



Of Leaf & Limb

Hill Country Master Gardeners Association

"Promoting education on horticulture and the environment"

July, 2005

Volume 3, Issue 8

Meeting
Wednesday,
July 6, 2005
1:00 p.m.
at the extension office.

Sandy Winokur, will discuss olive trees and the new industry they have brought to the Hill Country.

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President's Message:

It's official; summer is here. The good thing is the days will begin to have one minute less heat every day. By the middle of September, we will begin to notice a difference. Now is the time to stay in and plan for next year. Just yesterday I received "Advanced Bulb Sale" catalogs in the mail.

In case you've been on another planet and haven't heard—we are planning to offer a proposal to the Texas Master Gardener Association to host the meeting in 2007. We have been gathering information from Corpus Christi and Denton. These two groups last hosted the meetings. They have been extremely helpful.

Their input will help avoid many pitfalls in our efforts. Several of the basic committees have been formed and more will be formed after we receive an answer to our bid. These committees are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. In the near future, you will receive a survey in the mail. Please look at it and return it. Everyone will be needed to make this a success, so please say "yes" when you are asked to help.

Our ranks have increased by two this month. Sherlie Vangsnes and Sandy Martin have completed their volunteer hours and are now certified Master Gardeners. Congratulations and welcome

to the Hill Country Master Gardener Association.

Tony and I would like to express our thanks to all who have worked at Market Days this year. We will be asking for your help again in September and October. The weather will be cooler, I promise.

We hope you enjoy this month's program. Eileen has scheduled Sandy Winokur to discuss olive trees and the new industry they have brought to the Hill Country. She is a good speaker and has a lot to tell us. Please plan to attend.

by Fay Drozd

Don't Let a Good Buy Slip By

There's still time for interested Hill Country Master Gardeners (HCMG) to take advantage of the special bargain price on the new garden planner. The 2006 edition is being offered at an advance-sale cost of only \$7.50, plus \$2 for shipping and handling, now through Aug. 31.

"It's a great gift for gardeners, and especially us Hill Country gardeners," said Christine Millar, the project's coordinator. "This new edition specifically addresses Kerr County and its surrounding area, and the planner is being sponsored by local small businesses."

Included in the new garden planner are articles on edible landscaping, what to plant to attract beneficial insects, a section on roses that thrive in our challenging environment, plus recipes, resource lists and other interesting and useful tidbits of information.

The total cost for each planner is \$9.50, which includes shipping and handling fees. If you want to take advantage of this special offer, you can send a check or money order for the total amount of your purchase payable to Hill Country Master Gardeners. Mail your orders and payment to Christine Millar, 2006 Garden Planner, P.O. Box 1479, Center Point, TX 78010.

Advance-sale copies will be mailed in September when published. Don't delay another day! This special, discount is only available through Aug. 31, 2005.



We Want You!

We are in the process of gearing up to prepare our proposal to host the 2007 State of Texas Master Gardener Convention. This is a major undertaking so we are asking all our members to participate and help make this the best Master Gardener Convention ever!

Sudie Burditt, Executive Director of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, is providing assistance in trying to secure Kerrville as the convention site. In the meantime, HCMG President Fay Drozd is compiling information that will be helpful in structuring a time-line. Additionally, Fay and Anne Brown (MG class of 2005) are working on a survey for all HCMGs to identify talents, interests and availability to work on this project. Their survey should be ready for distribution soon, but probably not before the end of July.

In the meantime, below is a tentative list of committees needed to handle this endeavor. More committees will be added, as they are identified. The following list includes current committees, their chairpersons and a brief description of responsibilities. If you already know which committee you would like to work on, please contact that chairperson directly.

Advertising/Publicity - Carol Biggs, Chair

We are responsible for all convention publicity, banners and signage. Contact Carol at avalon08@yahoo.com or phone: (830) 257-2613.

Exhibitors, Vendors & Silent Auction - John Osborn, Chair

This committee is responsible for contacting potential exhibitors and vendors to determine space requirements and the nature of their product or services. We will be working with the Sponsors Committee on the Silent Auction, including developing a detailed procedure for the auction; soliciting, collecting and storing items until the auction is held; and conducting the actual auction. A budget will be created to determine investment and potential profit.

