

# Tulsa Herb Society

## *Newsletter*

**May 1, 2025**

# THS Thymes



### APRIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The THS April meeting featured presentations by members Marla McMahon, Beth Teel, and Teresa Dawkins. We gathered at the Tulsa Garden Center on Tuesday, April 15, after the general business meeting. Marla showed us how to sugar pansies when making edible flowers. She taught us her secrets of creating beautiful flowers when decorating show-stopping cakes and other desserts. Beth and Teresa demonstrated their expertise when growing and trimming topiaries made from large leaf wirevine, English ivy, boxwood, and myrtle plants. Easter decorations and treats were shared, and the hospitality committee asked us to bring and talk about a favorite teacup. It was a delightful time.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 6** - THS Plant and Garden Goodies exchange will be at the TGC at 9:00 for set up.

**May 6** - THS board meeting will be at the TGC library, 11:00.

**May 6, 20, & 27** - Cooking and crafting will be meeting at the TGC at 9:00.

**May 13** - Bus trip to the Botanic Garden at OSU Stillwater, Bustani Plant Farm, & Steph's Garden. Beverly Allen and Kim McCoy are co-chairs. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes bus and lunch. (See next page.)

**June 3** - THS board meeting will be at the TGC library, 11:00.

**June 3, 17, & 24** - Cooking and crafting will be meeting at the TGC at 9:00.

**June 10** - THS business meeting with the program History of the Travis Mansions (Tulsa Garden Center and Museum of Tulsa History) by Gayle Campbell.

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

**July 1, 15, 22, & 29** - Cooking and crafting will be meeting at the TGC, 9:00.

**July 7** - Annual Special Speaker Event featuring former OSU Director of Landscape Services, Steve Dobbs, at the Tulsa Garden Center Auditorium, Monday evening, 7 p.m. (See next page). The topic for Monday night's presentation is "Ornamental Edibles in the Landscape." Marcia Clark will have members sign up to bring cookies for the Monday night event, which is open to the public.

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



## PLANT AND GARDEN GOODIES EXCHANGE

Tuesday, May 6, at the TGC auditorium will be our members-only annual Plant and Garden Goodies Exchange. Set up begins at 9:00. Members bring 5-6 plants or garden tools to swap with other members. Plants should be labeled as what they are, and they will be placed in the areas designated for sunny or shady plants. Please remember to bring plants in lightweight pots and water them the day before instead of the day of the event. This will save strength when lugging items home.



# May Bus Trip



Our May 13 bus tour is set, and sign-up continues with only 3 seats left after some cancellations. We leave at 8:30 a.m. from the Tulsa Garden Center. We have booked our trip with Village Travel. Our first stop is the Botanic Garden at OSU with a guided tour and a boxed lunch. Then we will head to Bustani Plant Farm in Stillwater for a tour and shopping, and afterwards we will visit Steph's Garden in Jennings. Stephanie is a former THS member. This is a members-only event that costs \$25 per person. Beverly Allen and Kim McCoy are co-chairs of the event, and contact them if you can fill one of the vacated seats. Be sure to bring money for purchases and to give the driver a \$3-\$5 tip.

## JULY 7 & 8 SPECIAL SPEAKER EVENT WITH STEVE DOBBS

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 the 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

I can't wait for the plant exchange on May 6th and our May 13th bus trip. A large percent of our ever-expanding home gardens are filled with my cherished "traded" and the "trip-purchased" plants!

Spring has always been my favorite season, except for my allergic reaction to everything that blooms! This year, I have had more trouble than usual. I hope if you suffer from spring allergies, that you have found some relief. Of course, headaches, coughing, sneezing, and itching eyes have not stopped me from planting lots of pots and enjoying the view. Our irises (around 150) have been a spectacular sight this year. We will bring some for the plant exchange.

Yes, Beth, we are a fun group! And we are also seekers of knowledge. The eagerness of our members to ask questions and learn new information really showed during April's program. Beth Teel, Teresa Dawkins, and Marla McMahon held everyone's attention as they presented their Topiaries and Sugar Pansies.

Kudos to Marla McMahon and all the Herbies who participated in SpringFest. Our cooks, crafters, and event volunteers did an outstanding job. Thank you for your time and talents.

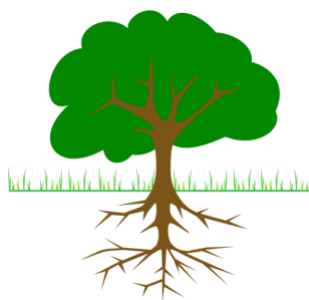
### Notes

- Thanks to Nancy Foster's reminders, we can congratulate THS members for reaching 60% membership at the Tulsa Garden Center.
- Thanks to Maggie Shiroma and Janna Johnston for creating a delightful Easter display for April's refreshment table. I may bring my own tea cup to future meetings!
- If you are interested in learning more about THS, please sign up to volunteer at one of our many events, talk to a board member, or attend a board meeting (1st Tuesday of each month at 11:00). Everyone is welcome to attend.

### Did you know?

- Sugar and pectin jell at 220 degrees F. (I live with a cook.)
- The Iris is a flowering plant genus of 310 accepted species with showy flowers. Iris essential oil from flowers is sometimes used in aromatherapy as sedative medicines. (Note: Iris rhizomes can be toxic.)
- Herbies are fun and interesting people.

Good roots support new leaves.  
Kathy





## ROSEMARIAN REPORT, SHARON FERGUSON

Thank you cards were sent to Beth Teel, Teresa Dawkins, Marla McMahon, Janna Johnston, and Maggie Shiroma. A Thinking-of-You card was sent to Michelle Lawrence, and Get Well cards were sent to Patty Bishop, Edie Maxey, Carol Puckett, Chrissie Gray, Betty Muratet, and Patsy Wynn.

## MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

1	Brenda Lawyer
2	Patty Klinger-Boody
2	Pam Randall
4	Elaine Beale
5	Kristie Nix Blunt
7	Dede Boedeker
10	Gina Fox
20	Rose Meir
22	Betty Muratet
22	Johnna Thurston



## TULSA HERB SOCIETY BUSINESS MEETING NOTES FROM APRIL 8 BY SECRETARY MARGARET PAVLETICH

The meeting began at 10:05 a.m.

Members were asked if anyone had any changes to the minutes of the last meeting. There were no changes mentioned. Pat Morris made a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting as written. Dianne Rodehaver seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with a hand vote.

President Kathy reminded all members to register on the new website.

**Herb of the Month** - Turmeric, presented by Kristie Nix. Kristie reported that it is a perennial and a part of the ginger family. It is known as "the golden spice" and is an anti-inflammatory.

**First VP - Patsy Wynn** reported we have 2 new members who joined today.

- Patsy said that we need a member to sign up for herb of the month for October and December. Members can check to see which herbs are already assigned and pick an herb they are interested in.
- Pictures will be taken for our new directory at the June meeting.
- Patsy welcomed one guest at this meeting.
- Aprons and t-shirts are on the table for those who have ordered and paid for them. Patsy will order more aprons or t-shirts if more members are interested in purchasing them.

## **Second VP - Gayle Campbell - Programs**

- Our annual plant exchange will take place on May 6th, followed by crafts and the board meeting.
- Beverly Allen and Kim McCoy - Beverly announced the bus for May's Bus Trip is full. Beverly explained the itinerary for this trip. She reminded everyone to bring some kind of carrier for any plants they purchase. She explained that an envelope will be passed around on the bus and asked those participating to contribute 3 to 5 dollars each as a gratuity for the bus driver.
- Karen Betts reported on the September driving trip. The group will be going to Claremore to The Rogers County Master Gardeners' Teaching Garden.
- October's Harvest Luncheon needs a co-chair. Julie Sluss has volunteered to work with anyone interested in being the co-chair. Julie will help with all.

## **Secretary - Margaret Pavletich - No report**

## **Treasurer - Nancy Foster - Nancy reported our present balance.**

- We passed the 60% membership to the Garden Center, which means we will not have to pay rent all this year.
- She has gloves for anyone who wishes to purchase them.
- Nancy also reminded members that she has a display in the back with all the "Thank You" letters from all the gardens we donated to.

**Old Business - Pat Morris** brought some plants on display to help members know what to bring to the plant exchange.

**New Business - Marla McMahon** reported she needs 2 slots filled for the booth at SpringFest. We have giveaways for the kids and things to sell. She stated they will be setting up the table for the Herb Society from 1 to 3 on Thursday.

**July's Speaker Event - Julie Knebel.** Steve Dobbs will be our speaker for the event. Marcia Clark and Karen Watkins are working with Julie on this project. The dates for the speaker event are July 7- 8.

**Julie Sluss** asked anyone who took tablecloths to wash after our Spring Tea to bring them back. She took a count and a few are missing.

## **Committees**

- Carols & Crumpets - Patsy Wynn & Sally Taggart. Patsy will send out invitation letters.
- Cooking - Beverly Allen. They are cooking.
- Crafting - Marla McMahon asked members to save toilet paper rolls and old Christmas cards for future projects.
- Newsletter - Robin Ferrell reminded everyone to read the newsletter on our website.
- Facebook - Beth Teel. No report
- Historian - Betty Muratet. No report
- Hospitality - Maggie Shiroma thanked those who brought refreshments. She reminded members to share the importance of their tea cup with those at their table.
- Parliamentarian/By Laws - Sue Stees explained that we approved changes in our Standing Rules. Now we need to approve the re-lettering of some of the items. Karen Watkins made a motion to change the re-lettering of our Standing Rules. Julie Knebel seconded it. The motion was passed by a show of hands.

- Publicity - Julie Knebel. We will begin publishing our July Event.
- Rosemarian - Sharon Ferguson sent a sympathy card to Mari Migliori, who's husband recently passed away. Several members gave her the names of others who needed a card sent.
- Website Development - Chrissie Gray asked all members to please sign in to the THS website on a computer (the app isn't ready yet) to ask to be a website member. If you have trouble signing in, Chrissie can enter your name and email on the banner on the home page so you can then add a password to complete your website membership.
- Speaker Bureau/Study Group - Karen Watkins stated the guest speaker for our July event is the greatest. She encouraged us to start inviting our friends to the event and remind them that we will have refreshments.

The meeting ended at 10:55 a.m.



## TULSA HERB SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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



## HERB OF THE MONTH

BY NANCY FOSTER

*Green Santolina*

***Santolina Rosmarinifolia***



Green Santolina is my favorite herb in the garden because it is beautiful foliage and it smells even better. I don't use green santolina in cooking – I just like to look at it and run my fingers through the dark green, feathery leaves to release the beautiful olive fragrance. For this reason, I have it planted right next to my rock path within easy reach.

Green Santolina, also known as green lavender cotton, holy flax, or wadi tops is a neatly rounded evergreen shrub from the Mediterranean. It requires full sun and well-drained (preferably sandy) soil and seems to tolerate drought very well. And, it is a perfect shrub for lazy gardeners! Care should be taken not to over-water or over-fertilize this plant. I prune my plant back in the late winter or early spring to keep it from getting too leggy.

In early summer, Green Santolina is covered with 1-inch pale yellow button flowers on long stems. The flowers are tightly multi-petaled as this plant is a member of the Asteraceae family (commonly known as the aster family). Here's a photo from my garden taken a few years back – Green Santolina is a hardy perennial.