

# THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

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Concho Valley Master Gardeners



## President's Message

By Rudi Wallace

Dear Fellow MGs:

I am looking forward to being your new president this year. Thank you for electing me. In addition, we have a dedicated group of individuals elected this year which will help our organization: Mary Chatfield was re-elected Treasurer. Robie Long and D'Aun Butler are the new Volunteer Coordinators. Mary Burnett is our new Secretary. Doreen Grimes will continue as our Newsletter Editor.

I have 2 broad goals for the CVMG group during my tenure:

- 1) More education concerning water conservation.
- 2) Greater public awareness of our group.

I am open to any suggestions regarding implementation of these goals. Please do not hesitate to call or email me. I want to be accessible. I hope to greet and meet each one of you this year. I appreciate your time and talents!

*Rudi Wallace*



President Rudi Wallace presenting a program on the Concho Valley Master Gardener's organization for the San Angelo Kiwani's Club.

## Comments from John Begnaud

Howdy CVMG's,

It's been a wild and hot summer. I appreciate all of the work that has been done this Spring and Summer. Things are going smoothly and that is because of the cooperative effort on your part and the leadership skills you demonstrate. It is so nice to see an organization run itself smoothly!

Some items of interest include the upcoming "Basic Home Landscape School", which is scheduled for September 13, 14 and 20, 21 at 7 p.m. We hope to be able to hold this at the new Tom Green County 4-H facility on U.S. 67. We will need help from MG's and will use this training as a continuing education opportunity. Once

again, Dr. Steve George, Extension Horticulturist from Dallas will be instructing on landscape design principles on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. We allow our MG's to audit the course free and there will be a charge to the general public with a limit of 70 families.

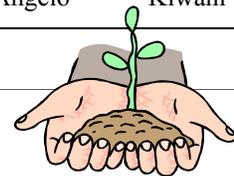
I assisted in the Rainwater Specialist Training in Menard for MG's from around the state. It was an outstanding presentation by experts in the field. Debbie Vinson also attended to see how we will be conducting our training here in San Angelo. We hope to be ready for it this fall and will keep you posted on the date. It will be at our new facility.

A training on the Junior Master Gardener Program was given at the Region XV Education Service Center in San Angelo in June. Approximately 30 area

teachers attended and expressed a desire for some assistance in implementing a program for students. This may open some opportunities to work closely with teachers and involving youth in gardening. We will wait for school to start to see this develop.

All of such opportunities will be communicated through our updated Web Page. Thanks to Janice Alexander, our staff assistant, for beginning this update process. Our own MG, Cam Stone is researching and developing procedures to allow for this outlet to continue to be an important tool in keeping us active, involved and current. Thanks to both of you!

Again, thanks to all of you for your involvement on whatever level suits you. *John*



## Spotlight on Gardeners: Sandy Rogers by Doreen Grimes



When Sandy Rogers was growing up in Junction, she probably never dreamed that she would some day live in San Angelo. But

she became a resident of the Concho Valley in 1978 and now is one of our most avid and active Master Gardeners.

Sandy met her future husband in a singles Sunday School class in Junction. When they were married in 1978 they moved to San Angelo. He was a lab supervisor for the Texas Department of Transportation. He had a daughter and two sons and eventually they were blessed with another daughter who now lives in Fort Worth. Eleven grandchildren keep them hopping!

As a medical transcriptionist, Sandy has worked for both hospitals. At the present time she is working for the Regional Cancer Center. She enjoys her work but says that the medical transcriptionist is on the way out. Technology is taking over in this field just as it

is in many others.

Attending the Landscape School served as the impetus for sparking an interest in Masters Gardeners. When asked what she considered the most important thing she learned from the Master Gardener class, she responded that she “learned so much and, most of all, how much she didn’t know”. Like everyone who has gone through Master Gardener classes, she praised John Begnaud for his unusual ability to impart horticultural knowledge in a way that made learning enjoyable. She remarked, “Every time I see John I ask him at least one question – and he always has an answer!”

Sandy has put some of the knowledge from the classes to practical use in her own landscape. She has incorporated xeriscaping and hardscaping extensively. Two-thirds of her backyard is now hardscape. And it is effective!

Propagating plants is of special interest to her. She has propagated a wide variety of plants and keeps discovering more plants that can be done easily.