This is the beginning basis of the committee; we will expand our functions as the group is formed. Volunteers are needed to get the project going. Please contact John at: annajohn@ktc.com or phone: (830) 896-4614.

Hospitality – Chairperson needed

Chairperson and workers needed to handle all sorts of functions ranging from the Thursday night reception, which is being organized by Judy Schaefer, to assembling “goodie bags” and other welcoming tasks. Contact Fay Drozd if you are interested in heading or working on this committee. E-mail Fay at fdrozd@omniglobal.net or phone: (830) 367-2567.

Programs/Speakers – Dusty Gilliam, Chair

Dusty asks, "Don't you just love the speakers, gardens and projects in the Hill Country? Won't it be fun to gather up The Best for all those Master Gardeners in Texas? I want you on my committee." Please contact Dusty at dooster@starband.net or phone: (830) 238-3365.

Registration – Tommie Airhart, Chair

We will need workers on the convention days to process late registration, hand out badges, “goodie bags” and tickets for tours. If you like to meet new people and wish to welcome visitors to our wonderful Texas Hill Country, this is the committee for you. Contact Tommie at tla@omniglobal.net or phone: (830) 238-3528.

Sponsors – Annese Thomas, Chair

This interesting group will be calling on Hill Country prospects for “Sponsoring the MG State Meeting.” If you enjoy talking to people or you know potential Sponsors or you are good at gentle persuasion or you love raising money for a good cause, we need YOU! Contact Annese at jwtfish@ktc.com or phone: (830) 895-3049.

Tours – Kristi Gebauer, Chair

We will be putting together tours fieldtrips. Some will be educational; others just plain fun. If this sounds like something you'd like to do, contact Kristi at kgebauer@classicnet.net or phone: (830) 238-7696

Transportation – Chairperson Needed

Finance Chairman – Anne Brown



An
addiction
to
gardening
is not all
bad
when you
consider
all the
other
choices in
life . . .
Cora Lea
Bell

**Kudos:**

Sandra Martin, Huibert VanDemmeltraadt and Sherlie Vangsnes, our latest Interns to have completed their volunteer hours and become "certified" Master Gardeners.

Eileen Haden for doing such a good job providing us with great educational programs at each monthly meeting. If you have any suggestions for future programs, please contact her.

Tierra Madre Garden Club, and their President, Anna Osborn (HCMG Class of '02), for donating \$150 for our greenhouse fund.

Salvation Army After School Program

The Salvation Army has an after school program for elementary children. MGs and Interns were asked to provide some activities for the children in the first through third grades that would teach them about nature. Fay Drozd, Randy and Judy Simmons, Anne Brown, Sandra Martin, Mildred Coggin, Judy Russel, Phyllis Knight, Beverly Weedenfeller, Georgia Roth, and Jane Clint taught classes on plant growth on April 23 and April 24. Thirty children attended the sessions. Susan Sanders from the Texas Forest Service, along with the Interns and MGs, taught the classes on trees and helped the children identify the various species in our area. Two field trips were planned on April 26 and April 27 to teach the children about the plants along the river and the Nature Center's gardens. The Salvation Army gives awards to the children for completing the study on plants and trees.

by Jane Clint

Calendar of Events: (Attendance at events other than Master Gardener Meetings is optional: events are listed for those wishing to attend other educational offerings)

July 6 – HCMG monthly meeting at the Kerr County Extension Office at 1:00 p.m. This month's program is on olive trees and presented by Sandra Winokur of the Sandy Oaks Olive Orchard in Elmendorf, TX

July 8 – Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter, The Gleaners, meets at 9:00 a.m. at The Riverside Nature Center (RNC), 150 Francisco Lemos, Kerrville, to review methods of gathering and cleaning seeds.

July 15 – HCMG Executive Board & Convention Steering Committee Chairs meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Extension Office.

July 15 – HCMG '07 Convention Committee Chair reports deadline. Send these to Betty West at dwest@omniglobal.net.

July 15 – HCMG registration deadline for the Jr. Master Gardener training session schedule Tuesday, 7/19/05. Contact Laurinda Boyd, 4-H Coordinator, 257-6568 to register. Session is limited to 40 members.

