

# Tulsa Herb Society

## *Newsletter*

**June 1, 2025**

## **THS Thymes**



### **MAY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

A fun day was enjoyed by all members who attended the May Bus Trip on Tuesday, May 13. We boarded the bus at the Tulsa Garden Center early in the morning and giggled like children on a luxurious school field trip to the Oklahoma State University Botanic Garden in Stillwater, OK. The Botanic Garden is a 100-acre farm and garden displaying walking trails and beautifully landscaped native herbs, flowers, shrubs, and trees. After a tour of the garden, members enjoyed a delicious boxed lunch, and we again boarded the bus for a tour and shopping spree at nearby Bustani Plant Farm. Many members enjoyed shopping for plants for their garden. Our last stop before returning home was to Steph's garden in Jennings, OK, for more plant shopping! Thanks to Kim McCoy and Beverly Allen for organizing such a delightful and well-organized trip.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 3** - THS board meeting is in the TGC library, 11:00.

**June 3, 20, & 27** - Cooking and crafting will be meeting at the TGC at 9:00. Please read your Sunday night emails to know what your group is creating on these Tuesdays.

**June 10** - THS business meeting (10:00) with the program "History of the Travis Mansions" (Tulsa Garden Center and Museum of the Tulsa History) will be led by Gayle Campbell and Briana Hefley-Shepard, Director of Marketing and Communications for TGC. Please remember to bring treats to the meeting to share.

**July 1** - THS board meeting is in the TGC library, 11:00.

**July 1, 15, 22, & 29** - Cooking and crafting will be meeting at the TGC at 9:00. Please read your Sunday night emails to know what your group will be creating on these Tuesdays.

**July 7** - Annual Special Speaker Event featuring former OSU Director of Landscape Services, Steve Dobbs, will be in the TGC auditorium, 7:00 p.m. (see below). The topic for Monday night's presentation is "Ornamental Edibles in the Landscape," and **because this is a community-wide event, you are encouraged to invite visitors**. Marcia Clark reported all the sign-up slots for cookies have been filled, but she needs help for 2 workers to arrive at 5:00 p.m. to plate and present the cookies.

**July 8** - THS business meeting at 10:00. The annual Speaker Event that Steve Dobbs will present to the membership will begin at 11:00. His program to the members is titled "Successful Container Gardening: Tips and Tricks." The yearly member salad luncheon will follow his presentation. Beth Teel is coordinating members signing up to bring salad items for the salad luncheon.

**Aug. 5** - THS board meeting will be in the TGC library, 11:00.

**Aug. 5, 19, & 26** - Cooking and crafting will be meeting at the TGC at 9:00. Please read your Sunday night emails to know what your group is making on these Tuesdays.

**Aug. 12** - THS business meeting at 10:00. The THS business meeting with the annual program is "Tools, Tips, and Tragedies." Members give testimonials about favorite gardening implements, horticulture knowledge, and failures for us to avoid. Please remember to bring treats for us to share during this popular program.

## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

1	Waleah Turner	
8	Beverly Lightner	
11	Delores Lee	
14	Jane Holder	
16	Jan Edwards	
17	Gayle Campbell	
19	Diana Samsung	
24	Nancy Foster	



## JULY SPECIAL SPEAKER EVENT WITH STEVE DOBBS

Monday, JULY 7 at 7 PM – A Community Event

Tuesday, JULY 8 at 11 AM – A THS Member Event

Horticulturist Steve Dobbs has over 40 years' experience in various roles of the green industry working in horticulture education, landscape maintenance, design, and greenhouse plant production.

Most recently Steve retired from Oklahoma State University after 12 years as Director of Landscape Services where he was responsible for over 700 acres of design, installation, and maintenance.

Steve is author of *The Southern Lawn Series* and the *Oklahoma Gardener's Guide*. From 1990-1995, Steve hosted the OSU-produced, OETA television show, *Oklahoma Gardening*.

Steve received his Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture from OSU and a Master of Science degree in Horticulture from University of Arkansas.

Steve now resides in eastern Oklahoma on his family farm with his wife, Jo Alice, where they garden, raise angus cattle, and volunteer at McKey Community Church.



### FROM THE PRESIDENT, KATHY BLANK

Don't you love all the beautiful surprises blooming in your gardens these days? That's why you do all that work!

