



NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN ANTONIO HERB SOCIETY
 JUNE 2021

Olive Leaves? Let's make tea!

Our speaker for June 10 is Lisa Forsyth. She is the proprietor of OliTea. She has a line of tea that we think is something special.

After retiring from the Army, she pursued her passion for olive trees by completing a one-year internship at Sandy Oaks Olive Orchard. For the next four years she researched and experimented with making herbal teas, to include working with a certified laboratory for scientific analysis. During this process, she drank a lot of bad herbal tea. This experience resulted in 14 different products. Her primary focus is always on quality, consumer safety, complying with applicable laws and good management practices. Lisa only offers herbal teas that she is personally satisfied with. Her products are offered in several local farmers markets, online and select retail outlets.



She will give us some insight into polyphenols, antioxidants and just plain healthy compounds found in olive leaves. As we taste the tea, she will take us through the tea process with what goes into making a good tea as well as ingredients you may have in your garden that can be added to tea. Lisa is deeply passionate in supporting Texas agriculture and providing customers with fresh, healthy beverage options. Customers should know what is in their food and raw materials should speak for themselves. That is why flavoring or scenting agents are never added to Oli Teas.

We will have her tea for sale Mark your calendar for the second Thursday, June 10, join us in person or on-line for OliTea

HERB SOCIETY MEETS 2ND THURSDAY
 AT THE GARDEN CENTER
 3310 N. NEW BRAUNFELS 78209
 SOCIAL TIME 6:30 MEETING AT 7

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Whatcha gonna do with all them onions, mister?

Scrolling through Facebook feeds I see all these lovely gardens, which inspire me. And there are a certain number of garden questions people pose. Sometimes I post an answer, but usually there is a crowd of people who have already nailed the answer.

Then, once in a while, there's a picture that stops me. Two this last month. The first is a corner of a raised bed of vegetables. There were some fire ants, so husband had poured some dreadful powdered poison all over the soil, the frame and the ground by the raised bed. The identified poison, unmeasured, was toxic to the ants, but was never intended for use around food vegetables. In essence the bed was poisoned. So, in the TO DO IN THE JUNE GARDEN section there is a suggestion that you read the labels carefully whenever you use a spray on any plant. Make sure that what you are using is appropriate. There is a certain amount of chemistry in mixing a spray, and users need to be very careful. If you do not know how to mix them, ask at the nursery. Not just any nursery or any helper. Make sure you are talking to someone who is knowledgeable. The second suggestion is to keep a spraying chart. Keep track of dates when you have used a poison. Use the least amount possible to solve the problem. We also list a lot of very simple, non-toxic ways of eliminating pest problems. Some of the simplest are to catch the bug and squash it. The little kids at the Children's Garden in the Botanical Gardens use this method to great effect. It is amazing how clean their plants are. All it takes is Saturday morning focused attention, and a stomach for squishing bugs.

Second picture: a wheel barrow mounded full of onions. As a gardener, I am sure he was very proud. As a cook I am wondering what on earth I would do with that many onions. My friend Glenn suggests leaving the stems on and braiding them, hang in a cool place to use as necessary. Guess you could cut them all up and freeze. But a big bumper crop is a cook's dilemma and usually a lot of work

It brings up a question that is perennial in gardening. What do I do with the abundance? The joy of herbs is that you can preserve almost all of your crop. And you do not need to harvest all at once. You can go to the garden and pick just the amount of thyme sprigs to put into the stew. Or if you are feeling ambitious, harvest a whole lot to put into the dehydrator. At the very end of the season, on the verge of that first frost, you haul in all the basil and make batches of pesto to freeze. Saved seeds go into a pot for an artificial light garden on your kitchen shelf, if you are lucky enough to have one of those tiny lighted gardens.

Commercial plant vendors are always looking for the big cash crop. Something that comes to harvest all at once so a machine can go through the field, pull the plants up and the crop tumbles into the hopper. This is about the last thing the home gardener needs. We are often looking for the tomato plant that has one or two fruit ripen at a time, so we have a steady stream of food for the table.

