



Of Leaf & Limb

Hill Country Master Gardeners Association

"Promoting education on horticulture and the environment"

May, 2005

Volume 3, Issue 6

Meeting
Wednesday,
May 4, 2005
1:00 p.m.

at the extension office.

Melinda Kneese
will speak about organics
and composting.

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President's Message:

Time really does fly. Just four months ago we had twenty-six new students in the Master Gardner Program. Today we have interns who are busy as bees. Some are almost ready to be certified. Most of them even enjoy phone duty. Please welcome and encourage them when you run into them.

Market Days are going along nicely. Tony and his cadre of interns are really working. The greenhouse is almost empty. We are propagating like crazy to have enough plants to keep up. Tony has the greenhouse systems functioning and ready to receive new plants.

Most of the plants we are raising can be

placed outside since winter has gone and they no longer need the protection of the greenhouse. Besides, we need the room for propagations.

The solution would be a shade house because they do need some protection from the blazing, hot sun in summer. We are building an arbor behind the building and to the side of the greenhouse. We will have benches so people who visit will have a place to sit. It is not quite finished, but you can go take a look. When you do, take time to thank B.B.Browing for furnishing the lumber and the design. Tony and Randy Simmons, intern, and B.B.

worked in the drizzle to get the structure to the stage it is right now. They deserve a big hand. Also, a good scraper to get the mud off their shoes.

The state meeting is being held in Denton on May 5 - 8. I will be attending. The program looks interesting. There are also a number of neat tours. I am looking forward to it. Tony Pacini will be fulfilling his vice-presidential duties and be in charge of the meeting. I'm sure he will do a good job. The program is on organics and composting.

Keep digging,
Fay Drozd

Website of the Month <http://www.dripworksusa.com/index.shtml/>

If you're interested in converting your sprinkler system to drip irrigation or if you already have one, "DripWorks" is a commercial site worth your review. You will find tips, winterizing guide and access to free design service plus online shopping.
by: Betty West

Market Days Scheduled

We have six Market Days remaining in 2005. They are May 14 & 28, September 10 & 24, October 8 & 22. There will be shifts from 8:30 - 11 am, 11 am - 1:30 pm, 1:30 - 4 pm. There will be three people on each shift. You must be on the schedule to receive credit for time served. The interns from '04 needing hours to complete certification will be given preference in April. After that the '05 interns will be allowed to sign up. The sign up sheet is in the office.



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New Q & A Column

Ron Richerson, member of the initial Master Gardener class of 2002, is calling for other MGs who are knowledgeable on specific topics to join him in writing articles for the newsletter. For starters, he suggested someone else might want to address the subject of perennials in an upcoming edition.

Richerson feels it's time to share the wealth of information by expanding the pool of experts. By opening up the column to direct questions, more MGs could have a chance to demonstrate their gardening education and experience.

Members would submit

questions, which would be answered by MGs proficient in the given subject. The phone desk log could also provide a good source of suitable topics for future columns. A quick survey of April's inquiries indicated the need for an article on roses, specifically which varieties grow best in the hill country area.

As most of you know, Richerson's main interest is vegetable gardening, and he has written columns on this and other subjects throughout the HCMG history. In addition to a thriving landscape business, he has taught plant

propagations classes for the MG and has supplied, from his greenhouses, most of the plants sold at Market Days.

Richerson will continue writing for the newsletter, only not every issue. He wants to keep the job fresh and interesting for everyone by dividing the task among several other gardening voices.

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

May 3 – Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter, meets 2:00 p.m. at the Riverside Nature Center (RNC), 150 Francisco Lemos, Kerrville. See related story for more details.

May 4 – HCMG monthly meeting 1:00 p.m. at the Kerr County Extension Office. Melinda Kneese of Oma's Haus & Garten in Fredericksburg will speak about composting.

May 14 – HCMG has a booth 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Market Days at Kerr County Courthouse.

