

# THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Volume 8, Issue 3

July 2007

Concho Valley Master Gardeners



## President's Message

By Ferd Koehn

### Master Gardeners:

The Concho Valley Master Gardeners are alive and well. The July meeting was well attended considering the time and location change. As a group we are hoping that the time change will increase meeting attendance. So mark your calendars for the next meeting, September 11, 5:30 PM at the 4H Building (Hwy 67 East, next to the animal shelter)

There are many gardening projects scheduled for the summer, fall and even into the winter. If you need volunteer hours, there is a project that will fit your schedule. Those projects are always listed in the newsletter, posted on the bulletin board at the Extension office, and you can always contact Robie Long, D'Aun Butler or myself about the projects, dates, and locations.

The main objective of the Master

Gardeners program is education. Educating ourselves as well as the general public. As a group we expand our knowledge of landscape design, plant materials, care and maintenance of our yards and landscaped areas. We do this by association with other MGs. We work together on community projects and share our knowledge and experiences. Some have years of experiences behind them, some of us are struggling to keep an artificial plant green.

Sometime back, Bobby Peiser provided an educational tour of the many plant materials in his landscape. I really enjoyed that tour, and others who attended enjoyed it also. I would like the Concho Valley MGs to consider one or two yard tours per month of just the Concho Valley Master Gardeners. From those tours we can get

new ideas, learn what worked for them, trade plant materials, and just plain learn something.

I have worked on projects with Debbie Vinson, Lynn Alexander, Kay Thompson, Brenda White, Rudy Wallace, Loretta Burgess and many others, and have learned a lot about their techniques, their plant preferences, and landscape preferences. Those projects are just a small part of their experiences. I would like to see their landscape and glean some knowledge from them.

*Ferd*



**The philosopher who said that work well done never needs doing over never weeded a garden.**  
Ray D. Everson

## Comments from John Begnaud



The Concho Valley Master Gardeners have had a lot of continued projects and some new ones being considered for the future. We have maintained good participation with the volunteers we presently have. I appreciate all the continued support and hope you are maintaining your goal of continued learning. I know I am! I also appreciate your support of waiting to train a new class until next year. We have a waiting list long enough to fill a class now, thanks to your involvement and accomplishments.

Delays in landscaping the 4-H Building are hopefully behind us. This will be a great project for late summer and fall. Hope all that care to participate will have the opportunity. This will be our home for demonstration gardens, greenhouses, meetings, etc.

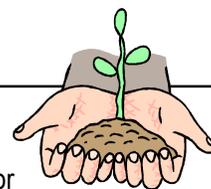
In support of this, we are keeping our eyes open for older or abandoned greenhouse structures to serve as shade house, storage, etc. Let us know what you find out there and we can contact owners or arrange for relocation.

The plant sale which for the last 4 years

has become very helpful to the public and profitable for us is scheduled for April 5 2008. Those interested in propagation and growing can contact Donna Thomas. We are already growing plants for next year's sale.

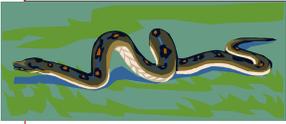
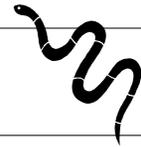
A special thanks to all MG's who supported the project of rebuilding my utility trailer. The task was a complete and total surprise and one that humbles me.

*(Continued on page 6)*



## Gardening Health Tips: Snake Bites

By Sheree Delgado



Snake bites pose a serious and sometimes a life-

threatening emergency. Poisonous snakes bite about 6,000-8,000 people each year in the US. Mortality is low about 5-15 deaths, but victims suffer more from loss of function, disfigurement and even amputation. This is attributed to delay in seeking medical care, inappropriate treatment and even inaccessibility of medical care.

In the US, there are two families of poisonous snakes. (1) Pit vipers (*Crotalidae*) are rattlesnakes, copperheads, cottonmouth (water moccasins) and (2) coral snakes (*Elapidae*). The treatment is different for each family of snakes. Therefore, it is important (if at all possible) to accurately identify the type of snake because each family of snake requires different anti-venom and it is not interchangeable. Victims are usually adolescent or young adult males, children, snake handlers and persons under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Anyone working outside in gardens, parks, landscaping, etc. are also at risk.

This article will focus on pit vipers.