The theme of our issue is planning. We take our cue from the last meeting, about sun mapping the garden. The coming months offer an abundance of fruit, vegetables and herbs, and end with the fiery months of July and August where vegetation withers in the heat. This is the time to plan the fall garden. Assess the last season. What did well where. What was too much? What was not enough? Continues on next page

I am trying to do more from seeds, and always have too many. I make a plan to share and hope that other people will share back. I am also going to take some cuttings, in hope that I can perpetuate my 'frost queen' Celebrity tomato for the fall garden. Then I won't feel so guilty about tearing out the worn-out spring plant.

Culinary Contributions

RED LENTIL SOUP FROM MARSH WILSON

- 3 cups red lentils
- 1 small can tomato paste
- 1 quart chicken stock
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 chopped onion
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
- ½ teaspoon ancho chile powder
- 1 tablespoon Better than Boullion chicken
- about 8 cups water
- juice of 2 lemons
- 1 bunch spinach
- 1 bunch cilantro



Sauté onions 5-7 minutes, add garlic and sauté another minute.

Add paste and seasonings. Allow flavors to harmonize a few minutes

Then add lentils, stock, bouillon and water.

Bring to a boil, then lower the heat and simmer one hour.

Add lemon juice and spinach.

Serve with cilantro and olive oil as garnish. Goes well with crusty ciabatta bread.. Serves 10 to 12

(The writer cheated on this stock picture, as she has not made the soup. Do not know what the seed garnish is)

BASIL FEST 2021 at the Pearl

Have you planted the herbs you bought at Basil Fest? Neither have I. It has been one of the rainiest Mays I have ever seen. Basil Fest on Saturday May 22 brought to mind stories of monsoons in India. Humid, fine blowing rain, followed by gusts of wind and sheets of rain.

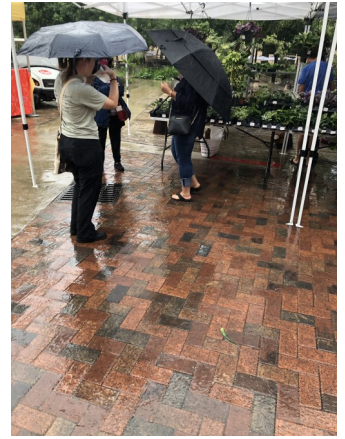
Luckily, we got out tent up between downpours. Thinking it would clear up, we were not worried about a little drizzle. As things got wetter and wetter, we placed all the hardy garden display items on a table in the rain. Situated the red olla where water could actually go into the top and show how much water those pots held.

We wrapped books in zip lock bags, covered our tray of soaps with saran wrap, and moved things around so they would not be in the rain.

Did all that rain stop us? No way. We visited, shopped, shared, enjoyed. The sun came out at noon... briefly and we had a surge of customers. Our sales were surprisingly good. It may, however, take a week or so for all the tenting to dry out.

Thank you to all who volunteered : Lisa Torres, Laura Eckert, Marsha Wilson, Annette Hoffman, Milan Maymar, and especial thanks to Cindy Moore who helped with the sign up.

At one we closed up and slogged home, soaked to the skin, but content to know it was perfect weather for herbs.



Herb of the month: Hopley's Oregano

By Marsha Wilson



You couldn't find a better addition to a South Texas garden than Hopley's Oregano (*Origanum Libanoticum*). Originally a native of the eastern Mediterranean areas of Turkey and Cyprus, this oregano cultivar was developed at Hopleys Plants Ltd, Hertfordshire, England. It will take the heat, is drought resistant, looks great in the garden, and after February's Texas Deep Freeze, we can add "cold hardy" to its long list of superlatives. For the San Antonio gardener in the Loop 1604 region, this oregano has the added bonus of being deer, rabbit and gopher resistant.

The first time I heard about this little-known member of the Oregano family was a few years ago at a SAHS in-person meeting at the Garden Center. One of the presenters, a representative from the Texas Agrilife Extension Service, was singing the praises of a must-have variety of oregano to add to any "bee, butterfly & hummingbird" garden. At a later SAHS meeting, Shane Dunford identified this "bee and butterfly" magnet oregano variety as Hopley's Oregano.

It's not one of the oregano varieties that are regularly found at your local garden center. But, at the Festival of Flowers event in 2019, Nature Herb Farm had them as part of their wide variety of plant stock offerings for the general public. Not being able to pass up the opportunity, I purchased a few Hopley's Oregano plant sets to add to my garden beds.

