For Members of the Tucson Botanical Gardens
Summer 2021
Volume 21 Issue 2

SUMMER
### MISSION STATEMENT
The Tucson Botanical Gardens connects people with plants and nature through art, science, history and culture.

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The two questions that I’m asked most frequently are: What makes a great gardener? What makes a great garden?

**What makes a great gardener?**

You might think the answer is as simple as, “I love plants.” Not so. Look at me: I love plants. I’m the ultimate appreciator of gardens and all those blessed with the talents of the soil. But rather than digging in the dirt, I take deep joy in visiting gardens, talking to gardeners about gardens, dreaming about gardens that are, and planning gardens that are yet to be.

The gardeners at the Tucson Botanical Gardens exemplify what it means to be a great gardener. Collectively, they are engineers, visionaries, communicators, ecologists, artists, botanists, and, on top of that list, is their continued thirst for learning.

Let me introduce you to the horticultural staff of the Gardens:

Adam, our Horticulture Manager, will soon celebrate his 4-year anniversary at TBG. From day one, he made amending the Gardens’ soil a priority. Adam is committed to gardening in a sustainable way, and, in addition to the overall management of the department, he administers our integrated pest management program. There’s always a quick and easy fix, but Adam has taught me that patience pays off in the long term. *(Learn about Native Trees from Adam on page 4.)*

Robin primarily works with TBG’s roses, in the Herb Garden *(check out her recipes on page 11)* and in the Zen Garden. A member of both the Rose Society and the Bonsai Society, Robin continues to shadow masters in those fields.

Stef, who is completing work toward an arborist certification, works her magic with the Gardens’ floral pots and displays, as well as tree care. Turn to page 8 where you’ll learn about her work on our canopy of senior trees which are some of the oldest in the city.

Connie has seen the Gardens grow and change since the late 1980s, and I’m personally so grateful that she has chosen to grow with us. Connie leads our volunteers on Mondays and Wednesdays, and she is the person that we go to with questions about garden history and care.

Kristen, one of our newest gardeners, is studying permaculture, and she has a passion for cactus and succulents. You can see her handiwork in the pots that surround the Xeriscape Garden.

Michael is the Manager of the Cox Butterfly and Orchid Pavilion. His work with the butterflies, the orchids, and the other tropical plants has earned him a national reputation among his peers as one of the best in the business.

**And finally, what makes a great garden?** This can only be answered by going back to the first question, because in truth, *a garden is only as good as the gardeners who care for it.*

Please enjoy this summer issue filled with advice and inspiration from the gardeners at TBG.

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*Michelle Conklin  
Executive Director*
During the fall, winter and spring, horticulturalists, arborists, nursery folks, and environmental organizations encourage the planting of trees in the Tucson area. Personally, I am a huge advocate for increasing the city’s vegetative shade canopy. Every year about this time I start getting phone calls inquiring about tree health and care, and many of these calls specifically regard newly planted trees that are struggling to survive. While there are a host of reasons for why a newly planted tree may fail to thrive, I can usually diagnose the issue by asking three questions: Can you see the root flare? What was done to amend the soil? How frequently is it being watered?

The first question addresses the most common mistake made in tree planting (or any planting for that matter), which is planting too deeply. A tree’s root collar, or flare (where the trunk transitions to roots), should be above the soil. If the tree looks like a telephone pole coming out of the ground, then it is planted too deeply. In the industry we say, “Better high than dead.” A tree planted too deeply faces both long-term and short-term problems. In the short term, a buried root flare can suffocate a tree, as a high percentage of the tree’s respiration occurs in this zone. The tree can inhale, but its exhalation is stifled by soil. In the long term, a buried trunk is susceptible to rot, pathogens, insect damage and the growth of secondary roots that can wrap around and girdle the tree.

The other questions, regarding soil amendments and watering, are very important to all newly planted trees. Many people who have planted native species are surprised when they learn that their trees are struggling because they have not sufficiently addressed these two issues. Occasionally, the tree is being loved to death, but more often the issue is neglect. Native species will generally perform very well in our human-designed landscapes, but they still require care – especially after being transplanted.

Our Sonoran Desert is one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on earth; a big reason is its variety of climates and microclimates. Species that thrive in the Tucson foothills may not be the same as those that thrive in the valley, or in an arroyo. The sunnier southern exposure of a hillside has different plant communities than the shadier north side. Keep this in mind when choosing native plants for your landscapes and when planning for their care.

