

# The "DIG IT" News



## Learning & growing

*Class of 2021  
is in full swing!*

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## HIGHLAND LAKES MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

# President's Corner

*Enjoying a "cool" Texas summer — while it lasts!*

Greetings, Master Gardeners...

Wow...can you believe the wonderfully cool July we have been having, at least cool relative to the normal hot days of July?

Some of you may have had more rain than I, but I won't complain, as any rain in July is wonderful. The pasture is still green and my plants haven't needed to be watered nearly as much. Now if I can just keep the deer from eating everything. They even tried out my tomatoes the other night. I'm really not into sharing with them!

The Burnet County Area Fair was a huge success, as were our silent auction and quilt raffle. Thank you to everyone who volunteered during the four days that it took to set up and hold the events. Master Gardeners always show up and help out!

With the spring Lawn and Garden Show cancelled and the County Fair over for this year, we are headed into the hot days of summer and fall. The volunteer opportunities are getting fewer, so keep in mind the Burnet Farmers and Craft Market held every Saturday, The Garden in Marble Falls and The King's Garden in Kingsland. The gardens work Monday, Wednesday

A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawnmower is broken.

*James Dent*

AT hours before the end of the year. The Executive Board will review hours again in November for those eligible for awards at the December banquet/Christmas party.

A reminder that we are not meeting in July, but will be back with an in-person and Zoom meeting Aug. 10. This will be our first meeting with a refreshment time in many months. I'm looking forward to some really good snacks!

See you in August,

*Carolyn Stephens*

stephens4005@sbcglobal.net  
817-874-2138

### Find the latest HLMGA news online!

[burnetcountyhighlandlakesmastergardener.org](http://burnetcountyhighlandlakesmastergardener.org)

[facebook.com/HighlandLakesMasterGardeners](https://facebook.com/HighlandLakesMasterGardeners)

**TEXAS A&M**  
**AGRILIFE**  
**EXTENSION**

The "Dig It" News is a publication of the Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association – written by gardeners, for gardeners! Please send all content for publication to editor Gail Braymen at [gebfoto@gmail.com](mailto:gebfoto@gmail.com). Deadline is the 28th of the month for the following month's issue. The "Dig It" News is published every month except February and August.



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**Tuesday, August 10, 2021 • 2 p.m.**

Burnet County AgriLife Extension Office • 607 N. Vanderveer, Burnet, Texas

**ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM WILL BE AVAILABLE**

*Watch your email or check the HLMGA website at [burnetcountyhighlandlakesmastergardener.org](http://burnetcountyhighlandlakesmastergardener.org) for the meeting link.*

**PROGRAM:**  
**Transitioning Into Fall Gardening**  
HLMGA Master Gardener Panel Discussion

# Approved Master Gardener Advanced Training Opportunities JULY & AUGUST 2021

From the MG Membership Committee

Again, there are no in-person meetings or presentations scheduled that offer Advanced Training credit during July and August from any of the local nature-oriented organizations (but remember the August Master Gardener meeting will be mixed; you have the option of attending in person or via Zoom).

Also, there are no classes scheduled at Backbone Valley Nursery in Marble Falls or The Natural Gardener in Austin. However, there are six IN-PERSON and 10 VIRTUAL AT Opportunities listed here. All require pre-registration because of space limitations.

## IN-PERSON EVENTS

**JULY 15 — “Insects – The Good, The Bad, The Ugly”** with Suzy Rowley, Master Gardener, 1 p.m. (1 hr credit), at the Trinity Episcopal Church, 909 Ave. D, Marble Falls. Sponsored by the Master Gardener Green Thumb Program.

**JULY 15 — “WaterSaver Guided Tour”** with Master Naturalist Host, 10–11:30 a.m. (1.5 hr credit), at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio. Fee: \$15. Pre-registration required at [sabot.org/learn/adult-classes](http://sabot.org/learn/adult-classes), scroll down to class, click on class, click on Register for July 15 and follow instructions.

**JULY 22 — “Ethnobotany of Native Plants – Guided Tour”** with Maeve Bassett, Conservation and Volunteer Programs Specialist at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, 10–11:30 a.m. (1.5 hrs credit), at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio. Fee: \$15. Pre-registration required at [sabot.org/learn/adult-classes](http://sabot.org/learn/adult-classes), click on Week 4, click on class, click on register for July 22 and follow instructions.

**AUGUST 6 — “Fall Back Into Gardening: A Fall Garden Program”** with AgriLife Extension of Gillespie County, 9 a.m.–12:15 p.m. (3 hr credit) at the Extension Office, 38 Business Court, Fredericksburg, (sign in at 8:30 a.m.). Programs on “Alliums (Onions, etc.”); “Growing Fall Salad Garden” and “Cole Crops (Broccoli, etc.)” Fee: \$20. Pre-registration required with Beth McMahon, Gillespie County Extension Office, at 830-997-3452.

**AUGUST 16 — “OLLA Gardening”** with Willard

Horn, Master Gardener, 1–2 p.m. (1 hr credit), at The King’s Garden, 3435 RR 1431, Kingsland. Sponsored by the Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association as part of the Green Thumb Program.

**AUGUST 19 — “Artist’s Gardens in Mexico”** with Kathryn E. O’Rourke, 6:30–7:30 p.m., at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston, San Antonio. Fee: \$15. Pre-registration required at [sabot.org/learn/adult-classes](http://sabot.org/learn/adult-classes), click at right for August Calendar, click to bring up Week 3, scroll down to class, click on class, click on Registration and follow instructions. **THIS CLASS WILL NOT COUNT FOR MG AT, BUT SHOULD BE WELL WORTH THE DRIVE DOWN AND BACK (EVEN IN THE DARK).**

## VIRTUAL EVENTS

**JULY 15 — “Garden Hummingbird Safety”** with Brandi Keller, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent, 10 a.m. (1 hr credit), Harris County AgriLife Extension Service, Home Grown Lecture Series. Fee: Free. Pre-registration required at [harris.agrilife.org/home-grown-lecture-series](http://harris.agrilife.org/home-grown-lecture-series), click on “Register for July-December series,” click on July 15 class, click on Register and follow instructions.

