

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Volume 7, Issue 3
October 2006

Concho Valley Master Gardeners



President's Message By Rudi Wallace



The heat wave has finally broken! We've had several weeks of temperatures in the 80's to lower 90's after one of the driest, hottest summers on record for the state. Fall is just around the corner and that means another planting season for home gardeners. The landscapes around town are looking green and rejuvenated again. I have also been revived by the change in seasons.

Hopefully, you too have been motivated by the recent rains and

cooler weather to get serious about gardening again. The Master Gardener's Group has many upcoming events that should appeal to your individual interests. Your help is needed and it is an excellent opportunity to learn more about gardening and to share your knowledge as well. Also, don't forget about earning your volunteer and continuing education hours. The end of the year will be here before you know it.

On September 28, we had a plant propagation workshop. I attended and I learned a great deal about plant reproduction. I was hum-

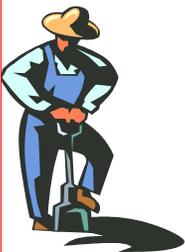
bled by what I didn't know! The "hands on" or I should say "getting your hands dirty" activities were great. Many thanks to John and Bobby Peiser for leading this workshop.

I hope to see everyone at the upcoming activities. Get involved. It is a lot of fun!

Rudi



Comments from John Begnaud



The group has been busy with a lot of different projects. It is good to see our bunch network with other groups and share our expertise.

A good example was all of the planning and work that went into the recent Keep San Angelo Beautiful-Garden Tour. Our people played key roles in seeing that project suc-

ceed and all of the area benefited.

The new calendars are great! Be sure and get yours for your own use and gifts. Any help in distributing or selling I know would be appreciated. The committee did an outstanding job again this year.



Thanks for outside help from MG Donna Thomas' young daughter in taking and producing many of the pictures. Thanks to all who helped.

Since we last visited, work has been done for Habitat for Humanity Landscape, Wall School Garden, Jail Landscape, and



(Continued on page 3)

Concho Valley Master Gardener Minutes

Meeting—September 12, 2006

Meeting was held at the Judge Edd B. Keyes building, Rudi Wallace presided over the meeting. Minutes were read. Date of jail landscape workday corrected to September 23, and minutes approved as corrected.

TREASURER'S REPORT by Mary Chatfield: Balance \$3,590.71 - no bills outstanding.

● **Library Garden** – Pat Karmany reported a workday will be held in September. Mulch has been spread. Thanks to Alice Stultz for donation of chipper/shredder.

● **Jail Landscape** – Lynne Alexander reported that she hopes to get to work on hardscape, weeds, and trimming sage at September 23rd workday. Thanks to Don, Ferd, and Mike for keeping landscape watered during summer. Put out signup sheet asking for monthly volunteers to keep eye on jail landscape during the winter.

● **Wall Garden** – Kay Thompson reported that compost will arrive at 4:30pm today and volunteers are encouraged to help. Garden needs weeding, tilling, edging laid, and pavers put out. Plants have been put on hold, but hope to complete project in September and an Open House to be held October 7th or 9th. The garden is at its prime right now. There is support on implementing the Junior Master Gardner program through Region XV. Will have propagation on October 14th.

● **Keep San Angelo Beautiful**- Billie McDaniel was not present. Lynne Alexander reported on Home Tour scheduled for October 21 from 1-3 pm. Homes have not been selected yet. Businesses have donated door prizes. Money from ticket sales goes to KSAB for their other programs. Volunteer signup sheet

put out.

● **Habitat for Humanity**- Debbie Vinson reported that September 30 will be the date to dig holes, plant, edge and mulch for the home on Mayse Street. Signup sheet put out. Lynne Alexander did the landscape design. Certificate of Appreciation to be placed in Extension office.

● **2007 Calendar**- Debbie Vinson reported that deadline for printing is October 6 and the calendars will be ready by November 1st. Will not be doing Community Day at Sunset Mall since calendars will not be ready. Calendars will sell for \$5.

● **Landscape School**- September 13, 14, 20, & 21. Debbie Vinson reports volunteers need to report at 6:30 pm for set up. Patricia is in charge of food. Master Gardeners can attend for continuing education hours.

NEW BUSINESS:

☼ **Basic Propagation School** – John reported the program will be held September 28th at 7 pm at the Edd B. Keyes Bldg. in the County Commissioners meeting room. Bobby Peiser will assist John and the class should last 2 hours. John is hopeful that this program will benefit our plant sale scheduled for April 7th.

