



Of Leaf & Limb

Hill Country Master Gardeners Association

"Promoting education on horticulture and the environment"

November, 2007
Volume 5, Issue 11

**Meeting 1:00 p.m.
November 7, 2007**

Bobbie Schonaerts will discuss growing and processing gourds in our difficult conditions. A friend gave her a nice gourd and some seeds for a birthday and she has been raising them ever since. She is a member of NPSOT and was a Master Gardener in Houston. The Schoenaerts' gardens are often featured on Lawn & Garden Tours in Fredericksburg.

Following Bobbie Schonaerts presentation there will be a meeting of all committee chairs.

Highlights

President's Message	1
Calendar & Kudos	2
Update Inquiry Desk	3
Lasagna Gardening	4
Meeting Minutes	5
Scholarship	6



President's Message:



Anne Brown

Hi Everyone!

What a beautiful fall morning it is. I'm eagerly awaiting cool temperatures, and hopefully some rain. If we don't get some soon, our beautiful wildflowers will not show themselves next

spring. We sure were lucky to have such an abundance of them for our conference.

Speaking of the conference, the Scholarship Committee has done tons of research and come up with the parameters for the program. Thanks to **Fay Drozd**, who did most of the work, **Liz Althaus**, **Shereena Spangler**, **Judy Fleming**, **Annese Thomas**, and **Sandy Martin** for working on this. These parameters are located on the last page in the newsletter, but one thing probably needs to be said. We were originally intending the scholarship to go only to residents of Kerr, Kendall, Gillespie and Bandera counties. We discovered there were only four universities with degrees in Horticulture, those being A&M, Texas Tech, Tarleton State, and Stephen F. Austin. When we talked to each of these schools, they looked up their registrations, and there were no students from our counties. The committee discussed this at length, and thus set the one of the requirements as being a Texas resident with preference given to our coun-

ties. The alternative was to leave it as just available to our counties, and not giving the scholarship some years. Due to IRS regulations as I know them, we have to make some contributions, so that is the rationale for opening it to Texas residents.

Please review the Scholarship Committee's recommendations, and be prepared to discuss and vote on it at the November meeting..

Also to be voted on in November is the election of officers. Thanks to **Randy Simmons**, **Roy Eliff**, **Cheri Bolden** and **Pat Moore** for agreeing to stand for election as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Please remember that nominations can be made from the floor. Anyone who is unable to attend the meeting can email or send me their proxy vote.

You will notice at the meeting that the front garden has been trimmed up and looks great for the winter. Thanks to **Tony Pacini**, and his wife **Elaine**, **Cheri Bolden**, and **John Coleman** for turning the garden into what it should look like.

I hope to see you all on the 7th of November.

Anne





Betty West

Calendar of Events: Attendance at events other than Master Gardener meetings is optional; events are listed for those wishing to attend other educational offerings. Be sure to call and confirm event. Betty West

October 26-28 - Ranch Heritage Weekend, Hill Country State Natural Area in Bandera, Free! Enjoy programs and displays celebrating the rapidly disappearing Ranching Heritage of Texas in a beautiful Hill Country setting, including Cowboy story-telling, trick roping, and cowboy singers and poets, drill team, free trail-rides and interpretive tours, a live band and dance Saturday night, and MUCH MORE. For more information go to <http://www.hcsnap.org> or call 830-393-7037 .

November 6 – Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter, will meet at 2:00 p.m. at Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville. The program will be “*Firewise Landscaping*” by Jan Fulkerson, Urban Wildland Interface Specialist from Texas Forest Service.

November 7 - HCMG monthly meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the Kerr County Extension Office. Bobbie Schonaerts will discuss the growing and processing of gourds for artistic and practical purposes.

November 10 – Native Plant Society of Texas – Bandera County Chapter meets at the Medina Community Library Meeting Room, 1:00 p.m. Mary Reeves will demonstrate the art of wreath making, incorporating a variety of plant materials native to our area suitable for the season and long-lasting displays as well as fresh arrangements.