These particular snakes have an infrared heat seeking pit or organ found halfway between the eye and nose that is used to locate prey. They have large, triangular heads because of lateral location of large venom sacs. Rattles have series of rings or rattles at the tail that produce the hissing or rattling sound when vibrated. Cottonmouth and copperheads have a single row of scales on the underside of their tail that shake silently. They may have 1 or more fangs and rows of small teeth. Rattles have the largest fangs 3-4 cm long.



“Baby” snakes are poisonous at birth and are capable of envenomation!!

Pit viper venom contains substances that digest connective tissue, fats, proteins and other biological matter. Tissue is destroyed. Fluid loss into tissue causes swelling and dehydration, destruction of red blood cells and other blood components leads to anemia and inability of blood to clot which can cause more bleeding. There is a wide variety of signs and symptoms because venom components vary with each species of snake.

Clinical presentation after a snakebite is also related to the size of the snake, potency, amount of venom, depth and location of injection, number of strikes, and size and

health of victim. Because not all venom is discharged with 1<sup>st</sup> strike, subsequent strikes can cause further toxicity. A diagnostic sign of poisonous snakebite is rapid, progressive swelling at the bite site. Numbness around the mouth or the extremities, unusual taste changes, muscles twitching, nausea, vomiting, weakness, lethargy are general symptoms along with large bruising at the site. Hypotension and shock may develop. Pain is excruciating. It is out of proportion to the injury. It has been described as “acid being poured on the skin”. Pain is a hallmark sign. Get help! Call 911, or transport the victim to a hospital. Try to keep yourself and the victim calm.

- Do not use ice – this can cause further tissue damage.
- Do not use tourniquets – this reduces blood supply
- Do not make incisions in the wound as in cutting or sucking, not useful and may cause infection.
- Do not elevate the affected area. Make sure to situate the victim with affected area at or below the heart level.

(Nurseweek)

Be aware of your environment. It is always best to stay calm and clear-headed in any emergency. Enjoy the rain!  
Sheree Delgado, RN

## SPOTLIGHT ON GARDENER: WANDA GULLY

By Doreen Grimes

A native West Texan, Master Gardener Wanda Gully displays the true West Texas spirit: a tremendous work ethic, an achiever, and a lover of life itself. She seems to savor every moment of living and has an incessant enthusiasm for whatever she is doing.

Wanda grew up in Rowena, was graduated from Ballinger High School and went on to attend Angelo State University for two years. For her junior year she transferred to Texas Tech where she earned a Bachelor's degree in home economics with an elementary endorsement. She served as County Agent in Concho County for five years. Eventually she earned a Masters degree from ASU in guidance and counseling.

After completing her practicum at

Wall Elementary School, she became an elementary school counselor at Wall where she has become a vital part of the Wall community.

When the new elementary school principal mentioned the need for a garden on the school property, she jumped into the project with help from Kay Thompson. Kay is the person who steered her into Master Gardening training. Wanda is a 4H leader and very active in school events and the Wall School gardening project became one of her passions. Her active involvement in school and community projects gave her the opportunity she needed to instill the joy of participating in volunteer community activities in her two sons who assist her in many projects.

Wanda is married to Gene Gully, a

cotton farmer who also is involved in the Ironhorse Development project in Wall. Her two teenage sons, Brandon, a freshman at Wall High School this fall and Ethan, a senior, keep her busy with all their sports and other extracurricular activities.

With help from her sons, Wanda grows a vegetable garden, all strictly organic, and is almost finished with the landscaping of their five year old home. Attracting hummingbirds and butterflies is an important part of her gardening. Some of her plants include Gregg's mist, lantana, and salvia greggi. Wanda finds gardening to be healthful, relaxing, and a great way to clear the mind. “It's good for the body and the soul.”

## Minutes: Concho Valley Master Gardeners — July 10, 2007; 5:30 PM

The meeting was held at the new 4-H building on Hwy 67 Northeast of San Angelo at 5:30 p.m. President, Ferd Koehn, presided. The minutes from the previous meeting were not available to be read. The minutes are printed in the May newsletter. Norma Cummings, Treasurer, reported that there was \$6,260.68 in our bank account. No bills were presented.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Library Garden:** Thanks to Bobbi & John, the mulch was moved. They finished placing the new mulch on Monday. Members are permitted to harvest tomatoes. The garden needs weeding. If you get tomatoes, take a few weeds too.

