President’s Message
By Lynne Alexander

SPRINGTIME --- the very sound of the word pours joy into hearts of gardeners everywhere! It makes us want to plunge our hands into warm, moist earth and fills our senses with smells and sounds and visions of beauty done without while enduring gray, dismal days of winter.

Today our six “mixed-breed” ducks came home. They spend summers on our lake lot noisily quacking and splashing. They make us smile! Yesterday morning we counted 70 wild turkey outside our window. They have been here all winter, but soon will move to dense cover to raise their new hatch and we won’t see them again until fall.

Seasons unfold as nature intended year after year. Spring brings newness of life and promise. As Master Gardeners we have responsibility to educate ourselves and others to act wisely to help preserve our environment. There are many ways that this can be done – by planting and designing to conserve water; by carefully reading labels on all fertilizer and pesticides, THEN using sparingly; by creating gardens that attract birds and wildlife and serve as a food source for them. Let us give back to the Concho Valley some of the knowledge we have gained through study and participation with our fellow Master Gardeners…help answer a neighbor’s question, volunteer for a community project, and volunteer for your Master Gardener projects. We all have so much to learn --- and already, so much knowledge to give.

Happy Spring and Happy Gardening!

Lynne

Comments from John Begnaud

We have just completed the in-classroom lecture portion of a new MG class and I am very impressed by the enthusiasm of the class. I am also thankful for all of the support from established Master Gardeners. It is very helpful to have people on hand to assist in answering questions and interact with new interns.

In the next month we will be completing the jail landscape, organizing and planning for the new Extension 4-H facility on US Hwy 67, and tackling several proposed projects.

I hope all can attend the May 9th meeting to thank our out-going officers and elect and welcome the new. Plan to attend this meeting and all other business meetings held in the Commissioner’s Courtroom beginning at 12 noon on the second Tuesday of every other month.

Hope to see you there!

John S. Begnaud

GREENHOUSE TOUR

REMINDER to ALL Master Gardeners....Greenhouse tour at Bobby Peiser’s on Saturday, April 29th. This is especially designed for the new Master Gardener Class of 2006 but everyone is welcome to attend.

Time: 9:00 AM
Place: 102 Tyler Terrace
Call the Extension office if you need specific directions.
Meeting was held at the Judge Edd B. Keyes Building and President Lynne Alexander presided over the meeting. John Begnaud was out of town. Minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer’s report was read by Lynne, Mary Chatfield was not present. Balance as of meeting is $4,410.63 with no outstanding invoices.

- Calendars-Cost for printing was $2211.08, sold $1423.50, need $787.58 to break even.
- Library Garden-Pat Karmany reported that 3 rose bushes were removed. Manure was added. Workday is scheduled for March 18th at 9:00 for more clean up. Martha Todd offered her chipper for use to help clean up. Alice Stultz said she had one we could have, but we said she had to store it for us.
- Keep San Angelo Beautiful-Home Tour is scheduled for May 7th.
- Jail Landscape-Cleaned up and cut back. Hardscape and planting date will be set at a later date. Sign up in office if you haven’t already.
- Nominating committee consists of D’Aun Butler, Billie McDaniel and Mary Chatfield. Elections will be at May meeting.
- Wall Garden-Still dormant, money is being raised and everything is going as planned.
- CVMG hour’s recognition was put on hold.
- Field Trips-Clark’s Garden is set for April 22nd. Odessa trip is on hold. Possibly a tour of Bobby Peiser’s greenhouse in late April.

New Business:
- Home & Garden Show-Kay Thompson made display boards and is giving away 2 butterfly gardens. Sam Rodríguez helped supply some of the plants. $75.00 budget set for buying what was needed. Calendars were to be sold for $2.00. If not selling drop to $1.00.
- Banner-$80.00 and Table Cloth-$180.00 from Cortez. Motion made and passed to purchase both in time for the Home Show.
- The San Angelo Historical Society Orient would like the MGs to do some planting in Old Town. It was discussed, but we decided to wait for more details.
- State MG’s meeting is May 4, 5, 6th. More details on the web site: http://tmgc.tamu.edu.

Secretary,
Robie Long

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Debbie Vinson and Loretta Burgess have revamped the files for the Volunteer hours for the Master Gardener files. Debbie and Loretta have volunteered to compile hours on a monthly basis to help keep more accurate records for reporting to the state. This should alleviate the last-minute scramble to tally total at the year’s end.

