

April 2018  
Volume 16, Issue 4

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**HCMG will meet on  
April 11, 2018**

**Location:  
Kerr County  
Youth Event Center  
1:00 - Meeting  
2:00 - Program**

**"Identification of the most  
common Woody Plants in  
the TX Hill Country"  
Jim Stanley,  
Master Naturalist**



**TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION**

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
provides equal opportunities in  
its programs and employment to  
all persons, regardless of race,  
color, sex, religion, national  
origin, disability, age, genetic  
information, veteran status, sexu-  
al orientation, or gender identity"*



*Jackie Skinner*

## President's Message

As our 2018 year begins to kick into gear, HCMG happily welcomes our new members, whether they have recently transferred here from other chapters or graduated from our 2018 training program. New members breathe life into our organization. They revitalize us with their enthusiasm, their eagerness to lend a helping hand, and they enlighten us with their experience and fresh ideas. They help to propel us forward, introducing us to current gardening innovations and more efficient ways of doing things.

For our students, mentors are an important aspect of their transition from intern status to certification. Mentors are often the first friendly faces to greet them, savvy helpmates and guides to involvement who offer warm hands that bring them in. Good mentors stay in touch throughout the initial learning period and often become close friends and working companions throughout their gardening experience.

I have been fortunate to have had two mentors. Even before I began my training classes, Gayle Andersen made this new student feel heartily welcomed. She called often just to check in, and I knew she would be there for me if I needed encouragement or a confidant. I loved her early on, and I still feel an uplift of heart whenever she comes into view. I think she's beautiful and cheerful and helpful; the personification of all a mentor should be. Just a couple of weeks ago, I discovered her likeness in my late winter flowering quince, *Chaenomeles*, which is colorful and lively and oh so welcome after several months of cold and gloom.



My second mentor, after I became President of HCMG, is Patty Zohlen. She has led me through volumes of policies and procedures, defined the difference between projects and committees, and done her best to teach me the proper way to conduct a meeting (not always with success). She has accomplished this feat with hospitality, delicious lunches, and the best hugs ever. She so reminds me of my Lenten Rose, *Helleborus orientalis*, which is already celebrating the arrival of Easter and Lenten season. Much like my mentor, it is steadfast and dependable, a living testament to the proposition that no matter what happens during the hard times, everything will eventually work out just fine. Its small cup-shaped blooms hide discreetly among dark green, resilient leaves, gracing my garden in understated elegance. I love Patty beyond words, and will never be able to express the depth of my gratitude for her care.



Whether we find our blessing through human spirit or flowery blooms, they should be acknowledged often and appreciated with heart-held affection.

**HCMG 2018, Calendar of Events** prepared by Raeann Reid

*Attendance at events other than Master Gardener meetings is optional. We list events for those wishing to attend other educational offerings, not all events are eligible to fulfill CEUs credits toward annual recertification. Please verify the event with the provider.*

**April 3, Cibolo Nature Center and Farm**, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. will present a Homestead Tour. Register online at Cibolo.org. Herff Farm. Open to members and non-members.

**April 3, NPSOT Boerne**, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Tania Homayoun, TPWD Texas Nature Trackers Biologist, will present "Texas Nature Trackers: Discovering Populations & Documenting Change for Conservation." This presentation will introduce the Texas Nature Trackers program and how it uses iNaturalist to support the Wildlife Diversity Program's conservation work. Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. Visitors welcome.

**April 4, Hill Country Master Gardeners**, 1:00 p.m. business meeting. 2:00 p.m., Jim Stanley, author and Hill Country Master Naturalist, will present a program on identification of the top 50 woody plants of the Texas Hill Country and will teach how to use the tree/shrub/ vine key to identify these plants. His books will be available for sale following the program. Hill Country Youth Event Center. HCMGs, interns and trainees. Public is invited.

**April 10, NPSOT Kerrville**, 1:30 p.m. Chris Anderson, immediate past president of the Fredericksburg Chapter of NPSOT and Hill Country Master Naturalist, will present "Mistakes and Solutions to Landscaping in the Hill Country." Riverside Nature Center. Visitors welcome.