**Wall Garden:** Kay Thompson reported that the garden looks great. There were few weeds. The next work day will be Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 a.m. The next work day project should be cleaning out the storage room. There are a few things in the rock bed that needs to be done. The water tanks are full. The mulch they got from the landfill is excellent.

John stated that there was a new fellow at the land fill that was in charge of the mulching operation. They have three types of mulch now: Rough, moderately composted and fully composted. If you are a Tom Green County resident, you need to take your water bill with you or you will be charged for the mulch. You also may be required to load it yourself so be prepared.

**Dove Creek Project:** Brenda reported that due to the rains we have not done much work. We need to weed and spread mulch and rocks. There is some mulch at Foster Park that we can get. There is a work day planned for July 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:00 a.m. We have a crew of guys from Dove Creek that will help us get that done. If there is someone who doesn't work during the day and can help Brenda gather rocks at one of the parks at Dove Creek to complete the dry riverbed project it would be a great help.

**Habitat for Humanity:** Debbie Vinson reported that they finally finished the last Habitat house. They had a terrible drainage problem that was finally resolved. They put down sod and within days the sod had already put down roots. She hopes in the future that we can utilize sod because it works out very well. The only drawback is that it initially requires watering twice a day, and it may be difficult for some of the residents to adhere to that schedule due to children and work schedules. The landscape looks spectacular with the rock border and choice of plants. Debbie Vinson stated that the person in charge

over at Habitat for Humanity needs someone she can e-mail the detailed itinerary to when they start a new house. It is recommended that that person then coordinate with the various individual house coordinators so that there is only one person that will be the consistent communication liaison. Lynn Alexander volunteered for this position. Ferd suggested that we go ahead and discuss whether we will continue our work with Habitat. After a discussion, Lynn Alexander made a motion that we continue to participate in the Habitat for Humanity projects with labor and funds as needed. Diane Vinson seconded and the motion carried.

**4H Building Report:** Ferd reported that our immediate plans are to complete the two beds out front. He reported that the base material was removed and some dirt moved in, but not spread. He stated that in the fall we would be working on the beds that run down the sides of the building. Lynn Alexander showed the original plans for the project which would be amended to include dry riverbeds out front due to the drainage issues with the location of downspouts. He suggested that we have a work day soon to clean and prepare the beds to be landscaped. The date for that project is scheduled for this Friday, July 13, at 5:30 p.m. Bring tools and wheelbarrows.

**Botanical Society Conference:** Debbie Vinson reported the conference was a great success. They had many compliments that the food was great. The weather was cold and there were lots of students in attendance. She reported that there were bills of about \$315.00 and 30.00 for the food. John B. and Debbie reported that we have been invited to come and tour several of the facilities. The Freshman Campus Class in San Angelo made paper flowers for the conference.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Calendar Sales:** Almost all the calendars are gone. 2 cases of calendars went to Meals for the Elderly. 2 Cases were taken to the Senior Center. One box of 2006 calendars was taken to Goodwill for their usefulness as garden tips. There was no report as to total proceeds from the calendar sales. There a few still left in John's office.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Propagation for 2008 plant sale:** John Begnaud reported that some of the plant sale group has met to try to start some roses.

Donna Thomas has agreed to oversee the plant sale next year. It is tentatively set for the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in April 2008. John is going to check with using ASU or the City greenhouse for next year's plant sale. There are new personnel at the City Parks Department to work with, so nothing is certain at this time. We are going to ask Donna Thomas to be the coordinator for the Propagation as well as the sale.

**4H Building:** John Begnaud stated that there was no timetable for completion of any of the proposed projects: Greenhouse, shade house, rainwater capture or other landscaping. After a discussion of our participation with planning and funding, Debbie Vinson made a motion that Ferd, Kay and Lynn meet with the 4H Coordinator to plan our participation in getting the greenhouse and other projects done. Bobby seconded and motion carried.

