

August 2017  
Volume 15, Issue 8

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**HCMG will meet on  
August 2, 2017**

**AgriLife Classroom**

**11:30—12:30 Potluck**

**12:30—2:00 Program:  
"Bulbs for all Seasons"**

**David Will**

**See page 2 for details**

**2:00-3:00 Business  
Meeting**



**TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION**

*The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.*



**Jackie Skinner  
President**

### President's Message

During these dog days of summer I sometimes walk through my garden and think how grateful I am not to be stuck out there all day, with my feet sunk into this miserable excuse for soil, searching for something to eat and drink. This is the time of year, even more so than in the chill of winter, I most admire my garden's determination to survive.

July and August bring daily temperatures above 90 degrees. Such heat speeds up the normal living processes of plants to maximum rate. Simultaneously, extremely warm soil hampers plant growth. The longer plants endure such stress, the greater the injury, particularly non-native plants. Deeply growing roots can penetrate to a level of better soil temperatures and moisture, while shallow rooted plants and those growing in pots suffer most. This is why it is so important to mulch heavily in spring while the soil is still cool but no longer cold from winter. A thick coat of mulch not only retains moisture, it helps maintain a cooler soil temperature. Mulch applied in mid-summer may actually seal in the heat.

As if this weren't enough, our dry afternoon winds hasten moisture loss from leaves. When valuable moisture evaporation exceeds the plant's ability to replace it, leaves dry out and wilt...just as we do. Under prolonged stress the tips and edges of older leaves turn brown, then tender new growth wilts, and finally, dieback occurs. (Plants give priority to new growth so mature leaves are the first to be deprived.) Even bark and stems may become sunburned when a sheltering umbrella of leaves has been pruned too late in the season and new ones have not yet grown back.

Of course, choosing plants which are best suited to our hot climate ("thermotolerant" is the term) is significantly important to maintaining a Texas garden. Drought tolerant plants are able to absorb as much or even more moisture from the soil, than their foliage loses it and do it as fast or at a faster rate. We can help them along by watering less frequently but deeply when we do, and by installing them away from reflective surfaces such as swimming pools, smoothly surfaced paving and walls, west-facing windows, etc.

I have read that an inch of rain per week is what every plant wants. I'd love to show that article to Mother Nature in the hope that she would get on with it. As it stands, she will most likely wait until I have just spent several hundred dollars improving my drip system.

### **HCMG 2017, 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. We try to limit the listed events to those that would earn our members CEUs, but not all will be eligible. Be sure to call the sponsor and confirm event.*

**July 25, NPSOT Fredericksburg.** 6:30 p.m. social followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Dr. James Stanley, Master Naturalist, author and weekly columnist for the Kerrville Daily Times will present, "The Critical Importance of Native Grasses to the Health of Hill Country Habitat." Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

**July 29, Hill Country Master Gardeners,** 9:00 a.m. to noon. HCMG will present a drip irrigation program. Program cost is \$55. A link to the information sheet and registration form appears on the HCMG home page. Kerr County TAMU AgriLife Extension Office. Open to the public.

**August 2, Hill Country Master Gardeners,** 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. David Will, landscape contractor, president and founder of the Lindheimer chapter of NPSOT and founder of the Hill Country chapter of NPSOT will present, "Bulbs for all Seasons." Hill Country Youth Event Center. HCMGs and interns.

**August 14, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service,** 12:10-12:50 p.m. NOTE: This is a date change! Beth McMahon, Horticulture Agent, Gillespie County will present "Fall Gardening." See other topics, cost, and registration details on the HCMG website homepage. Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension Office. Open to the public.

**August 21, Kerr County Cactus & Succulent Society,** 7:00 p.m. Program to be announced, Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library. Always confirm date, time, and location online in latest newsletter at <http://home.windstream.net/wildfong/KCCSS.html>. Visitors welcome.

**August 28, NPSOT Fredericksburg.** 6:30 p.m. social followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. George Cates, restoration specialist at Native American Seed will present, "How to Grow Native Plants from Seed." Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

#### **Addresses for Events Listed Above**

Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library, 505 Water Street, Kerrville  
Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension Office, 95 Frederick Road, Fredericksburg  
Kerr County Extension Office 3775 Hwy 27 W, Kerrville  
Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Highway 27, Kerrville  
Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam Street, Fredericksburg

### **News from the Glory Community Garden**

MG Lydia Jones did a wonderful workshop for these kids from the community. After spending time in the veggie beds, she is pictured working with them in the butterfly garden - showing them which plants are weeds (they pulled them) and which ones should be left to grow.



From left: MG Allen Noah gave Mayor Bonnie White and Councilman Vince Voelkel a tour of the garden.

Photo  
Credit:  
Pam  
Umstead



## Hill Country Master Gardeners Monthly Program and Business Meeting July 5, 2017

The Monthly business meetings was held at the Kerr County Youth Event Center classroom.

57 members were present.

Vice President, Wil Rolfe, called the meeting to order at 2 pm. Tom Collins led the members with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation was led by Dyane Orrin.

Quorum was verified.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved. Kathy Guenther moved to accept the minutes, Barbara Elmore seconded, and the motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

Logo Wear: Samples of shirt sizes and colors are available—order sheets must be filled out and orders placed today.

Greenhouse Update: Anne Brown says the gravel for the greenhouse floor has been delivered, the floor has been installed, and there is gravel leftover.