Volunteer activity hour sheets for ALL Master Gardeners should be placed in the hot pink folders on Kathy’s desk. The forms can be Faxed to the office at any time, mailed or dropped off at the office to be placed in the folder. It is suggested that you send in volunteer hours each month or at least quarterly. New folders for the new class members have been placed in the bottom file cabinet in the “Master Gardener corner.” Those volunteer hours will be kept separately to verify their 55 hours of volunteer service to be certified.

Remember—the total number of hours submitted reflects positively on John’s position as County Horticulturist.

ORDER NOW!

T SHIRTS AND POLOS

Orders for Master Gardener T Shirts or Polo Shirts will be sent on Monday, April 24th. Please submit your order along with $10.00 per shirt to Kathy or Janice at the Extension Office on or before April 24. If you are in need of a new shirt or replacement, please call the office to place your order for correct size. Payment is requested at time of order.
Spotlight on Gardeners: Nalda Steagall by Doreen Grimes

When Nalda Steagall enrolled in the last Master Gardener class, she had already been through the training in Houston and was a Harris County Master Gardener. But the contrast in gardening in the Concho Valley and in Houston is like the difference between night and day! And Nalda says that the knowledge she has gained from the class in San Angelo has been invaluable.

Nalda is a graduate of Cisco High School although she spent some of her childhood in Peaster, Texas near Weatherford. She is a graduate of Texas Wesleyan College in Fort Worth.

After graduation from TWC she became a dietician at All Saints Hospital in Fort Worth. In 1947, she married and she and her husband moved to Houston where she worked for seven years as a dietician at Methodist Hospital. In 1960, Nalda began a teaching career which she continued for 27 years.

Nalda had always been a gardener but when she retired in 1987 she wanted to learn more. She enrolled in Master Gardener classes and was an active member of the Harris County Master Gardeners until her move to San Angelo in 2004.

Nalda has two children, a daughter who is a teacher at Edison and a son who lives in the Houston area. Her family has expanded and she now has five granddaughters and five great grandchildren. She made Easter dresses this year for three granddaughters which reveals another of her passions. She is an expert seamstress and loves to sew for her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

When I asked her about the main difference between gardening in Houston and in San Angelo, Nalda answered with one word: "Water!" And yes, the soil in San Angelo is also different. In Houston she had black gumbo soil. Her soil on Rebecca Street in San Angelo is rocky - lots of caliche. But, even so, she enjoys the challenge.

At this time her Oriental poppies are blooming and thriving. An azalea she brought from Houston promptly died. She is growing both roses and tomatoes in pots which worked well last summer. She is trying to establish a butterfly-hummingbird friendly garden and, although she has seen many of either yet, she has the welcome mat out for them with plants they both love. Her petunias are thriving and geraniums in a planter box add beauty and color.

Nalda proved her talent for selling during the Home and Garden Show this spring. I'm not sure of the number that she sold but it was sizable. Few people turned her down because she pointed out all the valuable information the calendars contained and what a bargain they were getting for $2.00!

Welcome, Nalda, to Concho Valley Master Gardeners!

Bulletin Board Comments

WORKDAYS AT TOM GREEN COUNTY JAIL

We need volunteers for work at the Tom Green County Jail. The following days have been set: April 25 –26-27 from 2 PM until dark. PLEASE E-MAIL THE SPECIFIC HOURS YOU WOULD LIKE TO WORK TO LYNN ALEXANDER AT: lynne@cvcog.org

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Keep San Angelo Beautiful garden tour scheduled for May 7 has been cancelled. A new date will be announced at a later time.

MASTER GARDENER STATE CONVENTION

The State Convention for Master Gardeners will be held on May 4-5-6 in College Station. The event promises to be especially informative and recertification hours can be earned. For more information or for Registration forms, it can be found at: http://tmgc.tamu.edu.

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks for all the news items that have been submitted. We can’t have a newsy Newsletter without you! If at all possible, it would be a big help if you would e-mail your notices and news to me. That way accuracy is ensured. Thanks for your help!!
We welcome our newest trainees into the Concho Valley Master Gardeners. Below is the most current list of the new members with their current address and home phone. Please welcome them.