**April 11, Cibolo Nature Center and Farm**, 6:30 p.m., will present "Texas: Protecting our Lands/Preserving Our Living Heritage." TPWD Executive Director Carter Smith and Dr. Roel Lopez, Director of the TAMU Natural Resources Institute will speak. RSVP 830.249.4616 or nature@cibolo.org. UT San Antonio, Denman Room. Free & open to the public.

**April 11, Rose Garden Club of Medina**, 2:00 p.m., Robert Brischetto, Cleanup Coordinator for the 18th Annual Medina River Cleanup (May 5) will present "Medina River History & River Cleanup." Medina Community Center. Visitors welcome.

**April 17, Hunt Garden Club**. 10:00 a.m. Dr. Ted Schulenberg, retired geologist and experienced guide, will present "Formation and History of the Hill Country." Hunt United Methodist Church. Visitors Welcome.

**Go to page 13 for addresses for all events**

**April 17, Kerr County Cactus & Succulent Society**, 7:00 p.m. Program to be announced, Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library. Confirm date, time & location. Visitors welcome.

**April 24, NPSOT Fredericksburg**, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Monica McGarrity, TPWD's Austin Aquatic Invasive Species Team leader will present "Growing Healthy Creeks by Managing and Preventing Arundo Infestations." Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

**April 25, 2018, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will present a hands-on plant propagation class. The first half will consist of a broad overview on the science behind plant propagation, as well as general methods of propagating your plants. The second half will demonstrate three different methods to replicate your plants. Workshop limited to 30 people. Cost of the class is \$20; participants must pay ahead to hold their spot in class. For more information or to register, contact the GC Extension Office at 830.997.3452. Gillespie County Extension Office. Open to the public.

**April 26th-27th, Texas A&M AgriLife** presents the 5th Hill Country Land Stewardship Conference. Registration is due April 20th. Cost is \$75. For more information and to register go to <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/ProductListingDetails/2505>. YO Ranch Hotel & Conference Center. Open to the public.

**April 28, HCMG field trip to Cultivar Farms in Boerne**, leave from Hill Country Youth Event Center at 9:00 a.m. for tour of the garden at 10:00 a.m. Directions from Kerrville: Exit 538 (Ranger Creek ) off IH 10, cross the hwy and access road, turn left at the second street. The garden is 2 blocks down on left at 122 Commerce Ave. Directions from Boerne: Turn off of Main Street at "Two Fat Boys." For more information call Judy Beauford at 210 380 3171.

**The determined Mullein**  
Photo Credit: Pam Umstead







## Hill Country Veggies

April 2018

By Allen Mace

A few months ago I wrote about planting garlic and needing to find a solution for keeping my dog Gigi out of the planter. Well, I put a wire panel over the tub that the

garlic was planted in and haven't had any problems since. A deer did come by and pulled one out then realized that garlic was not too tasty, and I haven't lost any more. I made a rookie mistake, the bed doesn't get as much sunlight as it should. It's too heavy to move so it will have to do for now.

This season I'm going to use 10 and 20 gallon grow bags. I first no-



Gigi proof

ted them for sale at the nurseries a few years ago but I thought they were a bit pricey. I got online and found some at a lower cost. I went to a local nursery and bought a load of garden mix soil, then started filling bags. I'm using the 20 gallon bags for tomatoes this year. I also got some 10 gallon bags. I'm not sure what I'll put in them, maybe some bush



Garden in a box

beans or squash. By buying these grow bags online and in bulk, the cost per bag was reasonable. After filling all

the bags and setting them on the porch, a few thoughts came to mind.

- 1) This is just another form of a raised bed. If you have poor or rocky soil, raised beds are the way to go.
- 2) I'm able to position them close together reminding me of the square foot gardens that some people like.

3) By putting them close together, I save space but still can treat each grow pot as an individual for fertilizing and watering, without having to treat the whole area. This takes micro-management to a new level.

