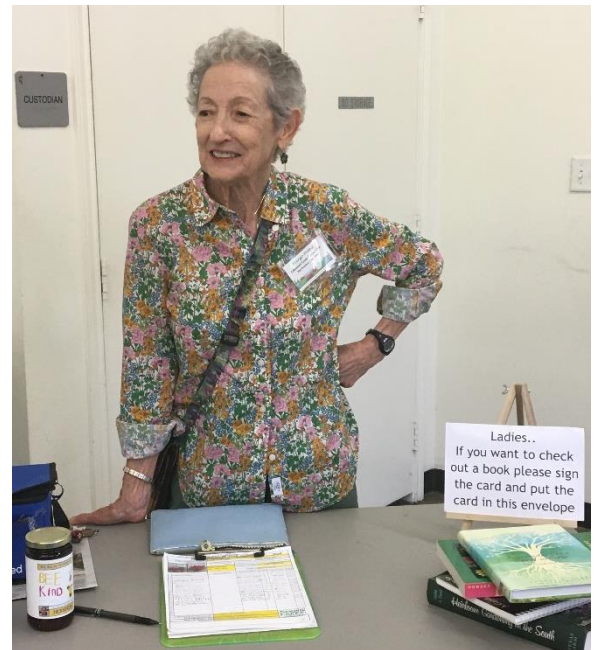


# October 2024

The calendar stated that it is Fall, but summer temperatures remained for our early October meeting. This is a busy time for our club. At the registration table members picked up their name tags, received updated directories, signed up for trips, bought vouchers for the plant sale and purchased tickets for a chance to win the 50/50 pot. This new fun activity is promised to bring additional revenue to the club and some spending money for the lucky winner.



**Harriett and Pam** worked together to take care of the needs of the membership.



**Margo** was selling honey for REACH and took orders for Poinsettias from REACH. **Eleese** introduced her friend, a guest, (future member?) to **Lynn**.





**Rica** made quite an entrance with her Halloween costume. A timely reminder for the festivities to come this month.



**Mary Etta** and **Christine** had a chance to visit.

**Lynn White** agreed to take over the committee chair position for the Brookwood Community held by **Terri Cole** for a few years already.



President **Barbara** was pleased about the volunteer activity of the club.



# Hospitality



The hostesses, **Debbie Jones, Cathy Rogers, Pat Gauger, Harriett Bedenbaugh** and **Bobby Washburn**, outdid themselves with a Fall themed spread.

A variety of bakeware, fruits, cheese and nuts were enjoyed by everyone.



**Cathy and Lois**



**Anky and Marylyn**

## Meditation

### *Golden Leaves*

*We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,  
shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.*

*We sense it's passing in rain that dampens,  
winds that chill, harvest's bounty placed on show.*

*Creator God, who brings forth  
both green shoot and hoar frost,  
sunrise and sunset, we bring our thanks  
for seeds that have grown,  
harvests gathered,  
storehouses filled,  
mouths fed.*

*And, as your good earth rests  
through winter's cold embrace,  
we look forward to its re-awakening  
when kissed by Spring's first touch.*



*Author Unknown*



## Program



Our speaker today, introduced by **Bette** Gerhold, was Kimberly Orsak. Kimberly decided to get away from using chemicals and toxins in her yard and dedicated herself to learn as much as possible about organic principles. Her presentation focused on making the transition to organic gardening with natural products such as bone meal, Epsom salt, molasses, humates and trace minerals. She uses Medina products as they have a mixture of organic elements for various gardening applications. She reported on her experiences and explained the use and benefits of each item.

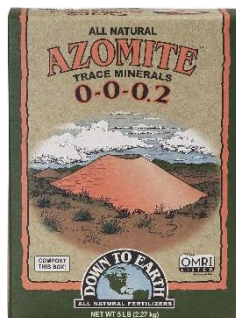
Like plants and animals, soil is a living organism and must be nourished to stay healthy. She recommends to mix potting soil and other gardening soils we buy with regular dirt from the garden when planting new plants. Adding organic matter will built up the beneficial microbes in the soil. Chemicals and salts of synthetic fertilizers kill these important organisms. She recommended amending the soil with compost.