1. Branaman, Carrie, 101 S. Jacob Ln, Winters 79567; 280-4698
2. Cummings, Norma, 12 S. Oxford Dr., San Angelo 76904; 949-5795
3. Endres, Charmaine, 265 N. Oxford Dr., San Angelo 76901; 944-7215
4. Flores, Ramon, 1008 N. Monroe, San Angelo 76901; 655-1636
5. Ford, Betty, 1401 Mackenzie, San Angelo 76901; 653-1517
6. Gregg, Frances, 2103 Douglas Dr., San Angelo 76904; 949-7747
8. Junell, Keith, 12042 March Rd, San Angelo 76901; 465-8861
10. Manning, Debbie, 2633 Vista Del Arroyo, San Angelo 76904; 944-0119
11. Morariu, Patricia, 1109 Ashford Dr, San Angelo 76901; 224-8503
12. Neslage, Kyra, 2742 Oak Hills, San Angelo 76904; 942-8947
13. Perez, Lillian, 1101 S. David, San Angelo 76903; 655-6537
14. Provencal, William, 310 Churchill, San Angelo 76903; 651-6415
15. Rowe, Linda, 921 W. Ave. M, San Angelo 76901; 659-6906
16. Schovajs, Alice, Box 233, Water Valley 76958; 484-2475
17. Scott, Mark 6018 Equestrian, San Angelo 76904; 651-1272
18. Siler, Willie, 2601 A&M Ave., San Angelo 76904; 440-4606
20. Stone, Cam, 3433 Arden Rd #124, San Angelo 76901; 949-9512
21. Swanson, Jackie, 1021 Blumentritt Rd, San Angelo 76905; 651-5425
22. Thomas, Donna, 1602 Sun Valley Lane, San Angelo 76901; 651-1884
23. Watkins, D’Anne, 3513 Windmill Dr. San Angelo 76904; 947-7355
24. White, Brenda, 11317 Dove Creek Lane E., San Angelo 76904; 223-9014
25. Wilha, Ben, 320 N. Bishop, San Angelo 76901; 486-9010
26. Wooten, Ray, 1714 Wyoming Ave., San Angelo 76904; 656-2425

Taking Care of Our Skin
By Sheree Delgado

Hot, sunny weather is all too soon upon us. It is important to use sunscreen, wear wide brim hats & limit sun exposure during the hottest part of the day. Besides the fact that our skin needs protection from sunburn and premature wrinkles, our skin also needs protection against skin cancer. The incidence of skin cancer has risen more than 140% in the last decade according to National Cancer Institute. The 3 common forms of skin cancer are basal cell, squamous cell carcinomas and melanomas. Basal cell can be disfiguring if not treated & is rarely fatal. Squamous cell can be more life-threatening than basal cell. Melanomas are the most dangerous forms. It can spread through the blood or lymph system quickly. If detected early, the 5 yr survival rate is 95%. It is difficult to treat in its later stages. Inherent risk factors include Skin type: fair skin that freckles or burns easily, having red & blonde hair, having large number of moles. Ethnicity: white Americans run higher risk than African Americans. Age: older we are, higher the risk. Family history: risk increases if there is history of skin cancer in the family. Risks factors that can be controlled include: Exposure to UV (ultraviolet rays) 90% of skin cancer occurs when there is regular UV radiation exposure to sun or artificial rays like tanning beds/lamps. Burns: higher risk if a person has had severe sunburn of blistering burn from sun, tanning beds/lamps, X-Rays or radiation. Being sunburned more than once as a child, increases the risk later as an adult. Geography: living at high elevation or in the Sun Belt area. Environmental factors: exposure to certain chemicals, i.e., tar, coal, pitch, arsenic compounds or some herbicides.

Symptoms of Basal cell-bump of skin that is smooth, painless, and grows slowly on face, ear, or neck. Squamous cell-bump may be reddish, painless, or a patch that forms a crusty, scaly surface on face, ears, neck, hands, or arms. Melanoma-bump or spot on skin that is dark, painless, or a mole that has an irregular shape or border, even a sore that won’t heal. Found anywhere on the body.

These ABCDs describe bumps of moles that may need to be checked out.

◆Asymmetry-odd or irregular shape, NOT symmetrical.
◆Border-irregular, scalloped, noted, vague edges.
◆Color-more that 1 color may be present.
◆Diameter-more than ¼” diameter (size of pencil eraser) or increasing in size.

Prevention: Have an annual checkup with a dermatologist.