July 19 – HCMG Jr. Master Gardener training session from 8:00 a.m. to noon at the Kerr County Extension Office. Only those members pre-registered may participate.

July 19 – Kerr Cactus and Succulent Society meets at 7:00 p.m. at Butt-Holdsworth Library, Kerrville.

July 20 – Deadline for HCMG newsletter articles (send to Martha Stevens at hnews@kctc.com).

July 26 – Gardeners of Kerrville meet at RNC in Kerrville at 2:00 p.m.

July 26 – Native Plant Society of Texas, Fredericksburg Chapter, meets at 7:00 p.m. at the Gillespie County Historical Society Bldg. 312 W. San Antonio St., Fredericksburg, new. Noon – 1:00 p.m. Fee is \$5 for non-members, \$3 for RNC members.

Committees

Education:

Judy Schaefer, Chair

Greenhouse/Market

Days:

Tony Pacini, Chair

Horticultural Inquiry:

Pam Bresler-chair

Carol Johnson, Betty West

Newsletter:

Martha Stevens-editor

Carol Seminara-assistant editor

Contributors: Betty West, Pam Bresler,

Jane Clint, Tommie Airhart

Nominating:

Tommie Airhart-chair

Otis Fox, Betty West

Program:

Eileen Haden-Chair

Volunteer

Hours/Record

Keeping:

Tommie Airhart, Chair

Mentoring:

Naoma Peacock, Chair

H/C Garden Book

Publication:

Christine Millar, Chair

Horticultural Inquiry Committee

A refresher class for certified Master Gardeners (MGs) on handling the phone desk is scheduled Wednesday, July 6th in the MG office immediately following the regular HCMGA monthly meeting. Members of the 2002 and 2003 classes never received a formal orientation to office procedures, so we thought those MGs might find this class beneficial. Since our primary responsibility to Roy and the Extension Office is to answer questions from the public, we want all our MGs up-to-speed on this job, not just our current interns.

Participants will go over the MG reference materials, phone protocol, filing system and other resources used in answering telephone calls. We will examine examples of previous calls and suggest effective ways to answer questions. Carol Johnson will demonstrate how to use the searchable computer database, which allows you to access previous questions and answers, as well as read the research that backs up the answer. Betty West will be on hand to answer any procedural questions on the phone desk calendar.

by Pam Bresler, Chair

Phone Desk Calendar

Our primary goal is to cover the phone desk each Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the busy growing season. You may choose morning (9 a.m. -- noon) or afternoon (1 p.m. -- 4 p.m.) shifts. If you feel more comfortable working with a partner, by all means, ask a fellow MG join you for your shift. We have a limit of two members per shift. If you want to know which dates need to be filled, e-mail me, Betty West, at dwest@omniglobal.net and I'll provide you the information.

by Betty West

Volunteer Hours Record Keeping Program

Interns turn in their volunteer hours at the end of each month or as soon as they complete their entire 50 volunteer hours, which includes 25 phone desk hours and 25 volunteer hours. Accurate record-keeping and reporting is extremely important now that many of you are completing your 50 hours. After you've completed your Intern volunteer hours, you'll record additional volunteer and phone desk hours on the MG timesheets and be able to claim mileage (maximum 1 hr per round trip.)

For those Interns who have recently become certified, you may now report your "Contacts" to me via e-mail at tla@omniglobal.net by the fourth day of the following month after your actual contact. In other words, if you speak to a group on July 18, you report to me how many were in the audience by August 4. If your neighbor asks you a gardening question on August 24, then you would notify me of that contact by September 4.

If you talk to someone about enrolling in the Master Gardener Program, be sure to get their name, address, phone number and e-mail address so we can contact them when it's time to send out applications for the '06 class. These also count as Contacts,. Whenever you e-mail me with your contacts, be sure I acknowledge receipt by return e-mail.