### Soil Amendments

**Compost** is created through the aerobic decomposition of organic materials by microorganisms. Organic materials include grass clippings, leaves, yard and tree trimmings, and food scraps. The end product, compost, can be used to build healthy soil that will provide nutrients to plants. When added to a vegetable or flower bed, it retains moisture and increases the uptake to nutrients by the plants.

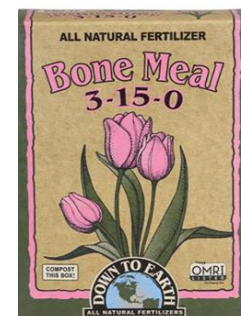


**Epsom salt** (magnesium) sprinkled around the plants balances minerals in the soil, increases chlorophyll production and stimulated blooms.



**Azomite** is a broad spectrum natural mineral product mined from a unique deposit in Utah, USA. The combination of 90 crystalline minerals is distinct from any other mineral deposit in the world. Minerals are essential to enhance soil structure and healthy root development.

**Bone Meal** delivers phosphor to the soil, strengthens roots, increases resistance to pests and prevents bloom drop. It also holds on to moisture in the soil and retains nutrients.



## Fertilizers

Synthetic fertilizers are especially bad for the environment. Kimberly learned that every plant has the same nutritional requirements. Rather than buying different products for specific plants, she uses a well-balanced liquid fertilizer for all of her vegetation. Diluted in a sprayer, she wets the foliage every 3 weeks and uses it to drench the soil if a plant needs a little extra help.

The *Medina* products she recommends (Hasta Gro, Max Bloom and Liquid Fish) contain combinations of fish emulsion, molasses, humic & fluvic acids, seaweed, apple cider vinegar, calcium and trace minerals.

**Compost Tea** - is water infused with organic compost and aerated. The resulting brewed liquid is a concentrate of bacteria, fungi, and other organisms. It is an easily absorbed, nutrient-dense liquid used to fertilize plants. Vit C can be added to decrease the chlorine in the water.

Plants that come out of dormancy, seedlings and newly transplanted plants may need a little extra help. For this, Ms. Orsak recommended an application of **Garrett Juice**.

To make it yourself just follow the recipe:

- 2 cups compost tea
- 1 Tbsp Molasses
- 1 Tbsp Seaweed
- 1 Tbsp Fish emulsion
- 1 Tbsp Apple cider vinegar

An application of this will stimulate root development, grow lush foliage and fertilize the soil.

## Pesticides

Preventive care of our gardens can eliminate the use of toxic chemical pesticides. Use less harmful agents to eliminate and prevent pests from attacking the plants.

An application of **seaweed**, **garlic** and **molasses** sprayed on foliage will prevent bugs from settling on the plants. Dilute mixture with water (50%) and spray on setting 2 or 2.5.

**Insecticidal soap** – will make leaves distasteful to bugs. **Super Insecticidal soap** additionally contains Spinosad, a natural insecticide.

**Alcohol** – kills mealy bugs and is a disinfectant. Use it also to clean garden tools.



**Hydrogen peroxide** – has antifungal properties and can be sprayed on affected areas. It also aerates the soil and removes mildew from birdbaths.