**JULY 17 — “Know Your Sunflowers”** with Staff, 9–11 a.m. (2 hr credit). Fee: \$25. Pre-registration required at [wildflower.org/learn/adults](http://wildflower.org/learn/adults), scroll down to the class, click on “find out more,” click on Register and follow instructions.

**JULY 17 — “Gardening for Wildlife”** with Ryan Fleming, Ecological Landscape Designer, 2–4 p.m. (2 hr credit). Sponsored by the LBJ Wildflower Center. Fee: \$80. Pre-registration required at [wildflower.org/learn/adults](http://wildflower.org/learn/adults), scroll down to the class, click on “find out more,” click on register and follow instructions. Same class at the same time reoccurs virtually on 24 July and 31 July (count only 1 for hour of AT).

**JULY 19 — “Organic Landscaping: A Different Way of Thinking”** with Mike Nadeau, 12–1:30 p.m. (1.5 hrs credit). An NDAL Program at the LJB Wildflower Center in Austin. Fee: \$35. Pre-registration required at [wildflower.org/learn/adults](http://wildflower.org/learn/adults), scroll down to the class, click on “find out more,” click on Register and follow instructions.

# 2021 HLMGA scholarship recipient announced

Story by Samantha Melvin

The Scholarship Committee is thrilled to announce the selection of Caroline Wideman as the 2021 HLMGA Scholarship recipient!

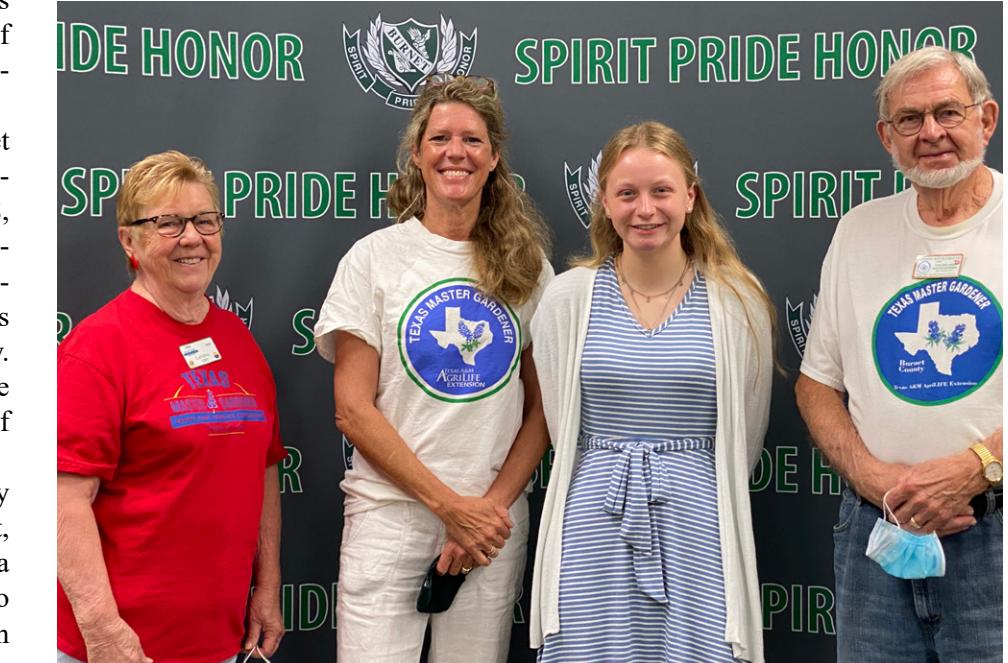
Caroline graduated from Burnet High School ranked in the top 10 students of the graduating class of 248, with a 4.14 grade point average. Active in FFA, she served as vice president and treasurer, and as activities chair for the National Honor Society. She was the head manager for the BHS Highlandettes all four years of her high school career.

She heads to Texas A&M to study Ranchland and Ecology Management, with a long-term goal of working on a ranch. In addition, she felt the call to service and leadership and will begin her journey with the Corps of Cadets with another long-term goal: becom-

ing a pilot in the military.

We were so impressed with her drive,

leadership and exemplary scholarship! Congratulations, Caroline! 



Left to right are Lavona Fry, Samantha Melvin, Caroline Wideman and Ray Buchanan.  
Photo courtesy Angie Beyers, Burnet High School

**JULY 24 — “Gardening for Wildlife”** with Ryan Flemming (repeat of July 17 class), 2–4 p.m. (2 hrs credit), see instructions above.

**JULY 31 — “Gardening for Wildlife”** with Ryan Flemming (repeat of July 17 class), 2–4 p.m. (2 hrs credit), see instructions above.

**AUGUST 11 — “NDAL Webinar: Woodlands – The Plants and Processes”** with Bill Cullina and Carol Gracie, 12–3:30 p.m. (3.5 hr credit). Sponsored by the LBJ Wildflower Center. Fee: \$88. Pre-registration required at [wildflower.org/learn/adults](http://wildflower.org/learn/adults), click at right for August calendar, scroll down to the class, click on “Find out more,” click on Register and follow instructions.

**AUGUST 12 — “NDAL Webinar: Native Meadows – Let’s Get Real”** with Larry Weaner, FAPLD, 12–1:30 p.m. (1.5 hrs credit). Sponsored by the LBJ Wildflower Center. Fee: \$35. Pre-registration required at [wildflower.org/learn/adults](http://wildflower.org/learn/adults), click at right for August calendar, scroll down to the class, click on “Find out more,” click on Register and follow instructions.