May 17 – Kerr Cactus and Succulent Society meets 7:00 p.m. in the Butt-Holdsworth Library, Kerrville.

May 20 – Deadline for HCMG newsletter submissions. E-mail your articles to Martha Stevens at hnews@kctc.com.

May 21 – Fredericksburg Nativescapes Garden

Tour from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. On-site tours of five residential gardens in the area. Tickets are \$7. See related story for more details.

May 24 – Gardeners of Kerrville meet 10:00 a.m. at the RNC parking lot for carpooling for their field trip to Medina Gardens

May 25 - HCMG Executive Board meets at 1:00 p.m. at the Kerr County Extension Office.

May 28 – HCMG has a booth 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Market Days at Kerr County Courthouse.

May 31 – Native Plant Society of Texas, Fredericksburg Chapter, meets 7:00 p.m. at the Gillespie County Historical Society Building. 312 W. San Antonio St., Fredericksburg.



Kudos:

James Lively, our latest Intern to complete his volunteer hours and become a "certified" Master Gardener.

Anne Brown, Class of '05, for donating money for tables in the greenhouse. More tables means more plants for sale at Market Days.

Ida Luckey for stepping in and taking over the scheduling of Mentors for our Interns who are handling phone desk duty.

Golden Eagle Landscape for donating two beams for the arbor being built at the Extension Office. This arbor will enable us to move larger plants out of the greenhouse and propagate even more.

Judy McClenaghan for hosting an Earth Day Party for the MGs on April 22 at her lovely riverside home. A really good time was had by all who attended.

Market Days and Greenhouse Committee members who worked so hard to make our first Market Days plant sales of 2005 so successful. Our thanks to **Ron Richerson** for furnishing many of the plants sold.

Betty West for organizing the office time slots for the interns, as well as sending e-mail reminders to them. The telephone is manned on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, thanks to our new interns.

Volunteer Hours - Record Keeping

Interns, remember to turn in your volunteer hours at the end of each month. By now you've figured out there are two types of forms for recording your hours: one for the Interns and one for the MGs, along with instructions on how to fill them out properly. Place your completed monthly timesheets in my basket/tray in the MG office. Keep the instructions sheet for your file.

MGs, report your "Contacts" to me via e-mail at tla@omniglobal.net by the fourth day of the following month after your actual contact. For example, if you speak to a group on June 18, you report to me by July 4 how many were in the audience and the topic. If your neighbor asks you a gardening question on the May 24, then you will notify me of that contact by June 4. When you e-mail me with your contacts, be sure I acknowledge receipt by return e-mail.

Thanks to the MGs who have turned in their quarterly timesheets. If you fill up a page before the quarter is over, then leave the timesheet in my tray and start your next page. If you haven't filled up a page by the end of the quarter, then turn in what you have. Next quarter's reports are due June 30.

by: Tommie Airhart, Chair

Horticultural Inquiry Committee

Refresher class for certified Master Gardeners (MG). Once the '05 Interns have chosen their phone desk dates, we'll need MGs to sign up for remaining open dates. Some MGs aren't familiar with our new filing system and database. If any of you would like to have a refresher on this new system, e-mail me, Pam Bresler, at bregal@kctc.com, and I'll set up a class. You'll feel more at ease working at the phone desk once you see the new system. This is so much nicer than the old way of researching.

by: Pam Bresler

Phone Desk Calendar.

Interns, please remember when you work your scheduled shift to initial the calendar page in the blue binder kept in the Horticultural Inquiry Committee tray above the bookshelves in the MG office. Also, be sure to record your hours on your monthly timesheet.

If members (Interns and MGs) wish to schedule additional work dates and shifts, e-mail me, Betty West, at dwest@omniglobal.net. Working with a partner makes it more enjoyable for some; so round up a buddy, plan lunch and come on out for either morning or afternoon shift and earn some of those volunteer hours.

by: Betty West

Notices!