You can see the result in the accompanying photo of the bed of Hopley's Oregano growing on the east side of the house in the afternoon shade. I planted three 4" pots two years ago this May. Look at how they have grown. It should be blooming soon. When it does, it will produce profuse clusters of tiny magenta-purple flowers that become a "bee and butterfly" attraction. What more could you ask of a ground cover in the shady areas of your yard during a Texas summer afternoon!

This mild flavored cousin of Greek Oregano (*Origanum Vulgar*) is not classed as a culinary herb, but as an ornamental. The aromatic leaves can be harvested and processed for use in potpourri, and the flower clusters can be cut and air dried for use in ornamental dried flower arrangements. As you can see, Hopley's Oregano provides triple duty service – as a groundcover, pollinator, and an ornamental.

Hopley's Oregano continued

Care Level: Easy

Height: 18-24" in spreading mounds

Hardiness: Deciduous perennial in zones 6-11

Sun: Full sun exposure in northern zones; morning sun with afternoon shade in southern zones, especially in South Texas

Flowers: Profuse tiny floral clusters of magenta-purple flowers

Soil needs: Most well drained soil types that are slightly alkaline; Dislikes winter wet.

Water needs: Little water once established; drought tolerant

Flower Season: Summer though Fall; remove spent flower heads to promote re-blooming.

Propagation: Divide the plant during spring or take cuttings to create new plants.

Wildlife: Attracts bees, butterflies and hummingbirds; deer, rabbit and gopher resistant.

Uses: Groundcover, edging plant, pollinator, butterfly and bee garden, dried flower, potpourri, fragrant ornamental,

Pests/Diseases: No serious insect or disease problems. Root rot may occur in wet, poorly drained soils. Aphids and spider mites may appear.

IN THE JUNE GARDEN TO DO LIST

In Our Herb Garden: Divide, replant and share Mexican mint marigold (*Tagetes lucida*) and chrysanthemums so you will have more flowers in fall.

Shape plants by pruning gently, pinch back blossoms to save plants from going to seed and cross-pollinating. * Maintaining 2" of mulch is the key to saving water, discouraging weeds and cooling the soil. * Check watering system(s). Drip irrigation is ideal. Water early in the morning and deeply, check on a regular basis. Caution: do not over-water, keep water-thirsty plants separate from more tolerant plants (this makes watering chores much easier). It is easy to kill sage or rosemary by being too kind with water. * During periods of high heat and humidity, check and apply "earth-kind" treatments for pests, such as spider mites, white flies, aphids and mealy bugs. Preventing "Takeovers". *Flowers like feverfew are pretty- but they can take over your garden if you allow them to set seed. It is best to cut off most of the flowers as they fade, leaving just a few to self-sow. Keep mints and others from "takeovers", by keeping them containerized or cutting them back to avoid layering.

A YEAR IN THE ROSE GARDEN: by A. J. "Pop" Warner

It is the same song; only let us slow down the tempo a bit. It is time now to relax a bit; the days are long and there is no hurry to get through before dark.

Some things never change, however. Roses need lots of water in hot, windy weather. Unsprayed roses get blackspot. Light colored roses turn brown with thrips if not misted with *Orthene* or *Cygon*. (see below for more pests) Winter damage continued to show up all through May. Weeds love warm weather and are a problem in un-mulched or lightly mulched beds.

The initial effort in establishing good mulch pays off all summer long. It lessens the need for watering, cuts out most of the weeding, keeps the beds cool and provides a continuing source of organic matter. In addition it prevents splashing on to the leaves, minimizes water run-off and helps distribute fertilizer evenly. We recently read in a bulletin from another state, where the writer hated mulches and did not use them. No doubt

he had good roses because roses are tolerant plants, but we wager they would be 100% better with good mulch. Besides, he wouldn't have to work nearly as hard.

DO NOT spray any insecticide until insects appear. Most insecticides approved for use nowadays have a very short residual, so wait until the guests arrive to feed them.

Make a Spray Chart if you are using poisons in the garden Review your Spray Chart every time you spray. Memory plays tricks, even on the young and young-at-heart. It is suggested you do not vary from the specified dilution. Leaves are more susceptible to spray-burn in hot weather, but there is no reason to believe the pests are.

VEGETABLE GARDEN If BIRDS are attacking your tomatoes, try harvesting them when they turn from green to white. They will be nearly as good as vine ripened in a day or two. Or put a large plastic snake draped over the plant. Even a small snake will scare birds away.