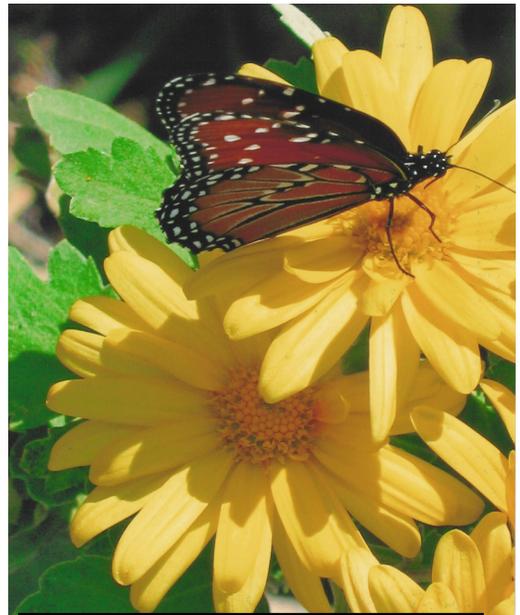
**Hypertufa Class:** Bobby Peiser will be conducting it on August 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be an e-mail to advise all members as to time, date and cost. Bobby briefly described what Hypertufa was. It is a lightweight concrete which utilizes dried plant material instead of sand mixed with Portland cement to make garden items such as pots and decorative items. There will be a small charge to participate due to the cost of the cement and peat moss.

**Future Master Gardner Class:** John reported that he would be retiring in January 2008 and would recommend that we wait until his replacement was on the scene to plan a new Master Gardner Class. He felt that it would be an excellent way for his replacement to get to know us and to become familiar with this area. He also suggested that any new MG students would need projects. He suggested that we should be thinking of what projects we see ourselves taking on in the future and make those known at the beginning of any class so that the students would be preparing for that work. No decision was made for a future MG class. Bobby Peiser made a motion to adjourn. There was a second. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Brenda White, Secretary*

# 4-H Photography Winners



Kendra Guerrero - age 14, Sr. Division—"The Last Lily" won Blue Ribbon **AND** Best of Show in Plant/Flora-Color Digital category at the 2007 State 4-H Roundup, after placing 1st in Tom Green County Contest

Allison Zwaschka—age 16, Sr Division—"Monarch on Mum" placed 2nd in the Tom Green Co 4-H Photography Contest.



◀ Brian Thompson—age 14, Sr. Division—"A Dog's World" - son of MG Kay Thompson placed 1st in Tom Green Co contest and a Blue ribbon at the State 4-H Contest in College Station in the Animal-Color Digital category.



Brandon Gully—age 14-Sr. Division, son of MG Wanda Gully won 2nd place in Tom Green Co 4-H Photography Contest.



Boltan Morales-Age 13, won Blue Ribbon at District 7 Photo Contest, in Plant/Flora Color



Regan Hoelscher-age 11, won Blue Ribbon at District 7 Contest in Plant/Flora category.



Noah Kittles-age 10 won Blue Ribbon at District 7 Contest in Still Life category.



◀ Robyn Seidel, age 15 won a Red Ribbon with "Field of Flowers" at State 4-H Photo Contest in Plant/Flora category.



◀Kendra Guerrero, age 14, won Red Ribbon for "The Cherub" in Special Effects category at the State Photo Contest.



◀Robyn Seidel won Blue Ribbon in Architectural Elements of the Courthouse at State Photo Contest.

## HORTUS Agrie color

By Bobby Peiser

After discussing the trees mentioned in the bible in the previous column, let us look at the lesser plants - the shrubs, forbs and herbs.

Early in the book of Exodus, we learn that the baby Moses was placed in an ark constructed of "bulrush", and after water-proofing it with slime and pitch, it was placed in a river where it was later discovered and the rest is -well history.



learn that the baby Moses was placed in an ark constructed of "bulrush", and after water-

proofing it with slime and pitch, it was placed in a river where it was later discovered and the rest is -well history.

The bulrush is a sedge in the genus Scirpus. Normally it is an invasive plant in almost every continent in the world today. It is a grass like plant and depending upon the specie can vary from around 24" to almost 48" tall. Another aquatic sedge, papyrus (Cyperus papyrus) growing in the area at that time was the source of our first paper.

Fast forward to King Solomon's time and we find in what most scholars say is his finest of 1005 songs credited to him, a mention of several trees and other plants. In addition to the camphor tree (Cinnamomum champhora) he mentions Calamus, which Mr. Webster describes as being one of the palms of the genus Calamus. Actually Calamus is the largest genus in the palm family with 370 different palms and most are of the climbing or vining type. The genus name is a Latinized form of a Greek word meaning reed or cane. All authentic rattan furniture is made from this palm.