1. Club Ed is looking for help with a gardening class. The beds are laid out and the maintenance department will help. They need someone to design the various gardens and direct (teach) a class on gardening. Anyone who is interested can contact me at (830)367-2567 or fdrozd@omniglobal.net.
2. Kerrville South has a new nursery at the intersection of Highway 173 and Highway 16. Alltex Nursery invites all Master Gardeners to an Open House on May 7.
3. I will attach the bylaws in pdf and Microsoft Word formats but will not paste it to the body of the email. Should you want a hard copy, obtain one at the extension office.

**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 – Ron Richerson,
Georgia Roth, Betty West, Jean
Anderson

**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.

Nativescapes Garden Tour

The Fredericksburg Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas is hosting an on-site tour of five native and xeriscape gardens in or near Fredericksburg on Saturday, May 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$7, and children under the age of 17 are admitted free. Advance tickets are available starting April 30 from Gastehaus Schmidt Reservation Service, 231 West Main St. Tickets may also be purchased the day of the tour beginning 9:30 a.m. at Marketplatz or 10 a.m. at any of the garden sites. Maps to the gardens are available at all ticket locations.

This year's tour features visits to the Bierschwale Estate, 110 North Bowie; Dian and Harlan Stai's home Mansesfeldt at 126 Cherry Springs Road in Doss; Diana and Jack Gotcher's gardens at Star Creek Ranch, 236 Doss Spring Creek Road; Liz and Al Napier's garden at 193 West Ledge Stone Dr. in Settler's Ridge; and the Pioneer Museum's demonstration gardens, 309 West Main St.

The tour gardens focus on using native plants in both urban and rural settings. Visitors can view and compare landscape designs ranging from structured to wildscapes.

Box lunches at \$10 each will be available at Mansesfeldt until sold-out. For more information call Liz Althaus, co-chairperson of the tour, at 997-7954.

by Carol Seminara

New Bandera Project

Two wannabe Master Gardeners from Bandera have taken on a project which is waaaay too big for them (their words, not mine). They are trying to make a new garden around the flagpole, and are rejuvenating the old gardens which were flooded out at the Bandera County Helping Hand Center. We need some help. How can you help? By donating plants (natives), and time. We need red, white and blue salvias. We also need gold lantanas and esperanzas. Really we can use most anything you can spare.

Eileen Haden has joined us and she is a Godsend. She is upbeat and a great person to work with. But we need more hands to shovel dirt and mulch. We and the Helping Hands Center will appreciate anything you can do. If all you can donate is money...hey, we'll take that, too!

If you can help, call Sherlie Vangsnes at (830) 796-8209 or (svangsnes@ev1.net).

Shirley Vangsnes
Hubert VanDommeltraadt
Bandera, TX

Spring Cleaning at the Good Samaritan Center's Garden

Eight volunteers pitched in April 14 to give the Fredericksburg Good Samaritan Center's gardens a spring sprucing under the guidance of Peggy Benson, landscape coordinator. The group worked three hours, beginning at 8:30 a.m., pulling weeds, planting replacement lantanas near the entrance and cultivating and loosening existing mulch which had compacted during the winter rains. Some of the deciduous plants, mostly lantana, plumbago, Mexican bush sage and Mexican mint marigolds, were pruned. Benson said she had waited until the woody plants showed new growth before removing the dead wood.

Included in the group of volunteers were three Master Gardeners (MG) from the class of 2004, one MG intern from the 2005 class and four others. Debbie Russell, MG from 2004, brought rocks to line either side of a drainage trough built to channel runoff from the roof's several downspouts.

The next work date at the Good Samaritan Center gardens is scheduled Tuesday, May 10, from 9 a.m. until noon. At that time, Benson said the plan is to add gravel to the drainage channel, plant cacti on the center's west side, begin design plans for landscaping the back side of the building and, of course, weed. Although, Benson added, thanks to the mulch there aren't that many weeds.

Those interested in participating in the May work day can contact Peggy Benson by phone at: (830) 997-9960, or by e-mail at: peggyben@austinrr.com. Benson recommended all volunteers remember to bring their gloves and sunblock or a hat. She said she will let you know what hand and garden tools are needed when you sign up.