☼ **Adult Literacy Project** – Debbie Vinson reports Margaret Mallard has asked for assistance with planters for landscaping at their facility. Mary Chatfield volunteered to coordinate this project.

☼ **Postcards & Postage** – Debbie Vinson requested approval for a 3 month supply of cardstock and postage for future mail outs. Motion for allocation approved.

☼ **Dove Creek Community Building**- Brenda White reports a request for assistance with landscape project at the community building. Motion passed to pursue fact finding and infor-

mation on this project.

☼ **Jim Johnson Floral School** – Loretta Burgess suggested a presentation by Jim Johnson. She will pick a date and gather information on how much this event will cost and report back to membership.

☼ Motion passed for approval of a **coupon for a \$1 discount on purchase** of next years' calendar.

☼ **State Master Gardener Convention** to be held in Kerrville this spring. Early sign up is suggested. For more information contact: Debbie Vinson or Loretta Burgess.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website - John reports that website had crashed but it should be updated soon.

Lily Fest – John asked for 2 volunteers to be at Civic League Park on Saturday, September 16 from 10am to 12 noon to answer questions.

Pat Karmany reported a **thank you note was sent to the Friends of the Library** for donation the bird bath at the Library Garden.

September **Plant sale rescheduled for April 7th**.

Copies of Concho Valley Master Gardeners **by Laws** passed out.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 14, 2006, Edd B. Keyes Bldg., 12 Noon.

Meeting adjourned.

Secretary,
Marty Burnett



Spotlight on Gardeners: Cam Stone

by Doreen Grimes



Have you ever thought about what a diverse group of people we have in Concho Valley Master Gardeners?

Cam Stone, a Master Gardener from the class of 2006, continues this trend. Cam became interested in the Concho Valley Master Gardeners website that Janice Alexander, our very able assistant in the Extension Office, started. As a part of a project that he was doing at ASU, he did further design changes and made recommendations which will be instituted when the necessary software is purchased.

Currently, Cam is associate registrar at Angelo State University. A native West Texan, Cam was born in Abilene. After living in several different West Texas towns as a young child, he and his family settled in Gail where his father was a rancher. He graduated from Borden County High School in Gail. After graduating from West Texas Col-

lege in Snyder with an associate degree and from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin with a Bachelor's degree, he spent a few years in Nashville working in a recording studio. He loved the recording business but he missed West Texas. He moved to San Angelo and entered Graduate School at ASU to work on a Master's degree which he has just completed. He has been working in the Registrar's Office at ASU since 2001 and finds ASU an ideal place to work and San Angelo just the right size town!

As a boy, Cam learned many ranching skills from his father and he continues to assist on the ranch whenever he has an opportunity. His love for growing plants came from his mother and grandmother. His mother is a specialist in growing African Violets and his grandmother is especially successful with roses.



Hardy hibiscus is one of Cam's favorite plants. He grows these in containers and the ones he has now have

been trimmed to be trees. He has had these for around 10 years and even moved them to Nashville and back! He also grows herbs which he uses in preparing some of his favorite dishes. Cooking is one of his passions.

As I talked with Cam I discovered that he is an avid biker and the proud owner of a Harley-Davidson. He and a friend make long bike trips and lots of shorter ones. Two of his favorite trips have been to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and to Laughlin, Nevada.

Cam's other interests include music of all kinds including classical, and visiting with family and friends. He has

one sibling, a sister who lives in Garland. His mother and father continue to live on the ranch near Gail.



FLORAL DESIGN CLASS

The Concho Valley Master Gardeners are sponsoring a program on floral design, open to the public. The program will be at the Texas A&M Research Center on Hwy 87 North, on Saturday, February 3rd at 10 AM. The presenter will be Mr. Jim Johnson, director, curator, and instructor of the Benz School of Floral Design at TAMU.

Mr. Johnson's presentations are informative and entertaining. He shows his audience how to expand on the incorporation of imaginative materials, containers and settings. He will demonstrate his "fresh ideas and innovative design" of floral materials.

The Master Gardeners are currently looking for sponsorships to help bring this exciting program to San Angelo. For more information contact Loretta Burgess or Debbie Vinson.



Comments from John—Continued

(Continued from page 1)

Propagation of plants for the Spring Plant Sale.