**AUGUST 17 — “NDAL Webinar: Like Painting a Picture – Gardens of Black Americans”** with Abra Lee, 12–1:30 p.m. (1.5 hr credit). Sponsored by the LBJ Wildflower Center. Fee: \$35. Pre-registration

required at [wildflower.org/learn/adults](http://wildflower.org/learn/adults), click on right side to find August calendar, scroll down to the class, click on “Find out more,” click on Register and follow instructions.

**AUGUST 19 — “Fall Vegetable Gardening”** with Paul Winski, AgriLife Extension Agent, 10 a.m. (1 hr credit), Harris County AgriLife Extension Service, Home Grown Lecture Series. Free. Pre-registration required at [harris.agrilife.org/home-grown-lecture-series](http://harris.agrilife.org/home-grown-lecture-series), click on “Register for July-December series,” click on August 19 class, click on Register and follow instructions.

## ONGOING

Please remember Doug McCoy, Membership Committee and MG Board of Directors, has put together a list of Approved Advanced Training Opportunities for July and August, all VIRTUAL, that appears on the MG website under the heading “Library of AT Resources” at [burnetcountyhighlandlakesmastergardener.org/library-of-at-resources.html](http://burnetcountyhighlandlakesmastergardener.org/library-of-at-resources.html). Such a list will appear on the HLMGA website each month. Check it out!

(P.S. If you find a virtual class about gardening that looks interesting, please notify Ray Buchanan at [drraybuch@gmail.com](mailto:drraybuch@gmail.com).)

# HLMGA Master Gardener Certification Class

Story and photos by  
Jami Whitehead



Master Gardener Associates walk through the native garden at Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery in June.



# The class of 2021 is in full swing!

We've had several speakers and a lot of information thrown our way. That's more than OK, though! It has been so much fun. Everyone has been very nice and outgoing! What a wonderful group of people to be learning from. Even coming out to volunteer as a "noob" (as the younger generation would say), it's been a warm, welcoming experience.

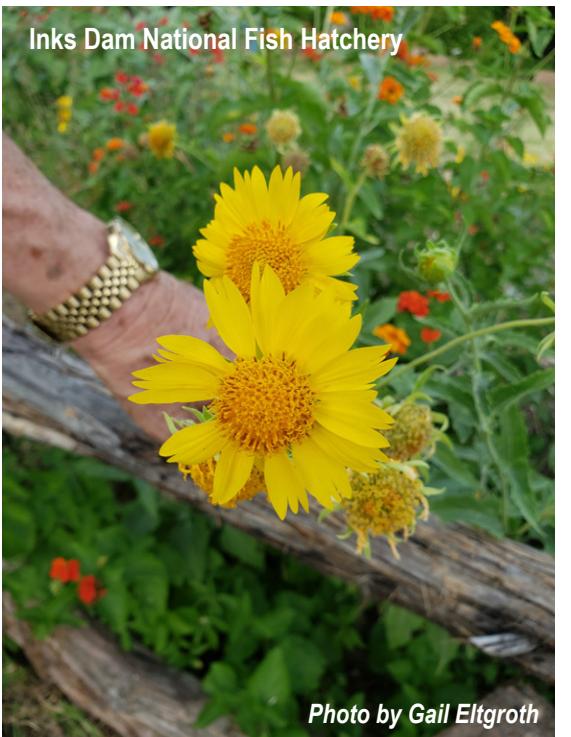
Our first week of class was a day of introductions and an explanation of everything that the Master Gardener association does for the community. What a wonderful network of people and information!

For our second week, our first speaker was Master Gardener Amy Parke. She did a fantastic presentation on plant identification and reproduction. We all got our first experience at getting dirty in class by germinating seeds.

For our third week, we took a walk through the native plant garden at Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery. Seeing everything that survived the Snowpocalypse of 2021 was amazing.

Our fourth week, we had Master Gardener Susie Buchanan show us all things irrigation. She made sure that everybody knew

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what they were doing by having us assemble a drip irrigation system and having us conduct our very own irrigation audit! We also had LCRA chief meteorologist Bob Rose come and speak to us about weather patterns and CoCoRaHS, the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network.

To bring y'all up to speed through our fifth week, we had my favorite part yet! We had Master Gardeners Roxanne Dunegan, Jim Woodall and Amy Parke show us the importance and beauty of propagation. It just takes a little time and patience to multiply the garden and share plants with friends! It was informative, it was dirty, it was hands-on, it was fantastic!

A shout-out to the mentors of this class! I think it helps us all to know that everyone was new to this at some point, and our mentors have made sure nobody has been left out! Also, a huge thank you to Gail Eltgroth for putting everything together for us and having it run smoothly.

I'm very thrilled and excited to be a part of the 2021 Master Gardener Certification Class, and I look forward to what is yet to come! 🌟



Associates learn about germination.



Master Gardener Amy Parke demonstrates correct propagation technique.



Master Gardener Roxanne Duganan helps associates with propagation.

MG Certification Class coordinator Gail Eltgroth (right) makes sure associates are learning.





# Gardener's X-change

Advertise your seeds, plants, tools or other items to give away or trade, or ask if other HLMGA members have what you're looking for. Send your listing to Gail Braymen at [gebfoto@gmail.com](mailto:gebfoto@gmail.com) along with your email address and/or phone number so folks can contact you.

Crimson Red crepe myrtle in a 42-gallon pot for sale (\$50) or swap with something I want. It has been in this pot for about a year and survived the winter this way. Help loading or delivery available.

Hank Rominski – 860-575-8098

## Call for Content!

The Dig It News is written for gardeners, by gardeners... and that means we need to hear from YOU! You can send material at any time to Gail Braymen at [gebfoto@gmail.com](mailto:gebfoto@gmail.com), but the deadline for the next issue (September) is Aug. 28. You can send content as the text of an email or in a document – whatever works best for you. Cell phone pictures are fine, and photos are welcomed with all types of submissions.