(Continued on page 6)
As promised, I would like to discuss the most common and desirable agaves and yuccas for the landscape in our area. Without a doubt, the most common agave has to be *Agave americana linnaeus*. This is the agave that is correctly called, “Century Plant”. Hardy to at least 15 degrees, it is probably the most commonly seen agave in landscapes throughout the world. The most commonly seen color is a blue-gray leaf but some are a dark green and there are variegated forms also. A word of warning, the variegated form is not normally winter hardy in our area so if you must have one, plant it in a pot and be prepared to store it in your garage or green house during the winter. All forms of *Agave americana* get very large so one should take this fact under consideration while choosing a place for it in their landscape.

*Agave havardiana*, a Texas native is probably the second most seen agave in our locale. Native to the Trans-Pecos area, it is winter hardy to at least 0 degrees and is very drought tolerant. Often confused with a closely related relative, *Agave neomexicana*, it can usually be correctly identified by its wider and longer blue to blue-gray leaves. This is truly one of our most beautiful agaves.

Another agave to be considered is *A. parryi*, a smaller but actually more winter hardy agave than the two previous ones. Actually there are three distinct varieties of this species but due to their similarity, we shall refer to all three a *Agave parryi*. This a smaller species than the previous agave’s discussed and would probably be better suited for the average landscape.

These three species should be enough to get you started, if you are interested in using agaves in your landscape. All agaves prefer an opened and well-drained soil. Most agaves prefer full sun but a little afternoon shade will result in a much prettier plant as the intense sun will eventually take its toil on the succulent leaves of most agaves.

Unless you have a very large landscape, you can probably get by with only two species of yuccas. Without a doubt, the most beautiful yucca is *Yucca rostrata*. Getting to almost 15’ tall, hardy to 5-10 degrees and possessing a blue tint to the leaves makes it a most handsome plant. Another most desirable yucca for the urban landscape has to be *Yucca thompsoniana*. This is the most commonly used yucca in the landscape and with good reason. It is more cold hardy (down to -10 degrees) than *Y.rostrata* and it is sometimes very difficult to distinguish it from *Y. rostrata*! (So why bother, you ask?) There is a very pretty *Yucca rostrata* actually it is beginning to look rather disheveled, like an old man) in the parking lot on the north west corner of downtown Shannon Hospital. So unless you want to go to extremes, these two yuccas should be sufficient. Sorry, but I cannot recommend the San Angelo yucca (*Yucca reverchonii*) for the landscape. However, I do have two, thanks to Dr. Jake Landers. After discovering them on the Internet, I asked Dr. Landers about them and he has since found them in a couple of places on his ranch in Kimball County. They are “Border-line ugly” and I do not think that you want them in your yard.

If you want more information on Agaves or Yuccas, call and I will try to assist in any way I can. In the meanwhile- happy Gardening and please - Pray for rain!
Volunteer Opportunities

 Jail Landscape—Clean—up days for beds, April 25, 26, & 27 beginning at 2 PM. Contact Lynn Alexander ASAP for times to work.

 Keep San Angelo Beautiful Garden Tours—postponed. Watch for new date.

 Texas Master Gardener State Convention-May 4, 5, 6 in College Station. Check elsewhere in newsletter for more information.

 CVMG orders being accepted for t-shirts and/or Polos. Orders due to office by April 24th.

Projects on hold for now—check with volunteer coordinators for more information:
- Wall School Garden
- West Branch Library Garden
- Funland Beds

Please keep the Extension office staff informed of ANY changes in your mailing and/or your e-mail address. We would appreciate your cooperation in notifying our office, so that we can keep an up-to-date listing for quick announcements to all the

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

Volunteer Opportunities

(Continued from page 4) especially if 1 or more risk factors are present or any suspicious looking bumps persist. Limit sun exposure. Use SPF sunscreen of at least 15 that protects against both UVA & UVB even of cloudy days. Use lip balm with sunscreen. Wear tightly woven clothing, covering as much skin as possible. Wear hats with 3-5” brim. Sunglasses also protect eyes from harmful rays. At least monthly, check your skin all over. Note any changes or new growths especially on moles, freckles or birthmarks already present.

Tips: Be sure to ask your doctor or pharmacist of any potential sun-drug reactions if you have to take medications even for a short time. Sunscreens can also cause allergies from the chemical PABA. Many products are fragrance free and PABA free. Choose what works well for you. Take care and pray for rain!!!!!!