest.

Once you have galls, you probably always will—with some years being heavier than others. The only cure is to cut out the infected branches or, at the worst, cut the whole tree down. This is mostly just an esthetic problem, kind of like ball moss, where it does not damage the tree but causes great concern among homeowners. We often get calls on this problem on our hot line.



Fuzzy Oak Gall

The actual mechanism that causes the abnormal growth of plant tissue in galls is not well understood. It is thought that the insect produces a chemical which it injects into either the roots, stems or leaves of its host. The abnormal growth then walls off the invading insect and, in turn, gives it a cozy home to finish out its life cycle by providing both shelter and a food source. In the case of nitrogen-fixing nodules in the bean family, there is even a beneficial effect of gathering nitrogen around the roots thus enriching the soil and feeding the plant itself.

The important thing to remember is that, while unsightly or even alarming, galls are not usually going to damage your trees. Also important to keep in mind is that only 1/2 percent of all insect species are actually harmful.



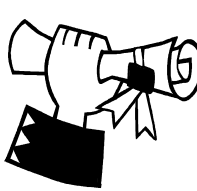
Royal Oak Gall

**Graduation**

***Let's All Celebrate the Light at the End of the Tunnel***

***Is everyone ready to celebrate?*** The final classroom training session of 2011 will be held on Tuesday, May 3rd at 1:00 p.m. at the Extension Office.

The speaker for the final session is Malcolm Matthews and he's making his debut addressing *"Landscape Development."* This is a great opportunity for our certified MGs to nail down a large portion of their 2011 CEUs and hear a brand new speaker on a topic many of us enjoy.





**ALL THINGS EDIBLE**

May 2011  
by Pam Bresler

It's official...we are now living in a desert! Not really, but a desert is defined as having 9.75" or less of rain per year and we've had only 3.4" of rain in six months. On an annual basis, we're gardening in desert conditions, and keeping water in the ground is

nearly impossible without drip irrigation and plenty of mulch. We may soon have water restrictions, so bonus points if you have a rainwater collection system.

With this dry weather and above average temperatures, spider mites are a problem. Have you noticed our native cedar trees "bronzing?" Cedars are heavily infested with spider mites. This does not bode well for susceptible plants like tomatoes. A hard spray on the underside of the leaves, about every other day for two weeks, will usually solve the problem. To prevent the problem, spray tomatoes and other plants with a kelp-molasses mixture every two weeks. Use 2 Tab. kelp and 1 Tab. of molasses to a gallon of water. This spray makes the leaves "tougher" to resist insects and fungal spores. The kelp also encourages bloom set. In the autumn, using this spray several times can make plants more resistant to freezing.

Grasshoppers are out earlier than usual due to our extreme heat and drought. Spreading Nolo or Semaspore bait as soon as you see young grasshoppers may help reduce numbers. The microorganism in the baits, *Nosema locustae*, spreads a disease to grasshoppers. As diseased grasshoppers are cannibalized by healthy grasshoppers, the disease spreads throughout the grasshopper population.

This year I'm waging war on squash vine borers and squash bugs. I love yellow squash and seeing a plant loaded with small squash collapse overnight from borers is very disheartening. If you love summer squash, this is a battle worth fighting!

Dust the stems near the soil with Dipel (*Bacillus thuringiensis*, or Bt) to discourage squash vine borers. Row cover will also help exclude the adult moth of the borer, as well as the squash bugs. You might need to hand-pollinate, as bees are also excluded. The moth has a red abdomen with brown wings. An early sign of the borer is a pile of green frass on the stem. Also, check for brown eggs at the base of the stem. If the stem gets heavily damaged from borers, you can split the stem, remove the borer with a nail or ice pick, dust inside of the stem with Dipel and bury the damaged stem with a little soil on top. That may save the plant until

harvest. Some people make a Dipel solution and inject it with a syringe into the stem.