Here's a list of submission categories, but please don't feel limited – if a topic interests you, chances are it will interest other HLMGA members!

- Articles - Stories about people, projects, plants, places or anything

else you think would interest readers. Those of you with specialized training or knowledge are especially invited to share your expertise with the rest of us! Photos are a plus. (BONUS: time spent writing articles counts as volunteer time!)

- Photos / What's Growing On - Share pictures of plants, projects, people, you name it. Please include a brief description of what is in the photo and identify any people.
- Gardener's X-change - Please include your email address and/or phone number so folks know how to contact you.
- Q&A with the HLMGA - Send gardening questions you have, or

answer questions published in a previous issue.

- Diggin' the Dirt - Share your gardening knowledge and experience by answering the question of the month. Please email your answer to Suzy Buchanan at [docrinia@yahoo.com](mailto:docrinia@yahoo.com).
- Garden Hacks - Share your best tips and tricks.
- Recommended Reading - Send the titles of your favorite gardening books.
- Links & Apps - Share your favorite online gardening links and applications.
- Recipes - Because who doesn't like to enjoy the fruits – and veggies – of their labor?

*Join the fun!*



## Burnet Farmers and Crafts Market

Every Saturday through Nov. 20  
on the Courthouse Square in Burnet

Market Hours 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

For volunteer opportunities, contact Linda Stoneking at 817-939-7080 or [burnetfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:burnetfarmersmarket@gmail.com)

## FROM OUR BACKYARD



Home harvest

## Enjoying everything, from artichokes to zinnias

This evening Sissy and I had an excellent supper. The menu consisted of corned beef and fresh vegetables. The corned beef was cooked in the slow cooker for about six hours with each vegetable (potatoes, carrots and cabbage) added to the broth with about two hours to go. The result was a perfectly cooked meal using one pot. Dessert was fresh watermelon and cantaloupe.

What is the really amazing part about tonight's supper is that the vegetables and dessert were about as fresh as can be in that they were still in our garden as of this morning.

We had the most successful gardens (both vegetable and flower) this year. We had plants that were pretty, prolific and productive. It was certainly and positively a pleasure to have our little pasture as a pastime.

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Story by Hank Rominski | Photos by Colleen "Sissy" Rominski



Hank and Sissy at The King's Garden

Photo courtesy Debbie Winter

Artichoke flowers



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The most rewarding part and upside of all these efforts come from our own harvest of vegetables. They can be immediately enjoyed while working in the yard (grazing), eaten later raw or after cooking, or much later after drying, freezing and canning. Plus, we give a portion to friends and neighbors.

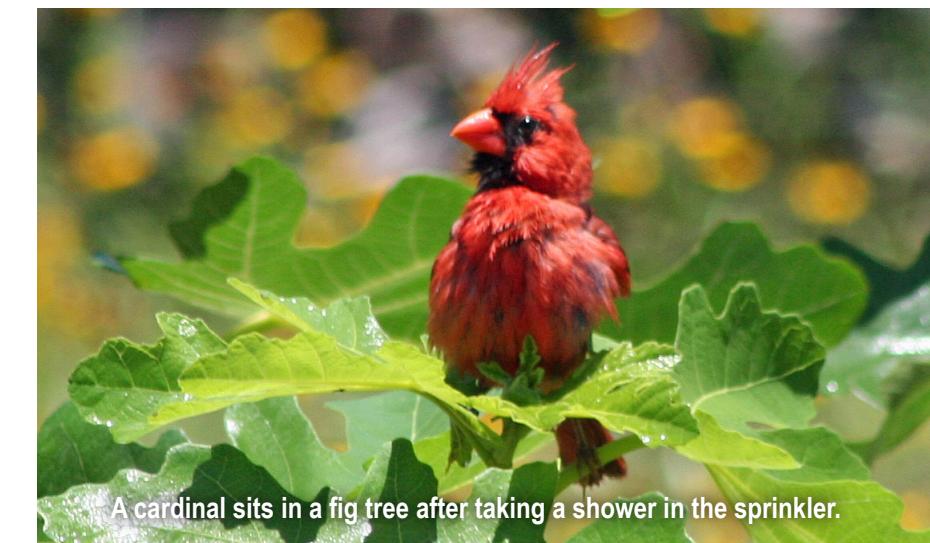
It's the end of the season for the artichokes. I previously wrote about them as a success this year. We allowed a number of the artichokes to develop into the magnificent brilliant purple flowers. What a joy to see! Look at the photo to and see if you agree.



Flowers from our backyard



A hummingbird enjoys red Salvia.



A cardinal sits in a fig tree after taking a shower in the sprinkler.

The dipper gourd vines are filling the new arbor, and the gourds are starting to hang loose and grow loooong necks. The loofahs are doing their thing, emerging from those bright yellow blooms.

Flowers that look pretty out in the yard are cut and brought inside to add some color to our dinner table.

And, of course, Sissy spends some dedicated time with the camera looking for different ways to capture the wildlife that comes to visit.

We are sharing a few of our favorite pictures and hope that you enjoy them as well.