Many of her volunteer hours have been devoted to the West Branch Library garden, especially the herb garden section. Sandy has an extensive collection of herbs in her own garden includ-



ing stevia, mint, basil, rosemary, yarrow and lavender.

Another major interest of Sandy’s is the Antique Car Club. She and her husband own a 1927 Model T roadster that they love to show off. She spearheaded the publication of a book of vintage recipes for the club containing 338 recipes collected from the Club’s membership. Some she describes as funny but always informative.

Sandy is responsible for many of the pictures which were displayed in the Master Gardener booth at the 2006 Home and Garden Show. She is another example of the talented and diverse personalities who comprise the membership of the Concho Valley Master Gardeners!



## Bulletin Board Notes *by the Editor*



T-Shirts are here. If you have NOT picked up yours at the Extension office, please drop by and check your name off the list.

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Don't forget to turn in your volunteer work hours! This is important! Let's show everyone how much MGs contribute to our community!



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Be sure to remember that the CVMG plant sale is scheduled September 16. Keep your propagated plants going and make it the best plant sale yet. Place: at the Paseo.



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Any areas or schedules you want to participate with, come by the Extension office and place your name on the project lists. Complete list are located on the CVMG bulletin board in the back office

next to John's desk. Just come by to check out the lists or e-mail the office to let us know your intentions.

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Contact Kathy or Janice at the Extension office for any changes with mailing or e-mail addresses. We always keep an up-to-date list of addresses, phone numbers and other info for all active CVMG members. If you want a copy of the current roster, just ask.



## Concho Valley Master Gardener Minutes from Business Meetings, May & July

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Meeting was held at the Edd B. Keyes building John resided over meeting, Lynne was not present. Minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer's report read by Mary Chatfield. Balance \$4,089.93 all bills paid.

Calendars-Still behind around \$700.00. Decided to donate extra calendars to local charities. Pat Stone was to check with meals for the elderly and Pat Karmany was to check with the Senior Citizen Center.

Library Garden-Pat Karmany reported that it looks great. Fencing is up, worked on the garden on two separate work days. Herbs were planted, hanging baskets were hung by new members. Compost pile of old limbs and trash needed to be hauled. John said he'd have it taken care of.

New Officers-

President-Rudy Wallace  
Vice-President-Doreen Grimes  
Secretary-Marty Burnett  
Treasurer-Mary Chatfield  
Volunteer Coordinators-D'aun Butler and Robie Long.

Keep San Angelo Beautiful-Billie McDaniel said the Great American Clean-up was a big success. Garden Tours sometime in May?

Jail Landscape-1<sup>st</sup> phase completed. Eastside Landscape solutions provided tractor and workers to help spread hardscape. County has \$2000.00 for the rest of hardscape.

Wall Garden-Gazebos is underway. Money has all been donated and raised to match grant. Rainwater capture tank is full. June & July needs weed maintenance.

Home & Garden Show- Great success, thanks to all that helped. Butterfly garden give away was well received. Would like to do

more next year. Project boards are in the office to be used elsewhere.

New Class-T-shirts have been ordered.

State Master Gardener Convention-Debbie Vinson and Loretta Burgess had a great time. Next year it will be held in Kerrville last weekend in April. Plan on attending. New business-

Rainwater Capture June 24<sup>th</sup>, at 4-H center Billie Kniffen.

May 15<sup>th</sup> date to spray pecan trees  
New Class completed, had tour of Bobby Peiser's was great as usual. 4-H master plan is in place. May 30<sup>th</sup> open house for 4-H building.

September 16<sup>th</sup> Fiesta Del Flores  
Carl White- New turf specialist was hired for the city. Contact Sam for volunteer ops. Still need help in labeling plants in city parks.

Habitat for Humanity projects is on hold.

Secretary, *Robie Long*

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July 13, 2006

Meeting was held at the Edd B. Keyes building, Rudi Wallace presided over the meeting. John was not present. Minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer's report was read by Mary Chatfield. Balance \$3,575.71 - no bills outstanding.

Library Garden - Pat Karmany reported that a bird bath had been purchased and placed in garden. Friends of the Library are to pay for the bird bath. Garden is doing fine. Donna Thomas now has the chipper/shredder that was donated at her house.

Jail Landscape - Lynne Alexander reported everything is looking good. Put out a sign-up sheet for workday, Saturday, September 3, to work on more hardscape.