Even if you choose a native species that thrives in your climate zone, it likely won’t thrive if you plant it and forget it. For one thing, your yard is part of the human-built world, and not the wild desert, so your soil could probably use some tilth and nutrients. But even assuming that pristine native soil conditions are present, your plant neither chose to grow where you planted it, nor started its life there. The newly planted tree will need additional water as it roots in and establishes itself in its new place. Over time, if you chose a native tree appropriate for your space, it will need less and less extra water. However, unless you have maximized water harvesting, your tree will likely always need some additional water; even if it doesn’t need it, you may want to provide it anyway, so that your tree will thrive – rather than simply survive.

\* Olneya tesota (Desert Ironwood)
IN THE EDUCATION CLASSROOM* AND ON THE BACK PORCH GALLERY

Quilts in the Gardens Returns
June 8 – September 20, 2021

The Tucson Botanical Gardens is pleased to once again display a variety of themed quilts from the nonprofit organization, Quilts for a Cause. Founded in 2003, Quilts for a Cause auctions and sells handmade quilts donated by quilters to support breast and gynecological cancer screening and treatment. The proceeds from the sale will support Quilts for a Cause and the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

Quilts will also be for sale in the Gardens’ Gift Shop.

IN PORTER GALLERY*

I’ll Follow the Sun – The Photography of Shelley Lawrence Kirkwood
May 12 – September 6, 2021

This collection of work looks closely at bits of debris and foraged plants from the Sonoran Desert and the forests and meadows of western Massachusetts — two distinct landscapes photographer Shelley Kirkwood has inhabited for most of her life.

“I’m interested in viewing the natural world at close range, removed from its original context. In isolation, cycles of growth and decay become more apparent, revealing the singular grace of each form, and the particular environment from which it emerged.”

-Shelley Kirkwood

Though the objects photographed are diminutive, their scale has been dramatically enhanced to suggest their echoes within a larger system, as well as their monumental significance in her own history.

Dividing most of her adult life between Tucson, Arizona and New England, Shelley Kirkwood earned a Master of Fine Arts in photography from the University of Arizona. Her work has been exhibited in galleries throughout the United States.

*Note: Due to physical distancing protocols, a maximum of six guests at one time will be allowed in the indoor galleries. Mask wearing is mandatory.
All TBG Community Classes are virtual until further notice. Online class participants will receive a Zoom link via email for each live class two hours before the class begins.

Online classes are recorded and participants receive a video replay that is available to enjoy at your convenience for two weeks after the date of the class.

TBG Members receive a 20% discount!

### ART

**Drawing Your World**  
Wednesday, June 23, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**Botanical Art in Watercolor: Agave**  
Wednesday, June 30, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**Watercolor Birds**  
Wednesday, July 14, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**Botanical Art in Pen and Ink: Cholla Blossoms**  
Wednesday, July 28, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**Nature Journaling**  
Wednesday, August 4, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**Botanical Art in Watercolor: Cholla Blossoms**  
Wednesday, August 25, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

### GARDENING

**Petscapes**  
Wednesday, June 16, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**Shade Gardening**  
Friday, June 25, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**Monsoon Vegetable Gardening**  
Wednesday, July 14, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**Fuss-Free Gardening**  
Friday, July 16, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**Tree Pruning 101**  
Wednesday, August 18, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**Eye-Catching Plants for the Desert Garden**  
Friday, August 27, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

### NATURE & ECOLOGY

**Bees, Wasps, and Ants**  
Friday, June 18, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**The Marvelous, Magical World of Moths**  
Friday, July 23, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

**Frogs and Toads of North America**  
Friday, August 13, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
$24 Member/$30 Non-Member

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Jeff Babson, Naturalist and owner of Sky Island Tours

“I love teaching at Tucson Botanical Gardens for many reasons. The students are eager to learn, ask good questions and enjoy a variety of subjects. The friendly staff is wonderful to work with, and they take care of all of the important things that make a class happen, from student registrations to setting up the classroom or Zoom presentation. The Gardens is always open to new ideas and eager to try new things. The Gardens is a beautiful place that residents and visitors are lucky to have. I also think that the Gardens’ mission and my class make for a great partnership.”

Jeff Babson is an all-around naturalist, with particular interest in birds, butterflies, moths, beetles and dragonflies. As the owner of Sky Island Tours, an environmental education and eco-tour company, Jeff has led birding tours for the Tucson Botanical Gardens, Pima County Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, and several birding festivals in southern Arizona (Wings over Willcox, Southwest Wings, Tucson Birding and Nature Festival). He lives in Vail with his wife and two children.