Don't put pine needles or wood chips in the compost pile unless you add lime (here in S.A. you can with no problem). Better to use them just as they are - a perfect mulch for blueberries, azaleas and other acid-loving plants. 2nd week It is time to compost squash, Brussels sprouts and other vegetable plants that are at the end of their productive life and infected with powdery mildew (if you can find a good "clean cutting" from your old plant, you may be able to root in a pot and prepare it for fall planting)

Keep in mind that companion planting can help enhance kitchen flavorings while at the same time discouraging pesky insect population. Plant garlic to deter red spider mites.

2nd week Solarize your vegetable garden, if appropriate, for the next three or four weeks Start tomato and pepper seeds now so you can be ready for fall planting. Pull or hoe weeds before they mature and produce seed.

FLOWERS Remove spent flower spikes from all salvias. Blue salvias, zinnias, vinca and esperanza are good summer blooming plants that the DEER do not eat (when given a choice!!!) Plant iris, spider lilies, gloriosa lilies and caladiums. Sun-loving flowers such as portulaca (moss rose) and purslane still can be planted. If you had a good season with flowering sweet pea, inspect and pull dried seed pods and save for sharing and fall sowing. Bougainvillea don't like to be pampered. Let them get rootbound and let them dry out to 1" below the soil line between waterings. Fertilize every 4 weeks with hibiscus food for a bountiful bloom. Rotate houseplants so each side receives adequate light for even growth and balanced shape. *If container plants such as geraniums are declining despite regular watering, move them to a less sunny spot. Be careful to gradually decrease the amount of light they receive. *For dry, sunny beds now is the time to plant vinca for summer bloom. Water in the mornings or use drip irrigation (sprinkling over the top causes fungal dieback). Mulch beds. *To encourage more flowers on annuals and perennials, remove faded flowers before plants set seed. *Remove faded flowers from zinnias and roses for a longer bloom season. Get the same effect on verbena and lantana by skimming the plants with a string mower/ trimmer every four weeks. *Place firebush in a container to attract hummingbirds to the patio. The plant needs full sun. If you have a shady patio, use firespike instead. *Select day lily varieties this month as the plants reach their peak bloom.

Now is the time to plan for next spring. Consider digging and dividing any crowded spring bulbs. Once bulbs have matured and the foliage has turned brown, it is time to spade them up and thin out the stand. Crowded bulbs produce fewer and smaller blooms. They usually need thinning every 3 to 4 years (taller ones need support from each other to stand, so use discretion when dividing). Replant immediately in prepared soils.

YARD Consider Mexican dwarf petunia (*Ruellia brittoniana* "Katie") as a ground cover for the shade. The flowers are violet-blue. "Bonita" is a pink version of the mounding plant with dark green foliage. Prune actively growing shrubs, such as elaeagnus and pyracantha, frequently.

4th WEEK: Check lawn condition, repair/ replace. Apply a foliar iron spray to chlorotic St. Augustine grass (and other plants) showing signs of chlorosis- yellow leaves with green veins.

WATER Water left over from cooking (unsalted)vegetables is perfect for watering houseplants since it contains lots of nutrients. Old water from an aquarium is rich in oxygen and nutrients that are good for most houseplants.

ROGUES IN THE JUNE GARDEN

Please remember when you kill beneficial insects, you inherit their job!

Birds eat insects, so attracting birds helps your garden (until they eat your tomato.)

Water attracts birds to your yard

Feeders also attract birds.

ROGUES:

WEEK 1

Watch for insect pests. If you must spray, spray specifically ONLY as needed. Avoid general 'wipe-out' sprays.

SPIDER MITES The first signs of damage from spider mites will be tiny tan mottling on the leaves. Eventually, the leaves will turn entirely tan, then brown and dead. You may even see webbing, but only once the pests are out of control. To know if spider mites are plaguing your garden, thump a suspected twig over a sheet of white paper. If you see paprika-colored specks that move, you've discovered spider mites! can be controlled with insecticidal soap, horticultural/ plant oil such as *Neem*, (or a strong spray of water) or *Kelthane* applied under the leaves. Spray both top and bottom leaf surfaces with the materials listed above.

