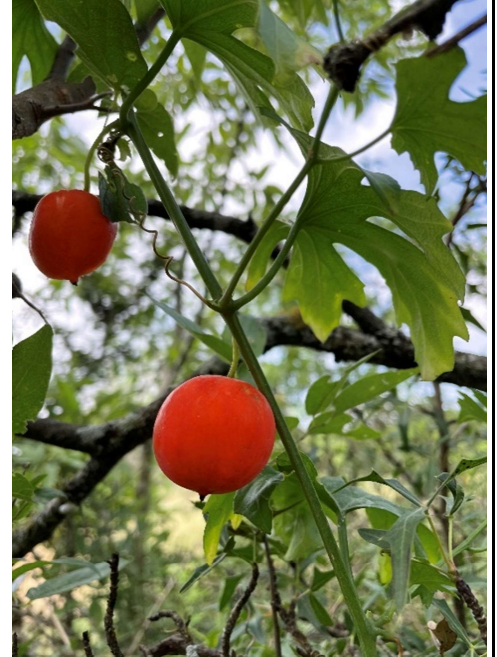


**WHAT'S HAPPENIN' ON THE HILL**  
**NATURAL HISTORY OF HAYS COUNTY**  
Beacon Hill, Buda, Texas  
July 2021

**FLOWERS AREN'T EVERYTHING**

Here on the hill many of our summertime favorites, like sunflower and lantana, are still in full bloom. Meanwhile, responding to dry weather throughout most of June, many springtime bloomers have shifted gears and are devoting remaining energies into the production of fruit and seed. Native grapes, plums, cactus and grasses, among others, are already preparing for next year. These two are also caught up in the act.

**LINDHEIMER'S GLOBEBERRY, *Ibervillea lindheimeri***, is a perennial vine found growing from southwestern Oklahoma through Texas and into Mexico. The climbing vine, which sprouts from a large, drought resistant rootstock, can reach 9' tall and is found in partly sunny locations on shrubs and small trees. The eye-catching round fruit is 1.5" across and bright orange to red with soft fleshy skin that is neither toxic nor tasty, but desired by birds and small mammals. The plant has ½" yellow flowers with 5 petals and alternate 2-4" leaves with 3-5 lobes. It was named by Harvard botanist Asa Gray in honor of Ferdinand Jacob Lindheimer (1801-1879), the Father of Texas Botany, who lived and worked in New Braunfels. Lindheimer collected tens of thousands of plant specimens across Texas from Galveston to the Hill Country and down to Mexico. His plant collections are found around the world in over 50 herbaria, from Australia to Europe to South America and across the USA. There are 362 plant names based on his collections, and 65 plants are named in his honor.



aka Balsam Gourd is a member of the Cucumber family (Cucurbitaceae)

**CANE BLUESTEM, *Bothriochloa barbinodis***, is a tall perennial, warm season bunchgrass found growing in open country primarily from the western 2/3 of Texas to Oklahoma and west to California and south to Argentina. Growing over 4' tall, this is one of our taller grasses and it is eagerly consumed early in the growing season by grazing animals. Grass family members produce a dry fruit we call a grain, or caryopsis, and the Cane Bluestem has a rather showy seedhead. Indians used various bluestems in medicines and crafts. The species name is in reference to the bearded nodes found on the tall stems, which also gives it another common name, Cane Beardgrass. The plant was first described by Spaniard Mariano Lagasca (1776-1839), Director of the Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid, through examinations of plants & drawings brought back to Spain in the previous century by the Royal Botanical Expedition to New Spain.



Cane Bluestem is a member of the Grass family (Poaceae)

By Eric Beckers, Natural Heritage Committee  
Hays County Historical Commission