November 15 – Fredericksburg Garden Club meets at 1:00 p.m. at Wildseed Farms for a fieldtrip. Meet at the dining area (at Wildseed Farms), have lunch and then tour the facilities.

November 20 - Kerr Cactus and Succulent Society meets at 7:00 p.m. at Butt Holdsworth Library, 505 Water Street, Kerrville.

November 20 – Deadline for HCMG newsletter articles. Send to Eleanor Baldwin at baldwin@ktc.com.

December 5 – HCMG Christmas party at the Extension Office at 12:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share. Any questions on what to bring, contact Debbie Russell at russhill@ktc.com and she'll make suggestions.

You Know the Bamberger Ranch Tour Is Sold Out...BUT!

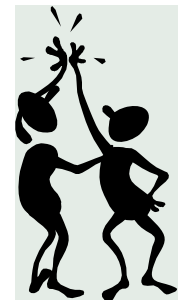
It's official! The Bamberger Ranch Tour scheduled for **Tuesday, March 18, 2008** is sold out. All of you understand (I hope) that there will be no refunds but what I'll do is serve as a “clearing house.” If someone has booked and paid for the tour but can't make it, they should contact me by e-mail and let me know their space is available. For those who wanted to go but failed to register in time, they can let me know they want to be put on the stand-by list. I'll put them in touch with anyone that can't make the tour. It will be up to them to work out the “finances”. Email Betty West at dwest@omniglobal.net.

Kudos to:

Pam Bresler, Joan Bryson, Debbie McAlister and Anne Moss for manning our table at the Native Plant Sale at Riverside Nature Center.

Cheri Bolden, Betty Burton, Joan Bryson and Anne Moss for providing information to the community at our table during the Kerrville Fair.

Cheri Bolden, John Coleman and Tony Pacini for trimming and cleaning up the garden in front of the Extension Office. Having nice gardens at the Extension Office helps make a good impression on our visitors.





How Do We Update the Horticultural Inquiry Desk Data?

Every month the total number of inquiries that Master Gardeners complete and document is reported to the Extension Agent. These numbers help convey our worth as Master Gardeners to the Texas Cooperative Extension System. The inquiries are tabulated from the forms filled out and located in the box on the MG desk and reported to the Agent and the MG President.



Cheri Bolden

Until April 2007, the results of the inquiries were recorded on a database that was used in conjunction with the filed hard copy to be a ready, local resource for answering gardeners inquiries. Many of the questions we receive are the same questions that have been researched and answers provided to previous callers.

Should one or two of the best answers be the only ones included in the database? Who is qualified to



When our group was new and small this reference was invaluable. Currently it has grown too big to be easily used. There are as many as 16 of the same answers on some inquiries. There is a need to consolidate the system if it is going to be of any further use to those manning the Inquiry Desk. There is even a legitimate consideration if the database is

useful any longer as "Plant Answers.com" is a more Texas-global alternative.

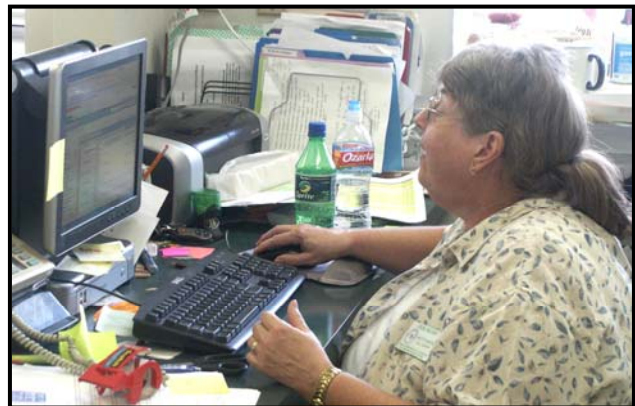
Dividing the inquires by the familiar sections of our Master Gardener Handbooks has not proven to be any more useful. Research has been done with other MG groups and some have developed a system where information is available much the same way as "Plant Answers.com" uses, by the presenting symptom.