4) These grow bags are portable if I need to move them later.

5) I don't think that I could have purchased the lumber to build a raised bed, the size that these bags cover, at the price that the bags were. I'm sure I'll find some more pros and even a few cons as the season goes. All in all, I'm impressed with them so far.

Early this year I had a tree die close to where my garden is. After cutting it down, I now have the space to expand the current garden. I'm allowing some kale from the winter



Grow Pots



Garden Expansion

garden to seed out. They were taking up needed space for the spring garden. By expanding the garden and using the grow bags, I'm able to let the kale seed out so I can collect seeds for next year.

I'm always looking to try new ideas and products. I look forward to watching how these grow bag hold up over the next few seasons.



Kale seed head



## Students with Dirty Hands Exceed Expectations at Our Pot Party

*Actually, their feet were dirty, too.*

*Heavy showers had everyone dodging mud puddles.*



Greenhouse Committee member Anne Brown, center, explains the potting process to Dennis Davidson, Janell Dahms, Donna Bellis, Chris Davis and Janet Welty. Among the plants to be transplanted are Mona Lavender Plectranthus, Verbena and Mexican Feather Grass.

Right: Trailing Purple Lantana, a Texas A&M Superstar plant, will be available at Blooms and Barrels. HCMG Superstars Debbie Bacon and Dee Dunton help transport them to the potting room.



Anne Brown demonstrates how to flare roots and fill soil around the established root ball of a small transplant. Carefully observing are Susan Roberts, Donna Bellis, Chris Davis and Janet Welty.

**Photo Credit:  
Vickie Killeen**





Dee Dunton prepares to pot Damianita, a low-growing, drought-tolerant Texas native with bright yellow blooms, while Anne Brown works on Mexican Honeysuckle. This 2-3 foot perennial attracts hummers to its orange tubular flowers. In the background, Debbie Bacon and Susan Roberts are busy potting



Now we're having fun! Janell Dahms, Janet Welty, Chris Davis and Jonathan Johnson work their way through a variety of plants. The extension office classroom became a temporary potting station as rain poured on the pot yard. After all the potting was done, the students pitched in to clean up the classroom.



What an impressive crew! From left, front row: Karen Buck, Betsy Scheffe and Debbie Bacon are getting the job done. Back row: Anne Goette, Joe Goette and Donna Bellis pause for a moment to pose for the camera. Across the table, Dee Dunton and Claire Nelms keep up the good work.

Photo Credit:  
Vickie Killeen





As the rain pours, Betsy Scheffe and Donna Bellis take shelter in the greenhouse and help Janell Dahms with geranium disbudding. Removing all the buds and blooms in the early stages will distribute more nutrients to the roots, resulting in a plant with a strong root system. Janell welcomes their help. The greenhouse holds 99 pots of geraniums, each with many buds!

PHOTO CREDIT:  
Vickie Killeen



Fernando Gonzalez and Susan Roberts help to transplant more than 500 plants for the Blooms and Barrels sale on April 14. HCMG Jeanine Capeheart, standing, earned extra stars in her crown for transporting the finished plants through the rain and into the greenhouses. In the background, Dennis Davidson works with other volunteers at a second potting station.



Anne and Joe Goette stay busy with Frogfruit, a Texas native groundcover. Flats of Cedar Sage and Fall Obedient Plant await transplanting.





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## Moving Day at the Greenhouse



6



4



5

Master Gardeners worked hard moving plants: from the truck into the green house; from the greenhouse to the potting shed, and from the greenhouse outside, all in preparation for the Blooms and Barrels sale.