The King also mentions saffron which actually is the spice that comes from Crocus sativus. Saffron is scraped from the dried stigmas of

the crocus flower and is extremely expensive.

King Solomon then sings that his beloved is unto me as a cluster of camphire. This camphire is Lawsonia enermis and is commonly called cypress flower or henna. The flowers were a source for the first perfumes in biblical times. Also a dye was made from the plant and is still used in some eastern nations today as a somewhat temporary tattoo. I am certain you have all seen pictures of women in India (and other Asian countries) that cover their wrists, hands and ankles with tattoos.



As I understand it, it is illegal to import processed henna into our country for the purpose of using it to dye or tattoo your skin but it is legal if you wish to dye



your hair. However, you may prepare your own henna by grinding the dry leaves and then mixing the powder with lemon juice, tea or any other mild acidic liquid.

Job then mentions a band of ne'er-do-wells who had fled into the wilderness and forced to live on the leaves of mallows and juniper roots. Unfortunately we do not know exactly the species they are talking about. They might have been eating okra since it is a member of the mallow family. While on the subject of mallows- did you know that the first marshmallows were made from this plant?

In Deuteronomy Moses speaks

of wormwood, Artemisia absinthum, and gall as he once again attempts to get Israel right with God. This wormwood is a herbaceous perennial growing in very arid conditions. It was used to treat a number of medical conditions, mainly concerning the stomach. Interesting enough, the main component for Absorbine Jr. comes from this plant. One can only wonder as to how much of this Moses and his entourage would have used in their 40 year trek across the desert!



This is just a small sampling of plants mentioned in the Bible but you can readily see that then as now, plants play an important place in our daily life. This is seen that besides being a source of food and medicine, they provide inspiration for the soul and the arts. But, we still don't know the name of the burning bush!



Changing the subject to hypertufa containers, if you plan to attend

the workshop at my place on August 11th, please call and let me know so I might buy the supplies needed. If you have any, bring the thin plastic you get at the dry cleaners as it makes for a good texture when placed in the form. Also bring gloves. The best kinds are the vinyl dishwashing type. If you don't have any, perhaps you could borrow your husbands! See you at 8:00am on the 11th.

**Bobby**

(Continued from page 1)

Comments from John—CONT.



The trailer is like new and available for use, when empty, to all master gardeners for hauling mulch, plants, etc. Thanks to all! But, I sure do miss my carpet and dodging the holes in the floor.

I am pleased with the division of leadership and cooperative spirit of you guys and gals. If you look at your contribution to our area, it is awesome.

*Thanks, John*

 Please keep the Tom Green County Extension office informed of any changes of your mailing address or 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 all Master Gardener mailings. 325-659-6522

## Volunteer Opportunities

 **Hypertufa Class**—Bobby Peiser will instruct and provide information and hands-on techniques for this class; August 11th at 8:00 AM at his home 102 Tyler Terrace—San Angelo; call to RSVP your spot—651-7992

 **Habitat for Humanity**—landscaping will be done on houses once they are moved and ready for final steps. Contact Debbie Vinson if you are interested in assisting.

 **4-H Building**—Landscaping plans continue with work being done in between rains. Keep in touch with office or Ferd Koehn, Lynn Alexander or Kay Thompson for progress and planned work days.

 **Wall School Garden**—Work continues on a maintenance schedule for this garden. Several work days were held during summer; if you are interested in knowing next work day—watch your e-mail or contact Kay Thompson for planned schedule.

 **Dove Creek Project**—work days have also been held during summer and in be-

tween rains. Plans and schedule days will be announced thru e-mails or contact Brenda White for more information.

 **Plant Sale**—Propagation for spring sale has already begun. Sale has tentatively been set for April 8, 2008. For more information or to contribute, contact Donna Thomas.

 **Library Gardens**—continued to be maintained throughout the summer; delicious tomatoes have been harvested and shared with Extension Office staff (*and we're very appreciative—they were GREAT!!*). Watch e-mails for any workdays or contact Pat Karmany for more info.

 **New MG projects**—if you know of a specific project that the CVMG might want to assist in completing contact Ferd Koehn, new President, to fill him in on projects and ideas.

CONCHO VALLEY MASTER GARDENERS

*Doreen Grimes, Editor*



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Quote of the Month: *"The love of flowers is really the best teacher of how to grow and understand them."* Max Schling