Wall Garden - email from Kay Thompson read. There will be more

information coming on projects to be done in the fall.

Keep San Angelo Beautiful- Billie McDaniel reported on TXDOT project and trash pickup. Day of Caring to be held on July 29<sup>th</sup> to work on downtown alley project. Home & Garden Tours to be held in October. The motion was made & approved for CVMG to participate with the Home Tour project. Donna Crisp is in charge of the project and requested that several CVMG members be on the planning committee. Debbie Vinson, Lynne Alexander, D'aun Butler, Robie Long, and Jackie Robinson volunteered to be on the planning committee.

CVMG statement of Purpose sheets were passed out. By Laws will be passed out at next meeting.

Following discussion concerning continuing calendar, there was a signup sheet for volunteers to get the 2007 calendar organized.

Annual Plant sale will be held at the Lilyfest, September 16, Carolyn Mason will chair the committee and is wanting a meeting on July 17 or 24.

Concho Valley Master Gardener website is up and running thanks to Cam Stone and Janice Alexander.  
<http://cvmg.tamu.edu>

Volunteer coordinator- D'aun Butler will make a form for volunteers to complete which indicate the times and days of the week when volunteers will be available to assist with projects.

Habitat for Humanity will have a new home for landscaping sometime between September 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Signup sheet made available.

T-shirts are ready for pickup.

Pat Karmany reported on donations of 2006 calendars - 90 given to Senior Citizen Center and 159 taken to Meals for the Elderly.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 12, Edd B. Keyes Bldg., 12 noon.

Secretary, *Marty Burnett*

## Education Opportunities

By Past President & TMGA member-Lynne Alexander



**Earthkind Specialist Class – Oct 4,5,6, 2006 – Midland, Tx**

**Course Location:** Held at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, Center for Energy and Economic Diversification (CEED Bldg.), Room 1314, home to the Texas A&M National EarthKind™ Training Center. The CEED is located in west Texas, between the cities of Midland and Odessa, off of Highway 191

**Registration Fee: \$300.00** per person. (Includes 2-day short course, educational materials distributed during the course, set of EarthKind™ Power Point programs, drip irrigation workshop, copy of “The Guide to Old Roses,” 2 experimental roses for planting at your own home, National EarthKind™ Specialist chambray shirt, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, and refreshments.)

• **Registration deadline is August 1, 2006.**

- No refunds will be given for cancellations made after September 1, 2006.
- Transportation, meals (other than those listed above), and lodging are on your own.
- Course is **limited to the first 30 applicants** who send check and completed registration form. A maximum of 2 Master Gardeners per one county.

For more information, go to the following link: <http://www.texasmastergardeners.org/events/events.html>

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### Landscape Design Study Course III, Series XX

**September 18-19, 2006**

Christ United Methodist Church  
2401 State Highway 6  
College Station, TX 77845

**Registration Fee for the course is \$85.00 (this includes two lunches).**

Sponsored by the Texas Garden Clubs, Incorporated & Texas Cooperative Ex-

tension, Texas A&M University. Dr. William C. Welch announces the third in the latest Landscape Design Study Course series which is offered in four separate schools, approximately six months apart, in the Bryan-College Station area. Participants may take the four courses in any sequence. Garden Club members, Master Gardeners, nurserymen and others who are interested in furthering their knowledge of landscape design are welcome to attend.

For the optional lecture this year Chris Wiesinger will present an entertaining program on heirloom bulbs for the South.

**Master Gardeners** who complete a course may apply 12 hours of credit to their requirements for continuing education. **Texas Garden Club** members who successfully pass the examination for all four courses are eligible to become nationally accredited Landscape Design Consultants.

For more details, visit the following link: <http://www.texasmastergardeners.org/events/events.html>

## Concho Valley Master Gardener's Website



Be sure to check the new Concho Valley Master Gardener website. The site was envisioned to be upgraded and updated by CVMG Past President Kay Thompson and is still evolving. We hope it is worth your time to take a look.

The link can be found at: <http://cvmg.tamu.edu> or through the Tom Green County Extension's

website at: <http://tomgreen-co.tamu.edu/> and check under the “Link” button. Cam Stone, new CVMG class student, John Begnaud and Janice Alexander (Administrative Assistant) are working to update and keep the site evolving and would love input and any suggestions you can make to make it easy to use and accessible for CVMG members and visitors.