SQUASH VINE BORERS Pull up squash vines if THEY have bored into the stems. Pitch them in the compost pile. Make a plan to plant in some other location next year. These guys apparently don't go very far, so if you move, it takes them a year to figure it out.

Spraying for Pests_ As our weather warms and becomes dry, check for these unwanted garden gremlins:

Symptoms of **SPIDER MITES** include a brown and bronze edging of the foliage white the bottom side of the foliage (lower leaves first) will have a fine, white webbing with a kind of salt-n-pepper background. You can use a bottom side foliage water-wash over a nine day period (washing every 3rd day, for three cycles) to break the mites life cycle (they lose their sex drive after a long march up the plant), or spray with a liquid sea-weed extract (which feeds the plant as well), horticultural/ plant oil such as *neem*, or spray with a listed miticide, such as *Ferti-lome Red Spider Mite Spray w/ pyrethrin*s (always follow label directions). Target the bottom side of the foliage (*a good practice to follow is to remove the first two low lying sets of foliage at the bottom of the bush. This will help open up the bush for good air circulation and make it more difficult for the mites to get started.

THRIPS - These cycle in and out of our gardens, and there may be times when your flowers may be "thrip-free". When you do have an infestation and you want to keep your flowers clean, mist the buds and flowers using product with "*spinosad*", or *Orthene* liquid (2 Tbsp. per gal., 1 Tbsp. for powder), *Cygon*(?) @ 2 tsp. per gal. of mix. Do this every 3 to 4 days.

ORGANIC Pest Control - For disease control in general, spray roses with garlic tea or mild vinegar (potassium bicarbonate @ 1 rounded Tbsp. / gal. for minor diseases). For insect pests, spray plant oil products (garlic tea @ $\frac{1}{4}$ cup / gal.; citrus oil, orange oil, or d-limonene @ 1 oz. / gal. of water as a spray, 2 oz. / gal. of water as a drench). *Neem* oil - use per labeled directions (should not be used when temps. are 85 - 90 or above) for more serious insect and disease infestations. For thrips, apply beneficial nematodes to the soil in early spring.

Watch for Mites - These are not insects but are related to spiders and are as adaptable as a politician. *Vendex*(?) did not work in most gardens this year and *Plictran*(?), for the first time, gave less than good results. *Avid* cleaned them up, this time at least. If one had only a few bushes or does not mind the monotony, washing every third day with water gives more or less satisfactory control. In hot weather the spider mite life cycle speeds up to as little as five days, so a minor infestation can quickly become an explosion.

WEEK 2

Be careful near brush piles, weedy or overgrown areas and junk accumulations; the AFRICANIZED BEES might lurk there.

The white, frothy material that's showing up on stems and foliage could be WOOLLY APHIDS, but it probably is the eggs and protective covering of LEAFHOPPERS. It is not necessary to treat the eggs.

Apply the first of two treatments, either organic (*beneficial nematodes*, *Milky Spores*), or synthetic chemical *imidacloprid* (*GrubEx*) for GRUBWORM control in lawns and beds.

SPIDER MITES are hitting tomatoes hard, but also marigolds, beans, violets, junipers and verbenas (these are primary hosts but, there may be others). Use a hard spray of water on the underside of the leaves, or materials listed earlier, if there is still hope for the plant. In most cases, the crop is almost complete and no spray is required. Harvest the fruit and remove the plants. (* Keep in mind that companion planting can help enhance kitchen flavorings while at the same time discouraging pesky insect population. Plant garlic to deter red spider mites.)

Fall WEBWORMS are making their homes in pecans and mulberry trees. Open the webs with a cane pole so wasps can feed on the worms. Other options are to spray *Bt* (*Bacillus thuringiensis*), *carbaryl* (*Sevin*), or *Malathion* on the foliage where they are feeding or to let them run their course without treatment. (see p 10)

If your trees are raining sticky sap onto the patio, driveway and your car, the trees are filled with APHIDS. They're small, pear-shaped insects that create sticky messes on all surfaces beneath pecans, oaks, crape myrtles and others. You'll see the varnish-like residue on leaves initially. Spray at that point to stop their quick population surges. Left unchecked, a black sooty mold will grow in the sticky honeydew.

ROGUES WEEK 3

The white, frothy material deposited along stems and leaves may be caused by SPITTLEBUGS. Spittlebugs suck the juices from plants but do not usually require spraying.