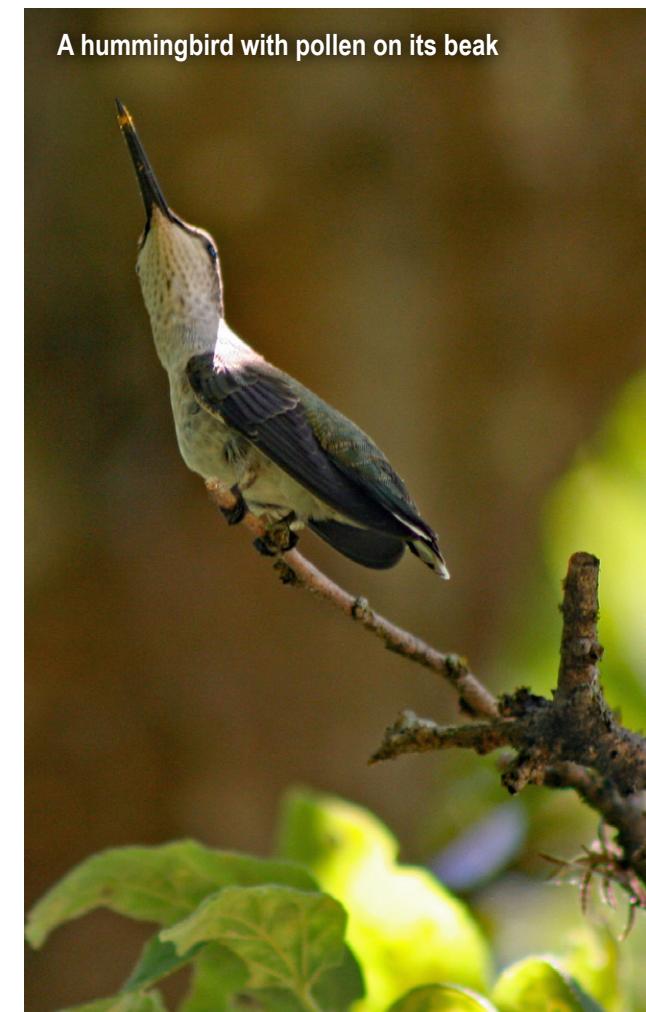
For the dear readers who don't know who Sissy and Hank are, we have included a photo of us taken at The King's Garden by Debbie Winters. We don't often have photos with the two of us. Thanks, Deb. 



Loofahs



Dipper Gourds on our new arbor



A hummingbird with pollen on its beak



Youth volunteers from RockPointe Church in Leander recently spent a day in The Garden building an arbor for cucumbers, mulching beautification beds, reworking a keyhole gardens and weeding.

# UPDATE The Garden

The Garden is doing well and producing much-needed veggies for the Resource Center.

The Garden is a place to learn from mistakes. We learned this year that planting rows of tomatoes only 3 feet apart can lead to some really sore knees.

Our okra is looking great, and it has already begun producing fruit. Peppers took a bit of a hit due to the wind and cold, but they are making a comeback.

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Story and photos by David Waldo



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Eggplant is doing surprisingly well compared to past years, so it just goes to show “you just never know.”

Some very sad news from The Garden: one of our best volunteers, Jo Keller, is leaving town. Jo has been a strong supporter of this project and will be sorely missed. She is the sort of worker who is there to “get ‘er done.” In her quiet way, she would show up first most days and just take on



project after project. Jo, you have been a great asset to The Garden. Thanks!

WOW! On a much more upbeat note, we had more than 30 volunteers from RockPointe Church in Leander in The Garden July 12, and did they go to work. Due to their efforts, we have a new arbor for our cucumbers, fully mulched beautification beds, reworked keyhole gardens, a fully weeded garden, and the list goes on. This was a hard-working group of capable young adults that gives you faith in the next generation.

We are in The Garden every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. This is a great place for new associates to pick up volunteer hours and to put what you are learning in class to work. It is also an excellent opportunity for our veterans, so “come on down.”

# PLAYING FAVORITES

Parents are not supposed to have a favorite child. Happily, this rule does not apply to gardeners and plants.

My favorite perennials for pollinator beds are salvias; they are deer/cow resistant and tough as nails. And my favorite salvias are undoubtedly Henry Duelbergs. They can take our heat and our snow and still produce gorgeous blooms for months without soil amendments or pesticides. The native bees forage on

them more than other flowers, and the hummingbirds often sip from the upright blue blossoms before visiting red tropical sages blooming a foot away.

I bought my first Henry Duelberg from a local nursery and the ones for my pollinator beds at the Burnet Middle School greenhouse sale in early 2020. Now,