Your input is needed.

- DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS how this database could be more easily and efficiently used?
- DO YOU USE IT when you man the Horticulture Inquiry Desk?
- WHAT WOULD MAKE IT MORE USEFUL?
- SHOULD ONE OR TWO OF THE BEST ANSWERS BE the only ones included in the database? Who is qualified to determine the 'Best Answer'?
- IS A DIFFERENT FORMAT a good idea?

Help!!

Please jot down your ideas and input and give it or e-mail it to: Cheri Bolden at verdehills17-heri@yahoo.com or Anne Brown at abrown@paterehab.com before the December party so your ideas and suggestions can be implemented before the start of our next great year!



Cheri Bolden inputting your answers to inquiries.



Lasagna Gardening!

(Ed. Note: Connie Townsend shared her many, many years of vegetable gardening experience with us at the October meeting. Among a plethora of good advice, she included the following recipe for growing on our rocky "soil.")

Having fenced (if you have deer) and built a retaining wall with treated lumber, cement blocks, etc., this is how you layer the "lasagna."

1. On the existing topsoil, place 20 sheets of overlapping wet newspaper.
2. ½ inch turkey mulch
- 3, 1 inch barnyard litter
- 4 1 inch dry shredded newspaper (wet thoroughly after putting down)
5. Sprinkle cottonseed meal over wet paper
6. Add 1 inch hardwood mulch
7. 1 inch soil mix

Ready to plant.

* *Any other organic materials can be substituted.*



ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT!!!!

There's nothing better than word of mouth to spread the information about our upcoming 2008 Master Gardener Class. The application deadline is **October 31, 2007** and if anyone you talk to is interested in finding out more about the classes, they can log on to our website www.hillcountrymastergardeners.org If they'll click on *2007 Master Gardener Class*, they'll find the *2008 Application*, more Information on the MG Program" and the 2008 Class News Release.

Don't forget our website:
<http://www.hillcountrymastergardeners.org>

HCMGs
Judy &
Randy
Simmons



Hill Country Master Gardeners



Anna
&
John
Osborn
(Market
Days Chair)



Betty
Martens





Hill Country Master Gardener Association 2007 Executive Committee

President - Anne Brown
Harold Pieratt - Vice President
Sharon Johnson - Secretary
Carol Johnson - Treasurer
Fay Drozd - Ex-officio Advisor
Roy Walston –
C. E. A. Advisor

Committees

Archivist

Judy Russell, Chair

Demonstration Garden:

Tony Pacini, Chair

Education:

Debbie Russell, Chair

Greenhouse:

Marie Brown, Chair

Horticultural Inquiry:

Diane Whitney, Chair

Jr. Master Gardener Program:

Fay Drozd, Chair

Market Days:

John Osborn, Chair

Mentors:

Judy Simmons, Chair

Nominating:

Randy Simmons, Chair

Programs:

Dusty Gilliam, Chair

Public Relations:

Chair

Record Keeping & Volunteer

Hours:

Ida Luckey, Chair

Speaker's Bureau:

Pam Bresler, Chair

Volunteer Coordination

Tommie Airhart, Chair

Newsletter

Editor – Eleanor Baldwin
Assistant Editors - Betty West
and Kathie Marlow
Photographer - Marguerite Belec
Submissions to
baldwin@kctc.com

**HCMG October 3, 2007
Monthly Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Anne Brown at 1 PM on October 3, 2007.

Announcements.

--New book by Doug Welsh, Texas Garden Almanac available now at a discounted price. Anne will order extra to sell at Market Days. Doug will be speaking at the Texas Book Festival in Austin on Nov 4 at 1PM and invites all MG s to attend. All in attendance agreed to purchase books for resale.

--Landscape Workshop given by Roy Walston still has a couple of openings.