Spread baits for long-term control of FIRE ANTS.

Tour your property to look for new BEE colonies. Leave them be if they aren't aggressive (contact the Bexar County Extension Office at 467-6575 for information concerning the Africanized bees) but note where they are so you can avoid them. Bees are very important pollinators, for both ornamental and edible plants.

Watch for BAGWORMS on junipers, arborvitae and other conifers. Remove by hand or use *Bt* or other approved insecticide.

WEEK 4

CHINCH BUGS. If your St. Augustine turf looks dry and yellowed, suspect these small black insects with white diamonds on their wings. Look in the interface grass; that is, between dead grass and healthy turf. If you see the insects there, (p 11) you can treat with a garlic spray (there are several organic materials listed for Chinch bugs), or use *permethrin* (*Green Light*), *cyfluthrin* (*Hi-Yield*, *Bayer*), *carbaryl* (*Sevin*), or other labeled insecticide (always follow label directions). Chinch bugs will be active only in hot, sunny locations.

GRASSHOPPERS are difficult to control. Consider *Malathion*, *carbaryl* (*Sevin*) or one of the new baits if the insects attack your garden

NOT ROGUES

FIREFLIES lighting up the night! Fireflies in San Antonio are not something that's real common anymore, mainly because of "urban sprawl", insecticides and fire ants. Good weather, the use of pesticides down and fire ants having a bad year, these are perfect conditions for fireflies (and insects in general). Lightning bugs show in South Texas in May and June, primarily in open areas adjacent to woods. - THL

YELLOW JACKETS in your hummingbird feeders? They are strongly attracted to the color yellow, change or paint the bee guards and the bees will lose interest.

Meeting Minutes

MAY 13, GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Zoom meeting began 6 pm. Next meeting set for zoom will not require host to admit, so joining will be immediate

Announcements: Basil Fest will be Saturday May 22 from 9 to 1. Cindy Moore's phone number was displayed so members could volunteer for times

There were peppers for sale at the book table. Information about guajillo peppers was displayed with the peppers.

The rent for the storage unit we use has gone up a little bit. We use the unit efficiently. If anyone has ideas for selling stock, or consolidating some of the paper documents, please see treasurer or president for ideas.

There is a Free Items table. Please make use of it. Bring items to give away, and feel free to recycle any that you find on the table. Bags are available from the books table.

Robin proposed the idea of changing the office of Membership. An intern from local college could become membership intern. Agreement would be made that intern attend both general meetings and board meetings. Would sign in members, make report of attendance and new members. Coordinate with treasurer to turn in dues and keep the spread sheet of membership up to date. Marsha thought that our recommendation would help on a student's resume and might help lead to jobs in accounting or a business major. A motion was made to change the ByLaws to allow for an intern to take the place of the membership chair. The motion was seconded and all voted yes to present this for a vote at the next meeting.

An appeal was made for more help: Snacks next time (pending ok from Garden Center). Robin needs someone to take pictures at the meeting. Also needed is someone to man the book sales table, host the zoom room admissions, and help call for speakers.

Requests were made specifically for writers: herb of the month (may write on any herb that suits your fancy), Weed and Gloat, and recipes. We love to print member recipes, especially ones that are relevant to right now in the garden.

The presentation was given by Robin Maymar on Light in the Garden. She described a simple way to make a map of the land where you want to garden by using Google Earth. She demonstrated how to take easy measurements, and how to determine where shadow lines fall as the sun moves across the sky. There were lots of pictures. At the end she showed a completed shadow map, that helps determine hours of sunlight. She then described how to use the map to plan water saving walkways that displace water hoarding grass. She suggested spaces in the shade for seating, and then making focal points for visitors in the seating area. The talk was well received. After a few questions the meeting was adjourned. Members enjoyed the blueberry muffins Mike had carefully packaged for us. Meeting ended at 8:02

Submitted by Milan Maymar

WEED AND GLOAT

It is good we started at eight o'clock as the humidity rose with the sun. The heavy rains in May have grown the garden to a flourish.