Adult squash vine borer

If you suspect you have squash bugs, go out at dusk and aiming at the base of the stem where it enters the ground, pour a steady stream of water from a watering can, without the "rose" on the end. If squash bugs are present, they will come crawling out of the ground. The adults look like stink bugs and are brownish gray with a flat back. The small nymphs are light gray with black legs. The thumb-and-forefinger method works, or for the squeamish, a spray of spinosad or neem oil will dispatch them to insect heaven. Examine your plants for eggs, which are shiny, dark brown clusters on the leaves, which should be removed. The squash bug can attack other cucurbits such as melons, cucumbers and pumpkins.



Adult squash bug

Seeds to sow in May: snap beans, lima beans, chard, black-eyed peas, southern peas, beets, radish, pumpkin, turnips, summer squash

Transplants for May: cantaloupe, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, summer squash, herbs, eggplant, tomatillo, watermelons, sweet potato slips

Happy gardening and keep doing that rain dance!

*Photos courtesy of TAMU*

Hill Country Master  
Gardeners 2011 Executive  
Committee  
**Chris Seifert - President**  
**Barbara Elmore - Vice President**  
**Jackie Connelly - Secretary**  
**Roy Eliff - Treasurer**  
**Randy Simmons - Ex-officio Advisor**  
**Roy Walston - C.E.A. Advisor**

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**Archivist:** Ida Luckey

**Demonstration Garden:**  
Dorothy & David Buchen, Chairs

**Education:**  
Debbie Russell, Chair

**Greenhouse:** Vickie Killeen  
& Anne Brown, Chairs

**HCMG Office Manager:**  
Judy Simmons

**Horticultural Inquiry:** Anne Moss

**Information:** TBA

**Jr. Master Gardener Program:**  
Sandy Martin, Chair

**Market Days:**  
Ron Smith II, Chair

**Mentors:** June Sher

**Programs:** Melva Chancellor

**Public Relations:** China Long

**Record Keeping & Volunteer  
Hours:** John LaRoche

**Scholarship:**  
Judy Fleming, Chair

**Speakers Bureau:** Kathy Lewis

**Technology:** Cindy Anderson

**Volunteer Coordination - TBA**

**Newsletter & Website  
Chair & Newsletter Editor**

Eleanor Baldwin

**Assistant Editors - Betty West &  
Kathie Marlow**

**Columnists - Pam Bresler, Barbara  
Elmore, Marilyn Pease, Judy Fleming**

**Environmental Reporter**  
Bernadell Larson

**Webmaster - Carol Brinkman**

**Web Assistants - Anne Moss,  
Julie Bartosh, & Betty West**

Submissions to [baldwin@kctc.com](mailto:baldwin@kctc.com)

Minutes continued:

**Public Relations Committee Chair:** Chris announced that *Carol Biggs* moved to Austin and that we would be looking for her replacement.

**Volunteer Coordinator Chair:** Chris noted that *Kathy Russell* is taking a leave of absence and we would be looking for her replacement.

**Market Days Chair:** Chris said that *Ron Smith* has announced he is looking for a protégé for the 2012 Market Days Chair.

**Rain Water Harvesting Class Presenter, Billy Kniffen's** son was severely injured in an accident. The HCMG's secretary will send a note and card showing our encouragement and concern.

**New Project:** We have been contacted by the Fredericksburg Elementary School to work with the teachers on their students' garden. The project, which is in the beginning stages, was approved by the Executive Committee. *Bev Weidenfeller* volunteered to work on the new project.

**Member Badges:** The new badges have arrived. The badges and membership cards are available for pick-up.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

The next HCMG meeting will be held at 1 pm, Wednesday May 4th, 2011, in the AgriLife Building Classroom.

**Jackie Connelly,**  
Secretary



**Webmaster Carol  
Brinkman's**

## Website of the Month

A Different Approach

How often have you Googled a plant name to learn more? Perhaps you want information before making a purchase – or, as is often the case, information is needed about a plant that was completely irresistible on that last nursery visit. Sometimes you quickly find a site that provides all you need to know. Other times, the Google results lead to tedious trolling of websites that aren't exactly relevant.

Another approach is to search using [Google Images](#). Enter, say, "silver germander" and, bingo, beautiful images! Best of all, a click on any image gives you an enlarged photo as well as a link to "Website for this Photo". Often these links take you to sites that did not appear on your first Google search. You will still be trolling, but it can be a refreshingly different approach.