Our website can serve as a fast means of communication for our or-

ganization. Check for projects where your volunteering is needed, for the latest news that didn't make it into the newsletter; and all items of current interest.

You will also find links to various sites with related information such as the Texas Master Gardener site. Can't find what you are looking for, just let us know, and we welcome any suggestions.



# HORTUS color agrie

by Bobby Peiser

By the time you are reading this, our population will have reached the 300 million mark and if the experts were right, the individual that allowed us to reach that plateau was a Mexican. So, in keeping with the spirit of the times, I would like to introduce you to three Texas natives that have Mexican names. Two are great landscape trees and should be in everyone's landscape. The other one is probably the most beautiful of the three but is rather frost tender in our area but is still worth having if you can stand losing a little of it when we have a cold winter.



Mexican Olive in bloom

The three are Mexican olive (*Cordia boissieri*), Mexican elder (*Chicano antiquidas*) and Mexican persimmon (*Diospyros texana*) The Mexican olive grows in the dry soil of the lower Rio Grande Valley and up the river to Laredo and perhaps beyond. Booger and I have gathered seed from several large trees at a



Stages of the Mexican Olive

bank in Del Rio but I doubt that they are native that far north. The large evergreen tree to the left of the main entrance to the Alamo is a Mexican olive. The seeds germinate quiet easily and we have provided the city park department with a number of plants . The best ones may be seen at the Sunken Garden Park and at the Gazebo. I would be glad to give seeds to anyone that desires them! Just be warned, this tree will freeze back during a winter such as we had this year but it is pretty enough to live with that short coming. So while this tree is a "Border line have to have", the following three are "bonafide".



## The Mexican elder is as handsome as a

tree can be, most of the year. It does get a little bedraggled during our hot summers but snaps out of it as cooler weather settles in in late September and remains beautiful until mid July. Native to far west Texas, it is widely planted in the El Paso area and is in fact a cottage industry in this area due to the fact that it roots so easily. You only need to saw a short section of limb off , stick it in the ground and like magic- it develops roots! (Mature wood only).



**Mexican persimmon** may be the most desirable small tree

for our landscapes , due in no small part to its beautiful exfoliating smooth gray-white bark on a usually twisted and contorted trunk. An evergreen in our area (most of the time) it is either male or female and unless you want a LOT of messy and nasty looking fruit in your lawn-get a male. The only problem- I have never



seen a pretty nursery grown specimen, they must be field dug if you want the desired twisted and contorted trunk-- sorry.



Now, a time for confession and truth- the botanical name give for Mexican elder was , I think cute but incorrect. The correct name is *Sambucus mexicana*.



## Volunteer Opportunities

 Jail Landscape—need assistance in checking site on occasion and watering.

 Calendar—committee work & planning for new 2007 calendar.

 Landscape School—Sept. 13, 14, 20 & 21—needs assistance in donating snack items and acting as host for annual training event.

 Plant Sale—Sept 16th, volunteers needed to assist during sale and to bring

specific plants for sale.

 Jail Hardscape work—tentative Sept. 23; check with Lynne Alexander on work to do.

 Habitat House—Sept 22-30th. Volunteer needed when landscaping yard for qualified participants

 Keep San Angelo Beautiful Garden Tour—October ?, volunteers needed for tour hosts and helpers during tour.

### Did you Know.....?



The more that is learned about the ecological benefits of bats, the more home gardeners are going out of their way to entice these amazing winged mammals into their neighborhoods. Bats are voracious insect eaters. They can eat from 1/2 to 3/4 their weight per evening. Bats are also important plant pollinators, particularly in the southwestern US. Bats (& birds) fly using legs that are modified to be wings. Only insects have true wings. Bats aren't really blind. Their sense of hearing is more acute and more useful at night, but they can see.

 Please keep the Extension office informed of ANY changes of your mailing address or of your e-mail address. If you change or obtain a new electronic mail address or changes in mailing information, the office would appreciate notification so that we can keep an up-to-date list for emergency notification mailings.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

CONCHO VALLEY  
MASTER GARDENERS

*Doreen Grimes, Editor*



113 W. Beauregard  
San Angelo, TX 76903

Phone: 325-659-6528  
Fax: 325-659-6467  
Email: tom-green-tx@tamu.edu