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CAROLYN CROUCHET

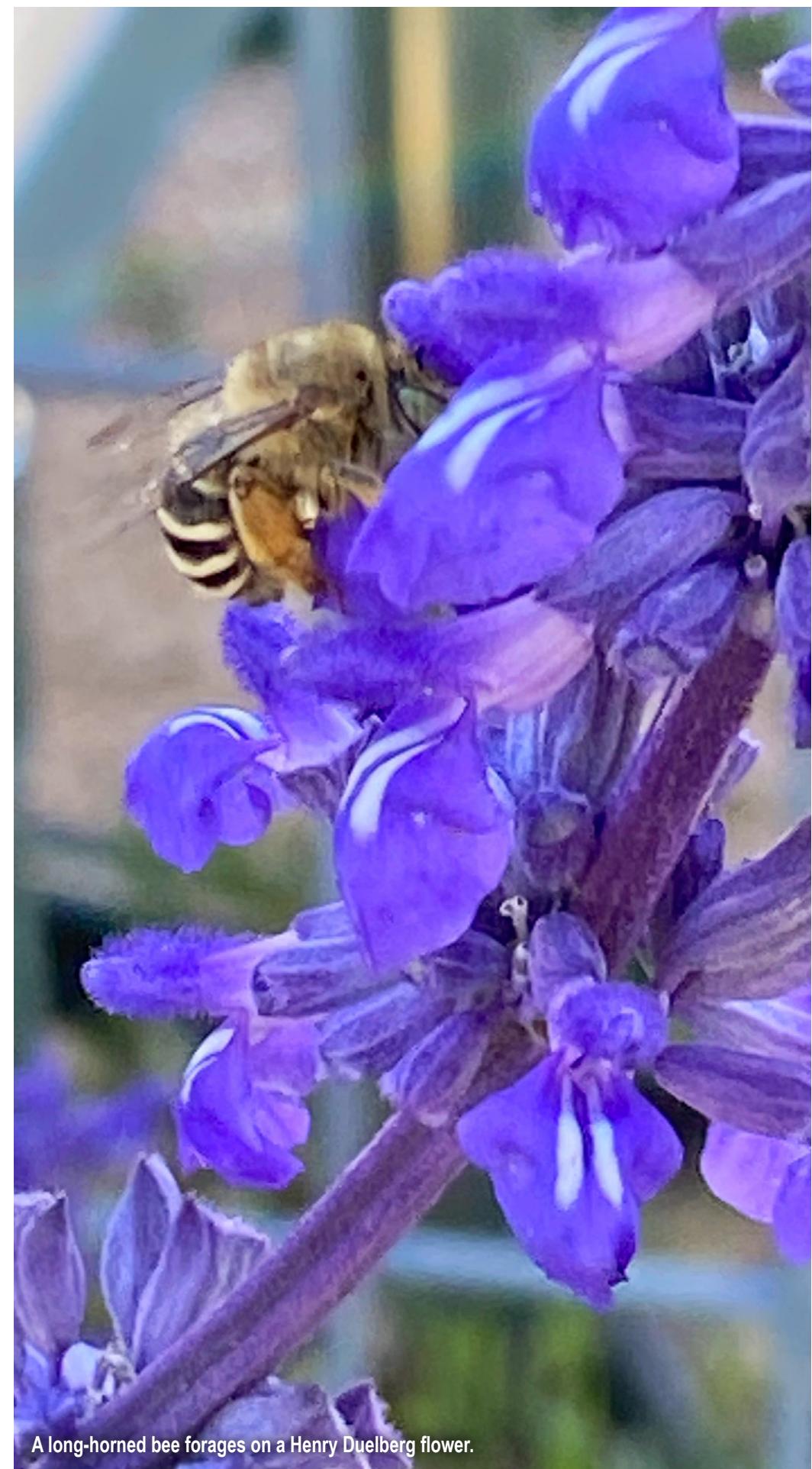


A tiny, dark carpenter bee rests on an Augusta Duelberg blossom.

hooray, hooray, Texas A&M has selected Henry Duelberg salvia as a 2021 Texas Superstar perennial, so this gem should be increasingly available for purchase.

Less readily available is the white Augusta Duelberg salvia. One of our Master Gardener speakers mentioned this plant at a program, and my sister found some for sale in Austin last year. They have the same-shaped, lovely, green leaves on 3-foot plants that are constantly in bloom. The Duelbergs need less trimming to keep them in flower than do many other salvias, and I know for a fact an old dog can choose to wallow occasionally on an Augusta with no real harm done.

The Duelberg plants were found at a Central Texas cemetery by Greg Grant — Texas Garden magazine columnist, Smith County Horticulturist, Rose Rustler and much, much more. Grant is one of my favorite horticulturists because he has collected so many vintage plants from cemeteries, old farmsteads and deserted properties and brought these survivors to the Texas nursery trade. Esperanzas and several of the antique roses I adore are favorite plants in my landscape introduced by Greg Grant. He affectionately tells back stories about his discoveries, and the backstory for the Duelbergs can be found at [plantanswers.com/salvia\\_arcadia.htm](http://plantanswers.com/salvia_arcadia.htm). The engaging article narrates the quest to find tough plants for Texas gardens and provides salvia photos, including the gravestone plantings for the Duelbergs. Thank you, Henry and Augusta Duelberg, whoever you were. And thank you, Greg Grant, for finding them. ☀



A long-horned bee forages on a Henry Duelberg flower.



# Luedcke Lessons

By Bill and Martelle  
Luedcke



## Hummingbirds

From the first “flyby” in mid-March to the frenzy all summer long, we are fascinated with hummingbirds. Ever ask yourself, “Are hummers friendly?” Sit back and relax, there’s some fantabulous information to support this theory.

First, hummingbirds are extremely intelligent. You’ve heard about an elephant’s memory, well... a hummer will give an elephant a run for its money in a card game of concentration. A hummingbird’s brain is 4 percent of its body weight. To put that into terms we can understand, a human’s brain, on av-

erage, is 2 percent of its body weight. Hummers can remember not only every flower, but whether the nectar was good and when would be a good time to return once the flower has replenished its nectar.

On that note, in an interview in the aisle at HEB, Kelly Tarla (Burnet AgriLife Extension agent) pointed out: What do people plant around their houses? Flowers! What are in and around houses? People! With the awareness of pollinators in and around our communities, people are planting native flow-

*Keep  
your souls and  
soles in your garden!  
Remember the True  
Master Gardener: Jesus  
said, “I am the vine; my  
Father is the Gardener.”  
John 15:1*

ering plants in their yards. The hummingbirds frequent the flowers and learn that people at that home are friendly.

Hummingbirds also remember where the feeders are that are placed out for their feeding. Have you ever had a hummingbird fly around your face, hovering and looking you straight in the eye? Often this is their way of communicating to you that the feeders are empty or soured. They’re reminding you to get to work fixing the situation. Hummingbirds not only feed from the feeders, but they visit MANY flowers and supplement their diet with aphids, ants, gnats and MOSQUITOES (a great reason to keep hum-

mingbird feeders out!). Daily, they consume 1.5 – 3 times their body weight. (The hummers saved Martelle’s Ash Tree. While trying to recover from the freeze, the Ash was being devoured by Aphids. Now she knows why her tree is flourishing: hummingbirds ate the Aphids.)

Calling hummingbirds acrobats would be understating their flying abilities. They can fly forward and backward, and even upside-down. They have feet and can walk, yet their walk is clumsy. But why walk, when you can hover in the air?

To answer your question, hummingbirds are friendly to you if you are friendly to them!



## Cucumbers

How are your cucumber plants doing? Cucumber plants require a lot of water, which some of us have had, yet it’s Texas summertime now. With cucumber plants, a good rule of “thumb” is to stick your thumb into the soil. If the soil is dry an inch down, water. When you are watering, try your best to only water the soil and not the foliage. We don’t want those water droplets to work as magnifying glasses and burn the leaves, fruit or flowers. Watering cucumbers in the morning will help deter diseases and mildew that are harmful to your cucumber plants.