The purslane and nut grass continue to grow. To our surprise, the mulch has held back a lot of the weeds and allowed the herbs themselves to grow. The mint has taken over the north end of the garden, again. Mary Jo just topped them off completely. "They'll grow back"

Basil and I dug out some of the red canna lilies. We dug root and all and will share with our friends who have black thumbs and always kill everything they plant. Cannas have to be one of the easiest flowers to get to grow. Our issue is that they look a lot like the glorious ginger plants: broad green leaves, lovely crunchy stem but it is not until you get to the flowers and the seeds that you see the difference. Cannas are not an herb. So we dig them out our cut them back to make room for the shampoo ginger and the angelica to grow. The herbs we do have are large and spectacular. We also reduced the volume of the sorrel, as it has taken over the space.

Laura uses a short-handled hoe. She has lived in Korea, on the economy and not military. She explains that everyone there squats down rather than bending over with tools. So, the handle is longer than our hand tools, but shorter than the rakes and hoes that we traditionally use. We like the look and size of it. May order one from Amazon.



not get the name. We had a black bird in the garden eating bugs, so left the horseradish alone so the bird could do her job.

Our visitor used an app that identified bugs. Laura also uses one for flowers and bugs called iNaturalist. She often photographs the bug, identifies it, and keeps an album with the names on the pictures. She has photoshop express in her phone but suggests using word swag which she thinks is more intuitive.



Because it is Memorial Day holiday, there were lots and lots of visitors. We spent a fair amount of time talking herbs with passersby, handing out samples of herbs and inviting people to join us at the next meeting. One was particularly interested in the horseradish that looked like it had been machine gunned. It was not lace but had a fair amount of holes in the leaves. We dug around and found a small caterpillar which she identified as a moth. Sorry did

WEED AND GLOAT

**Come weed with us at the
Botanical Gardens!**

**Feel welcome to come to join us
this month in the sunshine.**

Next Weed and Gloat is scheduled
for Monday, June 28

We have decided to meet around 9:30.A.M.
Contact robinmaymar@gmail.com for simple
safety measures we need to take .

See you then.

LAWN CARE SAFETY

A recent Consumer Reports poll on lawn care shows that consumers are not taking all the proper precautions before mowing their lawn. In observance of June's National Safety Month, The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute is issuing a list of top safety measures every consumer should make before turning on the lawnmower or edger or trimmer to avoid unintentional injury.

There are some simple steps everyone can take before tending to the lawn and garden to ensure an enjoyable, productive and safe backyard experience. Before turning on equipment, consumers should:

- ✦ **Know how to operate the equipment.** Read the operator's manual before using any power equipment. Know where the controls are and what they do. Follow safety instructions.
- ✦ **Handle gas carefully.** Fill up before you start and when the engine is cold. (Do not fill over grass as gasoline will kill the grass.)
- ✦ **Dress properly for yard work.** Wear substantial shoes, long pants and close-fitting clothes.
- ✦ **Clear up the area before you mow.** Always remove stones, sticks and other objects from the area so that objects won't fly up and hit anyone. The most common injuries are from flying debris.
- ✦ **Wear eye protection** to prevent injury from projectiles.
- ✦ **Wear hearing protection** to prevent potentially damaging sounds from reaching your ears without eliminating the sounds you'll need to hear.
- ✦ **Don't let music distract you** from hearing potentially important calls or seeing important hazards.
- ✦ **Clear the area of people and pets.** Keep children indoors under adult supervision.
- ✦ **Always start up the mower outdoors.**

Do not use alcohol, other controlled substances or medicines that impair judgment when using outdoor power equipment.



Herb Society Board

President

Robin Maymar

robinmaymar@gmail.com

1st Vice-President (Programs)

Position vacant

Treasurer Debarah Wilson

Secretary Volunteer at meeting

Membership Milan Maymar,
protem

Publicity Vicki Jamvold

There are a number of options for lawn care. A gas powered mower is fast and efficient for large areas but it pollutes and is very noisy. An electric mower with a cord is very quiet, less polluting, lighter to use but the cord needs to be handled carefully. An issue if you have a lot of objects to mow around. An electric, battery powered mower is quiet and less polluting. However, the blade spins more slowly and is often inefficient. It can only go so far on one charge, and the battery adds weight to the mower. Finally, the hand pushed rotary mower is not polluting, light weight. It requires fairly low grass, clogs in grass that is too high. Excellent exercise, it also makes a very zen-like whirring noise that pleases all who hear it. Choice depends on budget, yard size and energy level.

Then again, if your yard is fenced, you could always hire a few goats.

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