1. Joseph Goette
2. Debra Bass & Janice Walker
3. Anne Brown, Anne Goette & Karen Buck
4. Joseph Goette, Donna Bellis, Karen Buck & Susan Roberts
5. Anne Goette & Tom Collins
6. Kara Grant
7. Kathy Lewis
8. Kathy Lewis



1



## More Moving Day Pictures

1. Susan Roberts, Sandy Lewis & Anne Brown
2. Donna Bellis, Bill Bass & Janice Walker
3. Kara Grant & Kathy Lewis with her two dogs (the dogs were not much help moving plants)
4. Bill & Debra Bass
5. Gayle Anderson, Anne Brown & Sandy Lewis
6. Karen Buck, Debbie Bacon and Kara Grant

Photo Credit:  
Pat Wolters

2



3



6



5



4





## I Resign

I am hereby officially tending my resignation as an adult

I have decided I would like to accept the responsibilities of an 8-year-old again

I want to go to McDonald's and think that it's a four star restaurant

I want to sail sticks across a fresh mud puddle and make ripples with rocks

I want to think M&Ms are better than money because you can eat them

I want to lie under a big oak tree and run a lemonade stand with my friends on a hot summer day

I want to return to a time when life was simple, when all you knew were colors, multiplication tables,  
and nursery rhymes, but that didn't bother you because you didn't know what you didn't know  
and you didn't care

All you knew was to be happy because you were blissfully unaware of all the things  
that should make you worried or upset

I want to think the world is fair, that everyone is honest and good.

I want to believe that anything is possible. I want to be oblivious to the complexity of life  
and be overly excited by the little things again

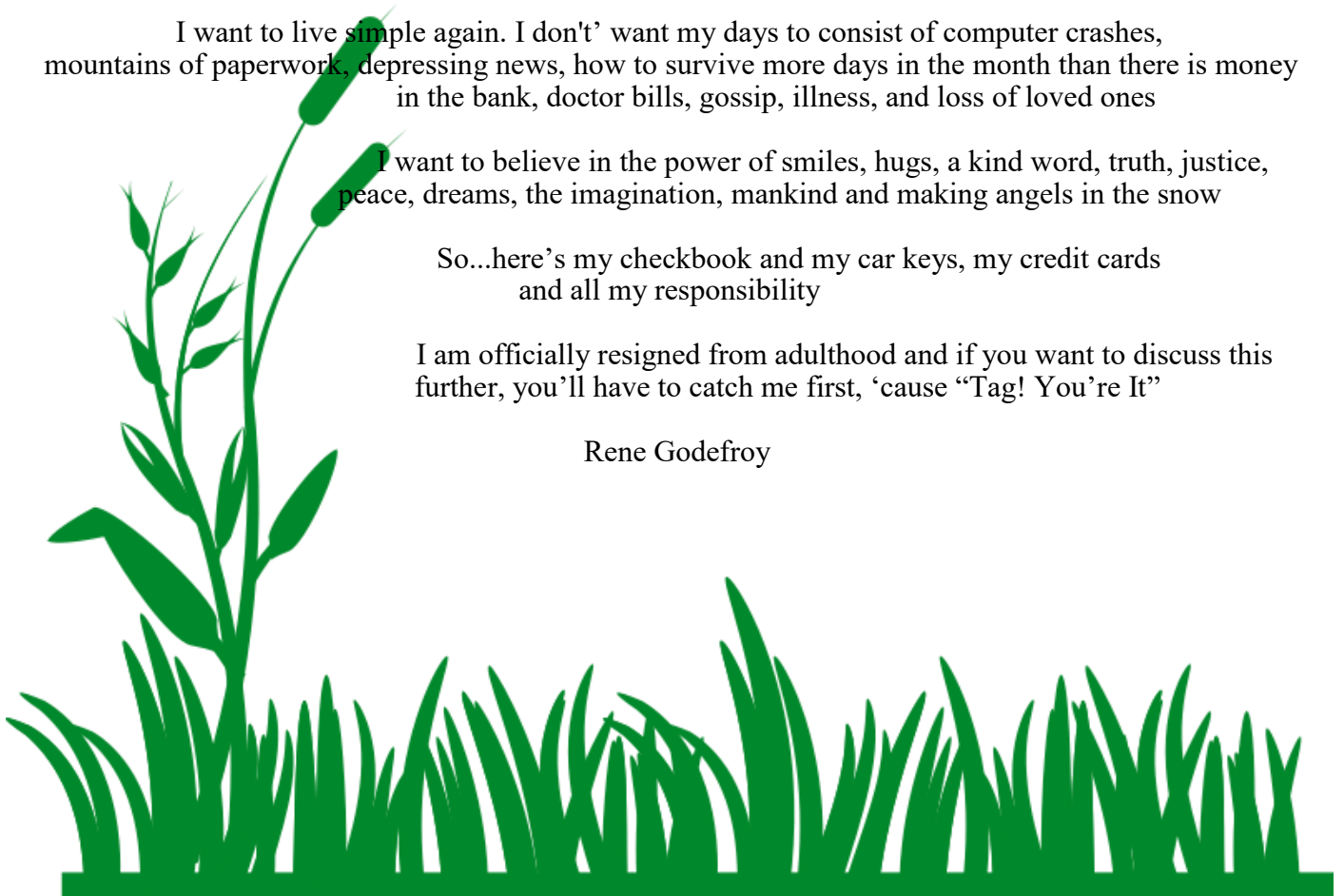
I want to live simple again. I don't want my days to consist of computer crashes,  
mountains of paperwork, depressing news, how to survive more days in the month than there is money  
in the bank, doctor bills, gossip, illness, and loss of loved ones