You’ll find Jeff’s classes listed in GREEN under the Nature & Ecology classes above.
Perspective of a Southern Magnolia

As told to Stefan Sutherin, TBG Gardener

My name is Magnolia grandiflora. I am one of three on the TBG property, but I am the Senior. According to my good friends, the Porter daughters, I began my life here safely settled at the southeast corner of what is now the Administration building in the 1950s. Back then I was a focal patio planting and, in my memory, I was gorgeous, Dahling! Unfortunately for me, changes happen. Some years ago when the Education Building was built, my lateral limbs were cut back to about 3’ and my vertical limbs were topped. No notice. No prep. No anesthesia. Just cut and done. Perhaps I had some sort of dieback, but I don’t recall noticing. Anyway, to call that pruning a shock is an understatement. I was so stressed for so many years! I had to hurry to cover the cuts, would-be entries for disease and decay.

I sprouted and sprouted and shot growth everywhere. I had to abandon and kill off old and marginal growth. It was an exhausting effort! And my gorgeousness was gone. Just like that. I didn’t even have the energy to flower except sometimes a few at the top. Finally, I was noticed! Not for the dead and weirdly sprouted mess I had become, but for my potential! This past winter I got a sprout-cut, my dead wood removed, some shaping, and more irrigation. I’m a new tree! I feel so … clean! To add to my joy, the nearby mesquites were thinned last summer to let in more light from the east. I may even have the umph to do flowers by this time next year. I’ll let you know …

Magnolia grandiflora (Southern Magnolia)
Say Hello to Nora!

Katie Rogerson, TBG Director of Education & Public Engagement

Have you had a chance to meet Nora on a recent visit to the Gardens? Nora is a Sonoran Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus morafkai*), and she was adopted by TBG on August 11, 2020. Nora came to the Gardens through the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Tortoise Adoption Program. The Sonoran Desert Tortoise is listed as a candidate species by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and a Species of Greatest Conservation Need by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

TBG’s horticulture staff modified one of the two native crop beds to become Nora’s new home. This habitat is completely self-sustaining and contains a variety of the native plants, cacti, and grasses that make up Nora’s diet. She also occasionally receives treats such as prickly pear fruit—which she loves!

Desert tortoises are the ultimate conservationists. Nora can extract water and nutrients from even the paltriest bites. Her hindgut system works like a double digestive tract, separating water from waste, and she can go up to a year without drinking by storing water in her bladder. Desert tortoises retreat into shelters to avoid midday heat and to hibernate in the winter. Hibernating desert tortoises slow their metabolism to minimize energy loss, and they are most active after rainfall. Be sure to see Nora on your next visit!
Summer comes with blooming flowers,
the buzzing of bees and dragonflies,
Birds singing in the trees and shrubs,
while lizards dart across the pathways …

- Kristen Tabor, TBG Gardener
Me Time in the Herb Garden
Robin Lansing, TBG Gardener

I have always loved the flavors of both ginger and lemon balm, and the idea of putting them together as a tea is a delightful way to enjoy them. In fact, for years this has been my go-to tea to coddle in the evening. It’s calming and helps me wind down my day. However, as the Tucson summer heats up, and both my energy and motivation are sapped by 10:00 a.m., I’ve been really enjoying it chilled. It’s refreshing, invigorating, and helps lift my spirits; kind of like hitting a reset button on my day!

For centuries, lemon balm has been used to calm anxiety and refresh one’s mood, while ginger’s strong anti-inflammatory properties have long been medically recognized. Both help aid in digestion and are associated with many other health benefits.

Ginger Lemon Balm Tea*

- 2 oz. of fresh lemon balm; leaves and tender stems. Rough chopped to release oils
- 1 to 2 inches of fresh ginger root, washed well and rough chopped. (If you buy organic, there is no need to peel it first.)

INSTRUCTIONS:
Put 2 cups of water in a pot and add ginger. Bring water to a near boil and add lemon balm. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes, making sure it doesn’t boil. At this point, you can just strain it and enjoy it hot, or if you have a sweet tooth, a little honey does the trick. To enjoy it chilled, cover the pot and put it in the refrigerator to cool before you strain it. This will intensify the flavors a little so adding ice won’t dilute it too much.

*This tea is not a substitute for physician prescribed medications. Personal dietary needs and allergies should always be taken into account.

As a gardener, I find that one of the hardest things to care for is my skin, in particular the skin on my hands and feet. I was thrilled to find a recipe for lotion bars that combines two of my favorite herbs, calendula and lavender. While both are potent anti-inflammatories, calendula helps speed up healing of minor cuts and scrapes and lavender is a strong antibacterial. The combination of grapeseed oil, coconut oil, and cocoa butter helps keep the lotion on my hands longer while I’m playing in the dirt!