--Calloways in San Antonio has agreed to give a 10% discount to MGs.

--First tour of the demonstration garden took place yesterday.

--Turn in volunteer hours to Ida Luckey. Time sheets available on-line or in MG office.

--Betty West will distribute via e-mail info on a research project on native plants as well as info on a Texas Watershed Steward Program.

--Looking for volunteers for planning the HGMG Christmas Party in December. Contact Debbie Russell if interested.

--Scholarship committee met this morning. Will present procedures for discussion and vote at the November meeting.

--HGMG will have a table at the Riverside Nature Center event next Saturday. Will also have a booth at the Fair.

--Request by Judy Simmons for 2008 mentors. A signup sheet was passed around.

Committee Reports.

Market Days and Greenhouse. The last Market Days will be on October 27. Volunteers are still needed. A signup sheet was passed around for greenhouse watering.

Education. The application form for the 2008 class is now available on-line.

Nominating. Nominations for the 2008 officers were announced. Nominations from the floor are welcome and may be presented at the November meeting. The vote for officers will also take place at the November meeting. Officers will be installed at the December meeting. Randy Simmons was nominated as President, Roy Eliff as Vice President, Cheri Bolden as Secretary, and Patrick Moore as Treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 followed by a presentation by Connie Townsend, *Veggies You Can Grow in the Hill Country.*

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon K Johnson

Thanks to the
Greenhouse
Crew
from Marie
Brown



My thanks to the September/October greenhouse watering crew!!!!

They are **David & Dorothy Buchen, Marguerite Belec, Marilyn Pease, Jean Anderson, Betty Burton, Ann Moss, Roy Elffin, Lee Fry, Jean Bryson, Rochelle Aymond, Mary Allen Meriwether, and Beverly Weidenfeller.** In the last few weeks we have had two additional helpers- a frog and a praying mantis. What a gift!!

The last Market Day sales of greenhouse plants will be on October 27th and so at the November 7th monthly meeting we will be having a plant sales...\$2.50 for most of the plants.

Save a spot for one of our own.



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE DRAFT
RECOMMENDATIONS

HILL COUNTRY MASTER GARDENERS
SCHOLARSHIP IN HORTICULTURAL
STUDIES

2008-2009 ACADEMIC YEAR

Purpose

Hill Country Master Gardeners, Inc., a non-profit, trained volunteer organization, a component of Texas Cooperative Extension, promotes volunteer education and service to the community. As part of our mission, HCMG is offering a \$2,000 scholarship for the 2008-2009 academic year. It is our intention to provide financial support to an undergraduate or graduate student at Texas A&M, Texas Tech, Tarleton State, or Stephen F. Austin Universities, who is pursuing a degree in Horticultural Sciences.

Administration

General administration of the Hill Country Master Gardeners Scholarship is under the direction of the Scholarship Committee of HCMG, who will evaluate all scholarship applications. An interview will be required. All applicants will be notified by May 1, 2008, of the selection.

Qualifications

The applicant must:

- Be a Texas resident. Preference will be given to residents of Kerr, Kendall, Gillespie, and Bandera counties.
- Be at junior level (60 credit hours) or above, with at least a 3.0 GPA
- Be studying on a full-time basis during the 2008-2009 academic year at one of the four Universities (full-time enrollment is defined as a minimum of 12 hours for an undergraduate, 9 hours for a graduate student)

- Major in Horticultural Sciences

Additional Information

The award will be paid in two installments: \$1000 at the beginning of the fall semester and \$1000 in the spring. The recipient is required to maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.0 and be a full-time student during each semester covered by the award. Proof that the recipient has met these standards will be required before the second semester's award is disbursed.

Hill Country Master Gardeners, Inc., reserves the right to withhold unpaid portions of the scholarship if the recipient fails to meet the requirements above. Award recipients may re-apply for subsequent scholarships.

Website of the Month

Cibolo Nature Center

<http://www.cibolo.org>



Shereena Spangler in our demo garden