We collected a plethora of plant material for propagation last Saturday (Oct. 28). If 1/3 of the stuff roots, we will have more than enough to sell. I have a feeling the mg's may buy most of it since it is mostly very hard to find things. The cuttings have been moved to my office for watching and moderating temperatures. Additional cuttings are being made before first freeze. If you missed the op-

As the cuttings begin to grow, we have the O.K. to pot and grow the plants at the San Angelo Parks Dept. greenhouse. This is a great opportunity for volunteer hours during the cold winter. I will need a project chairman to oversee the green house growing along with Sam and the parks men. We will be sharing some of these plants with the Parks Dept. for display in public gardens.

Thanks to all mg's for your level of participation.



Bulletin Board Notes

“Tracking Consumer Preference for Container Gardeners”

There was a Research survey study being conducted by a graduate student at Texas A&M; however, the survey has exceeded the required number of respondents and is now closed. You can access wonderful information, tips, and photos at:



<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/floriculture/container-garden/index.html>



Texas Master Gardeners State Conference

April 12-14, 2007, Kerrville, TX
Hotel List available on Hill Country MG website:

<http://www.hillcountrymastergardeners.org>

There is a preview of the meeting, registration information, and other information at the above site.

International Master Gardener Conference
May 2-5, 2007 • Little Rock, Arkansas



International Master Gardener Conference

May 2-5, 2007, Little Rock, AK
Early registration now until December 31, 2006. Final registration date April 1, 2007.
Information available at:
<http://mg2007.uaex.edu/>

NEW CALENDAR READY!



The Master Gardener calendars are ready for pickup beginning Friday

Oct. 27. We are encouraging all MG members to take 5 and either sell them or give them as gifts. We will have them at the November 14th meeting for distribution.



All American Selection of Vegetable for the Year

Genus species: *Capsicum annuum*

Common name: Pepper

Fruit size: About 4 inches long by 2 inches wide, 1.5 ounces

Color: Creamy white, ripening to rosy red, then red

Plant type: Upright bush

Width: 20 inches

Garden spacing: 20-24 inches

Unique qualities: Larger fruit than comparison, higher yield, better color

Disease tolerances: TMV strain Po (tobamovirus)

Length of time from transplanting to harvest: About 66 days

Closest comparison(s) on market: 'Santa Fe Grande,' 'White Fire,' 'Healthy'

'Mariachi' is named after the Mexican regional musical band that became popular in Jalisco, Mexico in the mid-1800's. Both the band and the pepper are festive and colorful, reminding us to enjoy our outdoor living spaces and gardens. 'Mariachi' is a beautiful plant, deserving a sunny location in an annual or perennial flower bed. 'Mariachi' sets fruits and produces an abundant crop of high quality, mild chile peppers. The chile peppers are pendant, meaning they will hang below the stem. It is a fleshy pepper that ripens from creamy white to rose, then red. Some people may wait for the mature red pepper, but because its flavor is delicate and complex, having fruity undertones reminiscent of melons, the gardeners will harvest them at the creamy white stage. 'Mariachi' peppers are moderately pungent, with Scoville readings in the 500 to 600 range when grown under non-stressful conditions. Add stress, such as extremely hot weather or overly dry soil, and Scoville readings may rocket.

'Mariachi' chiles can be used in salsas or sauces and are especially flavorful when roasted whole on the grill or under the broiler. 'Mariachi' peppers can be used in many dishes, either raw or cooked, but the reason to grow vegetables is the exceptional taste and highest nutritional value - fresh from your garden.

HORTUS color agrie

by Bobby Peiser

Editor's Note—Taken from the Concho Valley Master Gardener Newsletter Archives— first printed in the Fall-2001

After agreeing to be a regular contributor to our newsletter, serious doubts began to surface but a promise is a promise. So here we go! My plan is to introduce you to three native plants each quarter. In some cases an introduction may be inappropriate as you may well be extremely familiar with it. I will feature a tree, shrub and an annual or perennial in each article and will attempt to provide as much useful information as possible. Plants for this session are. Acacia, Anisacanthus and Asclepias. You will note that I have used botanical names and that they all start with the letter "A". And yes, "B" will be next. Wanting to learn and be more familiar with the botanical names of plants, I shall attempt to use them as much as possible. Please indulge me this pleasure. (Did I say that or even know what it means?)