Harvest your cucumbers when they are young. The longer they sit on the vine, the greater their tendency to become bitter.

## Summer Garden Duties

- \* Pinch back chrysanthemums, Mexican marigold mint, marigold, autumn asters, salvias and other late summer, fall-blooming annuals and perennials.
- \* Vegetables to plant: okra, eggplant (transplants), peppers (transplants), corn, sweet potato slips, pumpkin, summer and winter squash, warm season greens, southern peas.
- \* Deep-soak trees if you haven’t received 4 inches of rain in a month. Use a slow, long drip.
- \* Prune herbs often to encourage growth and have more fresh herbs for your salads, pastas, sauces, rubs...
- \* Collect seeds from summer (and late spring) blooming plants. Clean off the chaff and let dry. Store in paper or glass containers such as jars, brown lunch bags, envelopes... NEVER plastic bags. Make sure to label them. We know it sounds silly, but next spring, when it’s time to plant, the seed might not look as familiar as it does now.



## Grasshoppers

The ideal temperature for grasshoppers is 86°–112°F. Sounds like a central Texas summer to us. Grasshoppers can and will eat half their body weight daily. If you have noticed that the leaves in your garden are beginning to look like Swiss cheese, you most likely have grasshoppers chomping away. Here are some suggestions to deter and hopefully eradicate the chompers.

First solution: make plants unpalatable — taste yucky — to grasshoppers. You may either spray liberally with organic Neem oil or with basic garlic spray. Neem oil is readily available at your local feed or gardening store. To make basic garlic spray, boil one cup of chopped garlic in five cups of water. Let steep overnight. Strain the chopped garlic, saving the liquid, which is your concentrate. Mix one part concentrate to three parts water, e.g., one cup of concentrate and three cups of water. Place in a spray bottle and douse your garden foliage to make the leaves taste yucky to grasshoppers.

Second solution: companion gardening. While often we use companion gardening to help our plants flourish, sometimes we can use companion gardening to assist in deterring chomping pests. Plant sunflowers, calendula, dill and cilantro in your garden to keep the grasshoppers away.

Third solution: befriend a Texas spiny lizard. The Texas spiny lizard is fairly shy. While well-camouflaged to blend with tree bark, you will often see them scurrying across your sidewalk to get to the shade and out of your way. Most of their diet is grasshoppers and crickets.

## Mosquitos

Mosquitoes are definitely out and about. So, the first thing we need to do is empty all those pots, pans and anything else that holds water outdoors. In our gardens, we have a smorgasbord of items that become breeding places for mosquitoes. The standing water you have placed out for the birds and other pollinators needs to be emptied at least twice a week. If your containers hold more than 3 gallons of water, put a goldfish from the bait store in it. Goldfish love to eat mosquito larvae. Items such as compost tea-in-the-making, pet-watering devices, livestock troughs, etc., also need attention. If we have no stale or stagnant water, we greatly reduce the number of mosquitoes around us.

Have questions or comments?

Contact Bill Luedcke at [bill@texasland.net](mailto:bill@texasland.net) or Martelle Luedcke at [LueddeckephOTOGRAPHY@gmail.com](mailto:LueddeckephOTOGRAPHY@gmail.com).

# CREATURE FEATURE

By Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist



What you've always suspected is true: some people are just naturally more attractive to mosquitos. You can protect yourself and others from itchy bites and possible disease infection with a variety of products containing natural or synthetic ingredients.

Photo courtesy Texas A&M University

## Mosquito Repellents

Mosquitoes are out in masses and, since they are capable of disease transmission, it is important that you protect yourself when spending time outside. Of course, you can wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt in light colors to reduce the number of mosquitoes that can reach your skin when outside, but this is not always the option people choose with temperatures on the rise. Another option to protect yourself is repellent.

Repellent should only be applied to clothing and exposed skin; do not apply repellent underneath clothing! If you want to apply repellent to your face, spray your hands with repellent and rub it onto your face. Do not spray repellent

directly into your face or near eyes or mouth. Make sure to apply repellent outdoors. Do not allow children to handle repellents, and seek advice from a physician regarding insect repellent use for children under two years of age. Wash hands before eating, smoking or using the restroom.

To reduce disease transmission from mosquitoes, the Centers for Disease Control recommends using a product registered with the Environmental Protection Agency containing one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-methane-diol, or 2-undecanone.

DEET, also known N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide or N,

N-diethylbenzamide, was developed by the U.S. Army in 1946 to protect soldiers in insect-infested areas. Pesticides containing DEET have been used by the public since 1957. Products containing DEET should not be used on children younger than 2 months of age (read the label and check with your pediatrician if you have questions). DEET has a slight odor and may have a greasy feel to some people. It may damage plastic, rubber, vinyl or synthetic fabrics. DEET may be irritating to the eyes and skin for some people and comes in a wide variety of concentrations, so choose one that will work best for your situation.

Picaridin was first made in the 1980s and resembles a natural compound called piperine (which is found in plants used to produce black pepper). Picaridin has been used in Europe and Australia for many years, but has only been in the United States since 2005. Picaridin is non-greasy and odorless.

IR-3535, or 3-[N-Butyl-N- acetyl]-aminopropionic acid, ethyl ester, was developed in the mid-1970s and became registered for use in the United States in 1999. It is registered as a biopesticide by the EPA because it is functionally identical to a naturally occurring substance (an amino acid). It may dissolve or damage plastics and may be irritating to the eyes.