**Orange oil** - use diluted product to kill ants and some weeds.

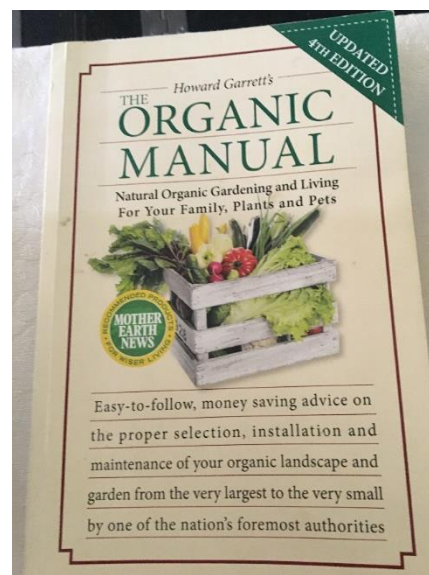
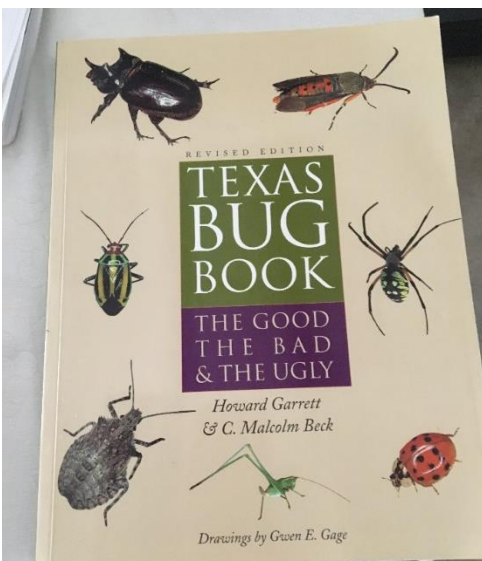
**Neem Oil** - is a fungicide and insecticide. It has a short shelf life, use within 6 months of purchase.

**Cinnamon** – prevents bacteria and fungus. Use as a rooting agent as it prevents rot on new cuttings. Deters ants and mice.

**Cornmeal and garlic** – lightly sprinkle around plants or dissolve in water and use solution in a sprayer bottle. It is anti-fungal, prevents root rot and helps seedlings survive; fights black spot and rust.

**Superthrive** – high nutritional product that can pull a plant back from the brink of death.

All these remedies will not work if the plant is not suitable for our climate. As Ms. Orsak stated, we cannot control the weather or Mother Nature but we can choose the right plants, add nutrients and water to ensure gardening success. She recommended 2 books that guided her through her learning process and might be helpful to us as well.



She answered many of our questions and we appreciated her program very much.

The meeting continued with reports from committee chairs.

**Jean** Robinson announced October birthdays and the Flower of the month, the **Marigold Flower** (*Tagetes*)

With their vibrantly colored petals, marigolds are appreciated for their beauty but also for their practical properties. Native to South America the plant and its various species can be found in many places around the world. The common English name, first used in Europe, is derived from *Mary's gold* in honor of the Virgin Mary.



Commonly referred to as the '*herb of the sun*,' the flower's fiery yellow, orange, and red hues carry meanings of warmth, happiness, optimism, joy and good luck. Many cultures associate marigold flowers with resurrection and the practices of



remembrance and honoring the dead as during the Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) holiday celebrated in Mexico and elsewhere. The Marigold's vivid orange flowers came to represent the sun and light that guide the souls of the departed back to the land of the living during the holiday.

Marigolds thrive in full sun and well-drained soil. They don't require much maintenance, are heat and drought tolerant.

Marigolds are recorded as a food plant for some caterpillars including the dot moth, and are a nectar source for butterflies and bumblebees.

The blossoms and foliage release a pungent odor that repels insects like aphids, mosquitoes, and nematodes from vegetable gardens. Plant marigolds among tomatoes, peppers, and other crops for natural pest protection.

<https://www.snapblooms.com/blog/marigold-flower-meaning/>

## Transportation



Last chance to sign up for a bus trip to Mercer Arboretum on October 16. **Donna** procured a Precinct bus for us and **Bette** made reservation for a guided tour through the park.

### Librarian

We talked about the history of the Brookwood Community and the book that tells the story at the last meeting. Harolene brought her own copy to lend to anyone interested.







**Historian**, Gabriele Klopp, presented the president's book to **Harriette Bedenbaugh**, our last president. The book is a narration of the clubs meeting, trips and various activities during Harriet's presidency. A second copy will be in the library for anyone to check out.