ACACIA. There are approximately 800 species of Acacia world wide with Texas having five that are considered as trees and seven that are shrubs. The three most common in our part of the world are:



ACACIA greggii, A. roemeriana and A. wrightii with wrightii being the most cold hardy. Almost all Acacia will make a worthy

landscape tree and should probably used more.

The genus name, Acacia refers to the spinescent stipules of some of the spe-

cies. Most are heavily armed with these curved or recurved stipules- hence the common name "Cat-claw". It is extremely difficult to correctly identify our local Acacia- even by a trained botanist- so why bother!

Not all Acacias have thorns(or spinescent stipules) but as far as I know, all of our local ones do. Acacias are easily propagated from seeds. The seed should be gathered as soon as the seed pods are dry but before the seeds are ejected from the seed pods. I have gathered the seeds from the ground but you need to beat the weevils to them.

ANISACANTHUS wrightii. Usually referred to as Flame Acanthus, this is a wonderful hardy and drought tolerant shrub. The genus name, Anisacanthus, is from anice(unsymmetrical) and akanthos (thorn). I need to look at mine more closely- I do not remember any thorns. And of course the wrightii is in honor of Charles Wright (1811-1886) an early day botanist who collected in Texas and throughout the southwest. And yes, he is the same Wright that the above mentioned A.wrightii is named for.



Flame acanthus will usually get 3-4 feet tall and is covered with yellow to orange blooms from mid- summer until frost. It is easily propa-



gated from seeds and will easily reseed itself. In recent years I have noticed that the nursery trade has a red flowered variety readily available at most nurser-

ies.

ASCLEPIAS tuberosa. Right now I'm wondering why I boxed myself in by the format I suggested. There are just not that many annuals or perennials that begin with the letter "A". I considered Aquilegia (Columbine) but decided to go with the milkweed.

Asclepius tuberosa, commonly known as Butterfly Weed or Pleurisy Root is only one of a great number of plants in the milkweed family. This family consists of vines, perennials and shrubs and gets its name from its milky sap. Interesting enough, a milky say is found in plants in a few other plant families and actually the sap in A. tuberosa is more watery than milky. Probably like the 1% (Blue) milk available at your local super market.



I have found that it is fairly easy to germinate the seed but difficult to nurture them into mature plants. But I admit it, patience is not my strong suit. Any way, A. tuberosa makes a great butterfly plant and should be utilized whenever possible. Plus, you never know when you or a loved one will come down with a big dose of pleurisy!



Volunteer Opportunities

🌻 Wall School Garden-
contact Kay Thompson.

🏠 Jail Landscape -
contact Lynne Alexander
to help volunteer and
new dates of work.

🏠 Chicken Farm Art
Center-help to sell new
2007 Master Gardener
calendars, contact Deb-
bie Vinson at 655-7696.

🌻 Plant Propagation
during winter months at
the Parks Dept. green-
house. This will be for
Plant Sale to be held in

the spring. Contact John
or Carl if you can volun-
teer to do work.

📅 New CVMG calendars
are ready to be picked up for
members to sell as
fundraiser. If you have any
questions, contact Debbie
Vinson; otherwise stop by
Extension office to sign out
for your allotted amount.

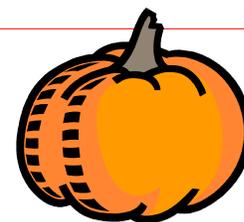
✍️ Next stated meeting
will be held on Tuesday,
November 14th at the Edd B.
Keyes Bldg at 12 noon.
Watch mail for agenda items
to be discussed.



Flora's Pumpkin Fudge

1 tsp Vanilla
1/4 cup Butter
2 1/2 cup Sugar
5 oz Evaporated milk
1 cup Pumpkin, puree
1/2 tsp Cream of Tartar
1/4 tsp Ground cinnamon
1 cup Chopped pecans

1. Simmer sugar, pump-
kin, cream of tartar, cin-
namon, and milk mixture
in a sauce pan until it
reaches 236 F on a candy
thermometer.
2. Pour over vanilla, but-
ter, and pecans.
3. Beat until creamy.
4. Pour into a dish and let
cool.



Garden Trivia: Pumpkin
seeds & pumpkin flowers
can be eaten.
People used to believe that
pumpkins could cure snake
bites.
People used to believe that
pumpkins could take off
freckles.
Largest pumpkin grown
weighed 1,385 lbs in 2003.

✉️ 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 notifica-
tion 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