- **June** - Gayle Campbell, 2nd VP, and Briana Hefley-Shepard, Director of Marketing and Communications for TGC, will be presenting our June program. We will hear about the history of the two Travis mansions (Tulsa Garden Center and Museum of Tulsa History) and the family that built them.
- **July** is our **Community Speaker Event** (Monday, July 7th) and monthly program (Tuesday, July 8th) with a salad luncheon. Julie Knebel, Marcia Clark, and Beth Teel are heading up all the events. *Be sure you have signed up to help both days. We will need help with the display and presentation of the cookies on Monday evening and salad fixings for Tuesday.*
  - Steve Dobbs will be our speaker Monday evening and Tuesday morning. Steve is currently a consultant for OSU, working on special landscape projects and designing seasonal color displays. You will recognize him from past Oklahoma Gardening television shows.
  - Monday's topic: "Using Ornamental Edibles in the Landscape"
  - Tuesday's topic: "Successful Container Gardening: Tips and Tricks"

## Notes

- Beverly Allen and Kim McCoy did a fabulous job co-chairing our May Bus trip. Well done ladies!
- *Since we didn't have a May business meeting, there are no minutes in this newsletter.*
- Carol Puckett has started publicity for our Community Event. It is not too early to start sharing about it to all your family members and friends. We want to help Carol get the word out about this free, fun, and fantastic evening.

## Did you know?

Hummingbirds weigh  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an ounce and are 3.5" in length! Their wings propel them at 55 beats per second in flight, and when they are dive bombing another hummingbird or trying to impress females, wings beat 220 times per second. Their heart beats 600 times per minute (up to 1200 times) with 250 breaths per minute, and their average lifespan is 3 - 4 years, but they can live 12 - 14 years. They drink with a back-and-forth motion of tongue, 13 licks per second.

**Planting for our hummingbird friends? Try salvia, petunias, honeysuckle, and trumpet vine.**

Good roots support new leaves,  
Kathy



## ROSEMARIAN REPORT, SHARON FERGUSON

A get well card was sent to Sue Stees, and a sympathy card was sent to Lesley Calkins after her mother passed. Thinking-of-you cards were sent to Julie Knebel's husband, David, and one was sent to Gayle Campbell.



## TULSA HERB SOCIETY BUSINESS MEETING NOTES FROM MAY 13

No business meeting of the Tulsa Herb Society was conducted in May due to the field trip; therefore, no meeting notes were taken and submitted. A business meeting will be conducted at the June 10 meeting.

## TULSA HERB SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

<i>Officers:</i>		<i>Committee Chairs:</i>	
President	Kathy Blank	Carols & Crumpets	Patsy Wynn & Sally Taggart
1st Vice	Patsy Wynn	Cooking	Beverly Allen & Beth Teel
President		Crafting	Marla McMahon, Chrissie Gray, Eve Joseph, & Sharon Ferguson
2nd Vice	Gayle Campbell		Beth Teel
President		Facebook	Robin Ferrell
Secretary	Margaret Pavletich	Newsletter	Berry Muratet
Treasurer	Nancy Foster	Historian	Janna Johnson & Maggie Shiroma
		Hospitality	Sue Stees
		Parliamentarian	Carol Puckett & Julie Knebel
		Publicity	Sharon Ferguson
		Rosemarian	Karen Watkins
		Speaker Bureau	Chrissie Gray
		Website	

## HERB OF THE MONTH REPORT

BY CARLA CHILDS

**NONE OF YOUR  
BUSINESS**

**Soleirolia Soleirolii**



I chose a funny named plant for June. Before I tell you about it, I'll tell you how I came to choose it.

We watch a lot of British TV in our house. Our favorites are what we call “murder”; these are detective/police/mystery style shows. One we are currently watching is *Rosemary & Thyme*. It's about two women gardeners who always happen upon one or more dead bodies while they are redoing or restoring historic gardens in England—sometimes even traveling to the continent to garden there. One episode recently had the duo restoring an old herb garden in a monastery. It was to be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the garden, and the Queen was coming to open it after the restoration was complete. While they were in line to meet the Queen, Laura Thyme had a plant in her hand, and the Queen inquired what the name of this plant was. When she answered, “Mind Your Own Business,” I was intrigued and wondered if there really was a plant with that name. So off to the land of “Google that” I went. The name certainly made an impression on me as I'm sure it did the Queen!

Mind Your Own Business, (a.k.a., *Soleirolia soleirolii*) was named after Lt. Henri Augustine Soleirol who discovered it growing wild in Corsica. He was a French military engineer who was keen on botany and the arts. Some common names are Baby Tears, Corsican Creeper, and

Friendship Plant. This plant belongs to the stinging nettle family although it does not actually sting. It grows 2-4" tall, prefers shade, and is frost tender, so expect some dieback in the winter; however, it recovers quickly and has tiny white flowers. It roots along the stems, grows quickly, and is usually sold as a houseplant but can be grown outside. It can become a problem if it gets into the lawn where it can be difficult to control.

Mind Your Own Business was first cultivated in Britain in 1905 as a promising rock garden plant. It was a Victorian favorite where they used it below benches in conservatories and in between rock paths. It is called Mind Your Own Business due to its tendency to spread rapidly and sometimes aggressively invading other parts of your garden or lawn. Some think it is spread on the bottom of your shoes from one part of the garden to another.

It was a fun plant to learn about with a name you won't easily forget as long as you "Mind Your Own Business." Haha!

Sources:

Teagasc (Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority)

Horticultural Development Factsheet, April 2020 Victoriana Nursery website

Blog—Botany in Scotland, November 14, 2022