Oil of lemon eucalyptus and para-menthane-3,8-diol are essentially the same thing; PMD is the synthesized (lab-created) version of oil of lemon eucalyptus. "Pure" or "essential" oil of lemon eucalyptus is not labeled as a repellent and has not undergone testing and should not be used as a repellent product. OLE/PMD has been on the market in the United States since 2002. OLE/PMD should

not be used on children younger than 3 years of age. The natural product (OLE) has known allergens within it, while the synthetic version (PMD) has less of a risk to allergens. This product is classified as a biopesticide. OLE/PMD has a varying range of residual, some offering about 20 minutes of protection, while other products may last up to two hours.

The product 2-undecanone is also known as methyl nonyl ketone or IBI-246. It is a colorless oil that can either be produced synthetically or extracted from plants such as rue, cloves, ginger, strawberries or wild-grown tomatoes. This product is fairly new.

Many factors play into how long a repellent will last for a person. Some of these are:

- The concentration (or percent of active ingredient) of the product. You can find the percentage on the product label.
- Person's attractiveness. Some people are more attractive to mosquitoes than others (and no scientific research has proven that it is because of eating garlic, taking vitamin B, using tobacco products, etc.). A person's genetic code plays a large part in what makes a person so attractive to mosquitoes.
- Frequency and uniformity of application. In other words, how often is the repellent applied and how good is the coverage?
- Activity level of the person. The more active the person is, the more sweat they produce, which can cause the repellent to wash off the surface of the skin.

As a word of caution, there are products that combine sunscreen and insect repellent. The CDC recommends that if you need sunscreen and repellent, that you choose two separate products. Sunscreen should be applied more often than repellents.



For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist, at 512-854-9600. Check out Wizzie's blog at [urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://urban-ipm.blogspot.com).

## HLMGA FALL PROGRAMS 2021



### AUGUST

Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2 p.m.  
**Transitioning into Fall Gardening**  
HLMGA Master Gardener Panel Discussion

### SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2 p.m.  
**Climate Change & Gardening: Adapting to Today's Roller Coaster Weather**  
Presented by Linda Wall, retired horticulturist at The Natural Gardener

### OCTOBER

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2 p.m.  
**A Botanist's View: A Plant Walk and Talk**  
Presented by Bill Carr, Botanist  
Location to be announced.

### NOVEMBER

Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2 p.m.  
**Gardening and Conservation**  
Presentation by Dr. Ray Buchanan and Lida Woodul

### DECEMBER

Tuesday, Dec. 7  
**Christmas Banquet**  
Details will be announced at a later date.



4,335 POUNDS OF PRODUCE  
CHARVESTED SO FAR THIS YEAR

THE KING'S GARDEN VOLUNTEERS ROCK!



Betty always has a smile.



Dana, Hank and Gary prepare garlic for the food pantry.

# THE KING'S GARDEN

## UPDATE

The price of fuel, fertilizer and labor, how the hybrids are growing, and The Weather: these are some of the things farmers talk about when they get together. We at The King's Garden may not be "farmers," but for sure The Weather has been one of the topics of conversation this year. First, we had the wicked cold spell, now the rain. Who would have thought that the Highland Lakes area would become a tropical rainforest?

Tomatoes are in full swing and making up a large percentage of the harvest these days. To beat the birds, we pick them when they start to blush. I have a question: do the birds actually eat the tomatoes, or do they peck



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STORY BY HANK ROMINSKI | PHOTOS BY COLLEEN "SISSY" ROMINSKI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

holes in them to attract other bugs that they will eat? Inquiring minds want to know.

Eggplants, cukes, peppers, squash, zucchini and now OKRA round out the veggies picked each week. We also harvest a pretty healthy growth of weeds (8,670 pounds year-to-date.) Keeping the weed population down is always more of a challenge in a rainforest.

We recently planted a bed with sweet potatoes. Sometime this fall, we'll see if the harvest was worth the effort.

We picked the last of the onions and potatoes at the beginning of July. While the potato harvest lasted about three weeks, we managed to extend the harvesting of the onions for eight weeks. Each week we picked two rows of yellows, one white and one red. These beds are the last ones to

Keith holds his audience spellbound with his wisdom.

Keith presents the coveted corn stalk to Willard Horn for no particular reason.



Keith shows what a lemon cucumber looks like.



Attendees fill The King's Garden venue for the Green Thumb presentation by Keith Atwood.

be changed to be 30 inches wide and get new irrigation. Later this summer and fall will see more tomatoes, a variety of cruciferous vegetables and certainly lettuces.

#### Green Thumb

The King's Garden hosted its second Green Thumb program June 15. Keith Atwood did an awesome job describing his background and the philosophy behind the continued evolution of The King's Garden. His basic reason behind most changes: to increase the production of good quality vegetables for the food pantry. His presentation included the rising costs of seeds and the use of hybrids to reduce some diseases and have earlier harvests, but he really didn't talk about the weather.

A major highlight of Keith's presentation was the demonstration and giveaway of some of the more exotic vegetables that he grows in his home garden. Knowledge AND food, you can't beat that.

#### XYZ luncheon

On June 24, there was an XYZ (extra years of zest) luncheon at the First Baptist Church. The topic was The King's Garden, and the main speaker was Debbie Winter, our liaison with the church. The eight volunteers who attended were treated to some great meals prepared from veggies grown in The King's Garden and some scrumptious desserts. (I believe the whole reason for these luncheons is just desserts.) Debbie presented an informative history of the garden, plans for its future, and recognized the garden volunteers.

Thanks again to our great group of volunteers who keep this little project going. Without you, we would be all weeds and no veggies. ☺

Many of the volunteers show up to The King's Garden every Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting about 8 a.m. and leave when they need to. I can't seem to get motivated that early and still drive up closer to 9 a.m. and wind up staying until about 11-11:30. Contact Keith Atwood (713-203-8846) or Hank Rominski (860-575-8098) for more information if you want to visit or volunteer at The King's Garden. Stop by and we can talk about the price of fuel, fertilizer or The Weather.



A creative centerpiece brightens the dessert table at the First Baptist Church.



Pick your dessert, then find your seat.