I want to believe in the power of smiles, hugs, a kind word, truth, justice,  
peace, dreams, the imagination, mankind and making angels in the snow

So...here's my checkbook and my car keys, my credit cards  
and all my responsibility

I am officially resigned from adulthood and if you want to discuss this  
further, you'll have to catch me first, 'cause "Tag! You're It"

Rene Godefroy





### **MINUTES FOR HCMG BUSINESS MEETING**

The monthly business meeting was held at the UGRA auditorium on Wednesday, March 7, 2018.

71 members, 3 students and 7 guests were present.

President, Jackie Skinner called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Patti Schlessiger lead the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Patty Zohlen gave the invocation. Quorum was verified.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Bernadell Larson provided the March treasurer's report. Jan Grimes motioned to accept and Sue Hall seconded the motion. The report was approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Greenhouse Status: Rachel Garrison's husband, who is an attorney, called the vendor and they have sent someone to help correct problems with the back wall vent.

Spring Field Trip to Cultivar Farms: Judy Beauford reported the field trip will be Saturday, April 28th. Members can sign-up on VMS. Those going can meet at the AgriLife Office at 9:00 a.m. to carpool to the field trip to arrive at 10:00 a.m.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Herff Farms Market Days: A HCMG volunteer is needed once a week to man a informational booth. If you are interested, contact Ginny Frederick.
- Background Check Cards: If you have not received your background card, contact Liz Althaus.
- Announcements for 2018 Training Class: Lydia Jones reported classes are going great! March 15th is Brown Bag lunch with Interns.
- Volunteer Opportunities Day: VOD will be held on March 22nd at the Hill Country Youth Event Center small classroom. Booths need to be setup by 10:00 a.m.
- Blooms & Barrels: Jackie Connelly introduced coordinators for the various duties. Members should contact the coordinator to be assigned a job. Caryl Hartman talked about needing garden items for her area: tools, pots, gloves, etc. Well cleaned tools should be left in the rain barrel shed. All items need to be to her by April 9th. Linda Proffitt announced they will be serving Chicken & Dump-lings. Ann Brown said there are over nineteen hundred plants, and waterers are needed. Sign-up on VMS if you are willing to water. Members need to be at plant sale by 8:30 a.m., park in the back. If you have a wagon, bring it on Friday to help haul plants to the Event Center. Angela Fiedler, Family & Consumer Science Agent will have Kerr 4-H youth available to help with carrying plants to cars.