Calendula Lotion Bar
(makes eight 57.5-gram bars)

- 200 g calendula-infused grapeseed oil
- 100 g virgin coconut oil
- 60 g cocoa butter
- 100 g beeswax pellets
- 40 drops lavender essential oil
- an extra pinch of calendula petals (optional)

MATERIALS:
kitchen scale, double boiler, silicone soap mold, cheese cloth

INSTRUCTIONS:
To make the calendula infused oil, pack a handful of herbs into the top of a double boiler and cover with grapeseed oil. Fill the bottom of the double boiler with an inch of water and set to medium low to warm up, then turn to low for a few hours or until the oil becomes aromatic. Strain the oil through a strainer lined with cheese cloth into a measuring cup, then return 200 g (about 7 oz.) back into the double boiler for the recipe. If there is any oil left over, pour it into a jar with a tight sealing lid to save for other uses.

Next, weigh the rest of the ingredients and add them to the top of the double boiler along with the calendula-grapeseed oil. Stir the ingredients in the double boiler until they have melted together. Once melted, turn off heat and stir in lavender essential oil and a healthy pinch of calendula petals. Pour the oil mixture into a silicone mold, dividing contents equally. Leave lotion bars undisturbed until they are set. They can be put in the fridge to set up. Once set, remove them from the mold and store in the fridge when not in use.
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Nadia Hlibka
Mitzi & Michael Holloway
June Hunter
Patricia Hutchens
Jill Jackson-Mandel & David Mandel
Hope P. Keim on
Kroger
Stephen Kroust & Lisa Koziol
Margaret Kurzius-Spencer & Jon Spencer
Deborah Larsen & Tom Gerlak
Ron & Kathy Larson
Tania Malven & Leo Speras
Donna & Michael Mencinger
Brenda Moos-Bollard & Mark Moos-Bollard
Dana Morgan & Paula Perham
Frannie Neal
Brian Nefcy
Claudia & David Nelson
Mr. Stephen Nelson
Heather Otto
Kathryn Paul
Thorne Pierce & Lucille J. Netsch
Georgia & Ray Pisciotta
Jane Prezzato & Paul Speer
Susan Prust
Elizabeth & John Racy
Benedict R. Radecki
Dwayne & Maggie Richards
Lyn Richards & Bill Breckenridge
Susan Rogers
Karen & Rob Rogerson
Katie Rogerson & Andrew Boe hly
Jim & Tami Saunders
Elly & Sandra Schulte
Suzanne Seville & Marnie Lamm
Jeanette Sobania & Pam Nelms
Kirsten Stephens
Vicky Stromee & Margo Barnes
Brian Studer & Lisa Skidmore
Fred & Geri Taylor
Dianne & Darrell Teegarden
Texas Instruments Foundation
Joyce Tokar & David Jones
Jane & Richard Ulmer
Geraldine L. Vellios
Nanette Warner & Byrl Crago
Debra & Ronald Webster
Sandra Weir
Patrick T. Williams
Craig & Janet Winters
Elizabeth & Edward Worland

UP TO $100
Anonymous - 22
Colleen & David Abbott
Peggy Ackard
Matthew Adamson
Kathy Alexander & Paul Lindsey
Linda Alfano
Cheri Anderson
Margaret K. Aughenbaugh
Michael Austill
Christine Ayers
Victoria Baker
Margaret Baud
Joy Bannerman & Marnie Lamm
Martha R. Bautzmann
Michael Beccarelli
Cathleen & Peter Beckshehazy
Anne Berkeley
Michael Black
Lori Blanski
Stephen Fletcher & Donna Boe
Annette Bogolin
Julie Boop
Angie Boswell
Susan & Arthur Boswell
Kristi Bradford & Bruce Kaplan
Darlene Brady
Robert Broadhead & Kathleen Cahill
Nancy & Jon Broderick

WITH GRATITUDE
Osteospermum spp. (African Daisies)
Osteospermum spp. (African Daisies)

3 Ways to Support the Gardens

Cash

Gifts by check or credit card are the most popular giving methods. Cash gifts may be made by mail, in person at the Gift Shop, telephone, or online at www.tucsonbotanical.org/donate/

Gift of Stock

Gifts of appreciated securities may provide you with significant tax benefits. For information on how to transfer stock to the Tucson Botanical Gardens, please contact the Development office at development2@tucsonbotanical.org or (520) 326-9686 ext. *25

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The IRA Charitable Rollover allows taxpayers age 70½ or older to transfer up to $100,000 annually from their IRA accounts directly to charities, like the Tucson Botanical Gardens, without first having to recognize the distribution as income. Please consult with your advisors to see if this form of giving suits your tax and financial circumstances. Account administrators should mail a check directly to the Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85712. Tucson Botanical Gardens is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; Tax ID# 23-7037310.
Dog Days of Summer
Come by for a PAWsitively great time!
June 1 - September 30
7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Daily

Dog Admission
$3

Add a dog to your Garden membership!
1st dog
$20
Additional dogs
$10 each

Try the new pup-tastic menu at Edna’s Eatery!

For more information visit TucsonBotanical.org