Benson also reminded that this is an approved MG project and the time spent working earns volunteer hours.

by Carol Seminara

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: Ron

Richerson, Georgia

Roth, Betty West, Jean

Anderson

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

Minutes of March meeting

The monthly meeting was called to order by President Fay Drozd at 2:10 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, 2005.

1. Secretary's Report. The minutes of the March meeting were printed in the monthly newsletter. If there are any additions or corrections, please email or telephone Secretary Diane Whitney or President Fay Drozd. No additions or corrections to the March minutes were made by the members present.

2. Treasurer's Report. Barbara Robbins provided the Treasurer's report. If any intern who successfully complete the MG program wants to donate their refund to the greenhouse fund, he or she should cash the refund check and write a new check and submit it for the greenhouse fund.

3. The president encouraged all members to read their newsletters, since much information will be printed in newsletter.

4. Roy Walston writes an Extension Newsletter which is available to the public. Anyone who wants to receive the newsletter, should contact the extension office and sign up for delivery by regular mail or email. This letter has a schedule of educational events.

5. Tommie Airhart provided more forms for recording volunteer hours. Two pages for new interns and one page for master gardeners. The instruction sheet is on the front so volunteers will read the instructions before filling out the sheets.

6. New Certified Master Gardeners. Congratulations were extended to David Hughes, our 2004 intern who recently completed all volunteer hours and became a Certified Master Gardener.

There are class pictures of the class of 2004 available for those who haven't received one. Call to arrange to pick one up.

7. Judy McClenaghan announced that she was having a party at her house on Friday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m. Please RSVP.

8. The changes to the By-Laws were passed unanimously by those members in good standing who attended the March meeting. The By-Laws will be published in the April newsletter. Copies were available at the meeting and will be available in the Master Gardener office.

9. The nominating committee for the new officer, President-Elect, are Otis Fox, Tommie Airhart and Betty West. They report that there is no viable candidate at this time.

10. Earth Day activities will be held at Riverside Nature Center on April 23, 2005.

There were no other questions or comments from the members present. There was no other business conducted and the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Diane S. Whitney, Secretary

Kerrville NPSOT plans Nature Walk

The program for our meeting on **Tuesday, May 3 at 2:00 p.m.** will be a hike on the Live Oak Wilderness Trail at Lady Bird Johnson Park in Fredericksburg. This trail was developed by Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center and includes a trail map with stops which are denoted by 4x4 inch posts. Part of the trail is adjacent to a creek and also a lake. There is a remnant of a live oak forest and native grasses and many beautiful spring wildflowers can be seen. Post oak and blackjack trees are growing in the more sandy and upland areas. The cliff along the edge of the lake is composed of Pleistocene and recent sediments deposited by Live Oak Creek. Buff colored sandy and silty loam deposits overlie a basal conglomerate of pebbles derived from the Cretaceous sediments that are being eroded by Live Oak Creek in its upper reaches.

The lake is the winter home to a number of migrant water birds including ducks, cormorants, grebes and herons. In spring to early fall look for Green Herons and Cattle Egrets feeding or roosting around the lake and along the creek. The marshy area below the dam is home for water loving plants, dragonflies and wading birds.

We will be guided along this trail which will take about one hour by guides from the Friends Of the Fredericksburg Nature Center. Wear sturdy footwear and you may wish to bring water and perhaps some bug spray- it's getting to be that time of year. The walk will take place unless it is raining. If the weather is inclement call the Riverside Nature Center for information.

We will meet at the Nature Center at 1:00 p.m. for carpooling or you may proceed to the Lady Bird Johnson Park on your own. The walk will begin at 2:00 p.m.

Lady Bird Johnson Park is off Highway 16 south of the city of Fredericksburg. Enter the Park and you will see a sign directing you to the Nature trail. We will gather at Pavillion 1.