Also, Master Gardener quarterly timesheets are due immediately! If you fill up a page before the quarter is over, leave the timesheet in my tray in the MG office and start your next page. If you have not filled up a page at the end of the quarter, please turn in what you have. Second quarter sheets were due June 30th

by Tommie Airhart, Chair

**Hill Country Master
Gardener Association
2005 Executive Committee**

Fay Drozd - President
Tony Pacini - Vice President
Diane Whitney - Secretary
Barbara Robbins - Treasurer
Kristi Gebauer - Ex-officio Advisor
Roy Walston - C. E. O. Advisor

**Of Leaf & Limb
Newsletter
Committee**

Editor - Martha Stevens
Assistant Editor - Carol Seminara
Contributors - Betty West, Pam
Bresler, Jane Clint, Tommie
Airhart

**Comments,
Submissions...**

We welcome and encourage any comments or suggestions regarding this newsletter. Also, if you would like to submit an article for an upcoming edition, please send to: hnews@kctc.com. Indicate "Editor HCMG Newsletter" in the subject line.

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting June 1, 2005

The monthly meeting was called to order by President Fay Drozd at 1:00 on Wednesday, June 1, 2005. The meeting was held in the Ag barn since a previously scheduled meeting was being held in the extension office conference room.

1. Secretary's Report. The minutes of the April meeting were not available at press time and not printed in the monthly newsletter, so they were read by the Secretary, There were no additions or corrections and were approved as read.
2. Treasurer's Report. Barbara Robbins presented the treasurer's report. We are still solvent. The May Market Days' sales were profitable. However, the balance in our account includes the funds subject to being refunded to the newly certified Master Gardeners.
3. Vice President and Greenhouse Committee chair Tony Pacini reported that there will be an extra Market Day this month. Tony put out a call for volunteers and had a sign up sheet available. Tony further reported that we have plants in 4 inch pots that need to be repotted and 224 plants in gallon pots in the greenhouse--all paid for. Volunteers are needed to help repotting.

Other Business

1. Liz Althaus, co-chair of this years' Fredericksburg Native Plant Society Nativescape Tour, sent her appreciation to the Master Gardeners for their help in making the tour a success. The proceeds of the tour far exceeded their expectations.
 2. The Tierra Madre club will be presenting a check in the amount of \$150 to the Master Gardeners for the Greenhouse fund.
 3. Club Ed update. John Osborn will be teaching a container gardening class for Club Ed. Fay Drozd will be teaching plant propagation. Club Ed will be having projects for kids. Catherine Crawford is doing the landscaping.
 4. Two new recently certified Master Gardeners--Anne Brown and Harold Pieratt--were presented with their certificates, badges and cards. James Lively was presented with his badge and class photo.
 5. Handouts from last months' meeting on composting, presented by Melinda Kneese, are available in the Master Gardeners' office. There are not specific compost tea recipes in the handouts, but extensive reference materials are available at Melinda's place of business in Stonewall.
 6. Newly certified Master Gardeners are entitled to receive a refund of \$75 from their application fees. Many Master Gardeners have donated their refund to the Greenhouse fund. If anyone else wants to donate his or her refund to the Greenhouse fund, cash the refund check and write a new check to the Hill Country Master Gardener Association/Greenhouse fund.
 7. A Junior Master Gardener training session for school teachers will be held on Saturday, July 19 from 8:00 to 12:00 noon. Master Gardeners are eligible to attend. The class is limited to 40 participants, so call Laurinda Boyd for a reservation.
 8. A nomination committee was appointed to select a candidate for President-Elect. The president elect will be the future president of the association. The position was created to ease the transition from one president to the next. He/she will work closely with the president and board during the year to learn the operation of the association. Otis Fox reported that, after much consideration, the committee selected Anne Brown as the candidate. Anne previously ran a hospital, so the committee figured she could run the organization. Otis asked for nominations from the floor. Harold Pieratt moved that nominations cease and Anne Brown be elected by acclamation. Otis suggested the motion was premature and asked for nominations from the floor. None being made, Otis called for a vote. Anne Brown was elected as President-Elect by unanimous vote of the members present. Anne said her election was her reward for being the first in her class to complete the hours for certification.
 9. Betty West reported that phone desk duty is available for seasoned Master Gardeners. There are openings in the calendar. Refresher training is available.
- The was no other business and the meeting was adjourned. Eileen Haden introduced the program on Wildlife Friendly and Firewise Landscape and Garden Design presented by Jan Fulkerson of the Texas Forest Service. She is a Urban Wildlife Interface Specialist.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane S. Whitney