- Logo Wear: Debbie Bacon announced if members are interested in ordering logo wear, the form is on VMS.
- Butterfly Garden at Glory Community Gardens: Donna Guthrie handed out brochures on the garden, named the steering committee members, and asked for volunteers to work in the Monarch Garden.
- Demo Garden Work Days: at 9:00 a.m. on March 21st and March 28th volunteers are needed to help in the Demo Garden. On the 28th a truck will deliver mulch. Jackie Skinner said several students have been helping in the Demo Garden.
- Riverside Nature Center Native Plant Sale and Festival: This will be held on April 21st. HCMG volunteers are needed to help at the informational booth. Frank Dunlap will oversee the booth.
- Market Days: Jerry Christensen needs four volunteers to man the informational booth on May 4th & May 5th, both in the a.m. & p.m. Contact Jerry if you are willing to help.
- Walk Across Texas: Angela Fiedler is asking for HCMG members to either form teams or walk alone starting March 19th for a couple of months. Walkers accumulate their miles walked, biked, etc. to try and earn the most miles walked. Contact Angela for more information.
- HELP! Wanted: A leader for the following areas are needed: Special Projects Chairman, Information Booth Supply Manager and Greenhouse Chairman Trainee. Please consider stepping up and filling one of these areas.

### **ADJOURNMENT 2:00 p.m.**

**CEU PROGRAM :** Raeann Reid introduced David Will who gave a wonderful, informative presentation on "Gardening Made Simple". It was open to the public. Raeann also announced that Jim Stanley, Master Naturalist, will be the April CEU Speaker, presenting on "Identification of the Most Common Woody Plants in the Texas Hill Country". His program will follow the April Monthly Meeting.

Hill Country Master Gardeners has been seen in several newspapers and other publications. A big THANK YOU goes to Dee Dunton for getting our name, and some faces out there!!!

Hours earned: 1 hour Monthly meeting, 1 hour CEU

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Schlessiger, Secretary



## GONE TO SEED???

Not this energetic crew! Anne Brown, Clair Nelms, Carol Brinkman, Jackie Connelly and Vickie Killeen assembled 486 donated seed packets that will be given to visitors at Blooms & Barrels and other spring HCMG events.



Photo Credit:  
Lindsey Forster

## Hill Country Memorial Health Fair



Linda Proffitt &  
Kim Courtright  
provide  
information at the  
health fair.

Photo Credit:  
Raeann Reid



## Students Tour Herff Farm in Boerne



Above: Students touring the vegetable garden.

Below: Betsy Scheffe tranquilizing a chicken by hand, and the Goettes peering into the wishing well.

Photo Credit: Caroll Edwards



**Hill Country Master  
Gardeners 2018  
Executive  
Committee**

Jackie Skinner  
*President*

Wil Rolfe  
*Vice President*

Patti Schlessiger  
*Secretary*

Bernadell Larson  
*Treasurer*

Debra Rosario  
*Ex-officio Advisor*

Roy Walston  
*C.E.A. Advisor*

**Committees &  
Project  
Coordinators are  
listed on our  
website**

**Newsletter & Website**

*Newsletter Editor*  
Pat Wolters

*Associate Newsletter Editor*  
Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to  
Judy Beauford for  
proofreading

*Event Page Editor*  
Raeann Reid

*Webmaster*  
Debra Rosario

**Submissions to**

Newsletter.editor.hcmg@  
gmail.com



Above: Anne Goette, Patty  
Zohlen, and Joseph Goette  
Right: Lydia Jones and Kathy  
Harris

Below: Susan Roberts and Patti  
Schlessiger



**Mentors and Students**



**Addresses for Events from page 2**

Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library, 505 Water Street, Kerrville  
Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Road, Boerne  
Cultivar Farms Mission Garden, 122 Commerce Avenue, Boerne  
Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension Service, 95 Frederick Road, FBG  
Herff Farm, 33 Herff Road, Boerne  
Hunt United Methodist Church, 120 Merritt Road, Hunt  
Medina Community Center, 13857 State Hwy 16N, Medina  
Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam Street, FBG  
Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville  
UT San Antonio, Denman Room, John Peace Library, 1 UTSA Circle, San Antonio  
YO Ranch Hotel & Conference Center, 2033 Sidney Baker Street, Kerrville