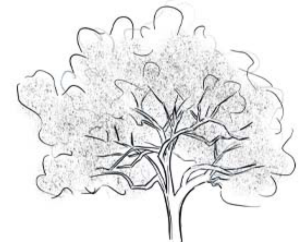




Gardens of Oak Hollow

A SMALL COMMUNITY WITH A BIG HEART

Neighborly News



Number 088

June 4, 2024

The Boy Who Designed the U.S. Flag



Flag Day
June 18, 2024

History

No country has changed its flag as frequently as the United States.

The current flag law was enacted in 1817 and permanently limited the number of stripes to 13. The stars were to correspond to the number of states, with new stars added to the flag the following Fourth of July. Star arrangement is not specified.

Throughout the 19th century a variety of exuberant star designs—“great luminaries,” rings, ovals, and diamonds—were actually used. Finally, in 1912, President Taft set forth exact regulations for all flag details.

The original, sometimes dubbed “The Betsy Ross”—though few researchers express confidence that Ross created the first flag—displayed 13 stars and 13 stripes, with the stars arranged in a circle.

High School Junior

In the late 1950s, as Alaska and Hawaii were being considered for statehood, President Dwight Eisenhower asked for design proposals for a new flag.

Young Bob Heft was a junior in Lancaster (Ohio) High School when his American History teacher gave an assignment to create a project to illustrate their interest in history. The 17 year-old Heft knew the new states would join the union, so he planned to design an American flag with 50 stars.

Bob took an old flag stored in a closet in his grandparents' home and cut out its star-covered blue field and replaced it with \$2 worth of blue cotton fabric. Using a cardboard pattern as a guide, he traced the stars on white iron-on tape and arranged them on the flag - five rows of six stars with four alternation rows of five stars.

Despite Bob's hardwork on the project, his teacher gave him a B-minus for his effort. When Bob protested the teacher said he would change the grade if Congress accepted the flag design. Not easily daunted, Bob hopped on his bike and rode to the nearby home of Congressman Walter Moeller, who promised to take the flag to Washington.

Among the hundreds of submissions received, there were reportedly at least three for the current flag. Most famously, one of those had been sent by then-high school junior Bob Heft of Ohio, who had designed the 50-star flag for a class assignment. Heft,

who died in 2009, received a B- from an unimpressed teacher, who reportedly called the design unoriginal.

Alaska and Hawaii joined the nation in 1959. Bob received a phone call from President Dwight Eisenhower who told him his design had been accepted to replace the 49-star flag. It is estimated that more than 1,500 people offered designs, and several produced the same star pattern. Yet, he was given credit for the design, which became our nation's official banner on July 4, 1960.

Bob's high school history teacher made good on his promise. Bob returned to Lancaster High School shortly after his design was accepted and his former teacher symbolically changed his B-minus grade to an A in honor of his accomplishment.

Heft's design had earned its rightful "A" from his teacher—and he earned himself a visit to the White House.

Source: OhioMagazine

Location Change



The location of our next bimonthly Garden Gals Gathering has been changed to Frances Menjivar's home: 12501 Enfield Park.

6PM Thursday, June 20
Hostess: Frances Menjivar
12501 Enfield Park

What Does Bimonthly Mean?



Twice a Month or Every Two Months?

According to Dictionary.com, **Both!**

Bimonthly can refer to something happening “every two months” or “twice a month.” Yep, bimonthly has, fittingly enough, two meanings.

You can always just be specific: “I’m setting up meetings twice a week” or “Let’s meet every other week.”

Or, you can take a page from British English’s playbook and use fortnightly. A fortnight is a period of two weeks. Fun fact: the fort in fortnight has nothing to do with Fort McHenry or the pillow forts you built as a kid. The word is smushed down from the Middle English fourtennight—the span of fourteen nights (days).

Lavender Festival



The Texas Hill Country is known for its rough landscape and winding rivers. But, alas, this rocky limestone land has not been highly sought after for its agricultural use.

French Connection

In the early 1990s, National Geographic photographer, Robb Kendrick, was shooting a story about the Lavender Fields in Provence, France. Robb noticed that the hilly terrain and the scorching hot summers there were similar to that found at his land near Blanco in the Texas Hill Country. He talked with the farmers and learned more about the lavender fields.

Soon after Robb returned from that project, he began experimenting with different types of lavender. The dry weather and alkaline limestone soils around Blanco make the area particularly suitable for growing lavender.

New Texas Hill Country Industry

In 1999, with advice from his farmer friends in France, Robb and his wife, Jeannie Ralston, planted two acres of lavender. They opened **Hill Country Lavender**, the first commercial

lavender farm in Texas, pioneering the way for a new agricultural industry in the Texas Hill Country.

After planting their lavender, the Kendricks gave seminars to others who wanted to grow the beautiful flowers. The

Blanco Lavender Growers Association has remained a united group, building upon the experiences of the Kendricks. These pioneers have endured periods of non-stop rain and periods of non-existent rain, each time more committed to this new agricultural crop. They readily share each new



experience with each other and with guests to the Texas Hill Country who share their love of lavender.

Lavender Festival

In honor of this exciting regional crop, the Blanco Chamber of Commerce annually hosts the Blanco Lavender Festival, the 2nd weekend of June. The lavender blooming season generally runs the month of June.

The Lavender Market, on the grounds of the historic Blanco County Courthouse, is always a must-see highlight of the festival. Select artists and craftspeople from across Texas and beyond will offer the finest lavender-related pleasures and treasures.

Hours: Fri 12 - 6 / Sat 9 - 6 / Sun 10 - 4

JUNE 7-9, 2024

INFO: <https://www.blancolavenderfest.com/>

Save The Date

Save
The
Date



Garden Gals

6PM, June 20

Hostess: Frances Menjivar

12501 Enfield Park

Garden Gals

6PM, August 15

Hostess: Terry Hill

1827 Shoal Run