### NEW BUSINESS

Children's Classes—August 9th: Mimi Stidham will need volunteers to help with the class as well as to donate the following items for the children:

Plastic ice cream containers

Gallon milk jugs (25)

Celery and/or Coleus plants

A more extensive list of supplies need-

ed will go out on the e-minder.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

2017 Graduate Certificates: Certificates were presented to Kathy Leonard and Shawn Richard. Future certifications will also be presented at each Monthly Business Meeting if the intern has completed their hours 10 days prior to the meeting.

New Demonstration Garden Chairman:

It was announced that Lloyd Kneese will head the demonstration garden committee—beginning today!

Results of Rain Barrel Class: There were 12 participants in the June 21 rain barrel class!

Drip Irrigation Class: The drip irrigation class has been moved from July 22 to July 29.

Propagation Committee Class: Propagation Specialist classes will be held on October 30-31; Tom LeRoy will be the trainer for the class. Classes will be able to host 30-35 people and will cost between \$225 to \$250. There have been 9 people sign up for the specialist class so far.

Update on UGRA Project: The project has been accepted and funded. Preliminary building repairs are underway so that the gardening project can move

forward soon. UGRA and the Kerr Art Center have coordinated together and will be conducting an art project created by children with the River Cleanup trash collected.

Update on Juvenile Probation Garden: Bob Huff and Lloyd Kneese along with the clients are progressing on the gardening beds.

Horticulture Inquiry Forms: Questions for our current interns to work on during their phone duty are still needed. Brochure updates: We will be printing 1000 brochures for Master Gardeners to distribute. Thank you goes to both Cindy Anderson and Jackie Connelly for the lovely pictures and updated materials.

### PROGRAM

August CEU Program: Not public. Our next CEU program will be with David Will—Bulbs for all seasons. He will be speaking about both native plants and bulbs for 1.5 hours. Our next Monthly meeting will also be our quarterly potluck lunch with an extra networking hour.

### ADJOURNMENT

2:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lydia Jones, Secretary



## The Ceremonial Passing of the Loppers in the Demo Garden

Six-year Demonstration Garden chairman Barbara Elmore (right) hands over a gardening tool to new chairman Lloyd Kneese (left). Barbara led a team of volunteers who completed a major renovation of the garden in 2012. Lloyd is the first intern from the class of 2017 to earn his certification by completing his volunteer service hours, many of them in the Demo Garden. The dedicated group of volunteers who maintain the public garden will continue to work under Lloyd's leadership.

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



## Work on the New Greenhouse



**We did it!!!**

Pictured from left:



Pierre Vinet

Joan Morgan

Sandy Lewis

Patty Schlessinger

Janice Walker

Anne Brown

Pictured in top right—Edna  
Platt

Not pictured is the 120 degree  
temperature in the greenhouse

**Photo Credit:**

**Patti Schlessinger**





## Boys and Girls Garden Club, Bandera, TX



Photo Credit:  
Caroll Edwards

A comment one volunteer overheard "This is my favorite day," is a slight exaggeration but does sum up our experience in the garden this morning. Ruth (Dr. Grubescic, Department of Nursing Professor at Schreiner University) began with introductions since it was our first summer day in the garden. She then led a tour as we all oooh'd and awed over all the beautiful produce. With such a generous turnout of volunteers, we paired off one adult to 2 participants and weeded, turned compost, and harvested tomatoes, peppers, okra, squash, lettuce, black eye peas, cucumbers and a picture perfect bright orange pumpkin.

We were thrilled to have Brenda back with us after teaching biology last year but not as thrilled as one of her students, Andréa. Dennis (Strauch) checked the water system and set timers to run daily during the hot, dry season.

Caroll (Edwards) added a spicy touch with cream cheese topped squash cupcakes and lemonade. She took one of the squash home with her yesterday to make the treats and they were yummy. After pictures, the nine boys and girls departed with bags full of produce. Ruth, thank you for being such a super leader today.

### Caroll Edward's Squash Muffins

#### Ingredients

1 pound any mild squash, cut into 1-inch slices or cubes  
1/2 cup butter, melted  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
3/4 cup all-purpose flour  
3/4 cup wheat flour  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/4 cup brown sugar  
2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt

#### Directions

Place one inch of water in a saucepan; add squash & bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 5 minutes or until tender (or use your Pampered Chef steamer in the microwave). Drain and mash; stir in butter and egg. Combine flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Stir in squash mixture just until moistened. Fill greased muffin cups 3/4 full. Bake 375° for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean. Cool for 5 minutes before removing from pan to a wire rack.

I topped with cream cheese frosting when completely cool.....Yummy!



Written by Sue Hall



**The Ingram Iris Round-Up** - At the invitation of Ingram resident David John, ten Master Gardeners harvested bearded irises that were in need of digging and dividing. More than 40 of the irises will go to HCMG's fall Propagation Specialist Workshop. Additional irises will be divided between the Propagation and Greenhouse Committees for future Blooms and Barrels sales. And, in return for their efforts, the hard working Master Gardeners went home with irises for their private gardens.



Clockwise from upper left

Using a digging fork, Carol Brinkman demonstrates digging an iris clump to be divided into individual plants. From left: Kim Courtright, Debbie Bacon and Dee Dunton watch the technique closely.

Shirley Smith (center) points out rhizomes and roots as Sandy Lewis (left) and Jackie Connelly (right) look on.

Kim Courtright and Brenda Heinsohn work at the far end of a planter box while Debbie Bacon digs in the foreground.

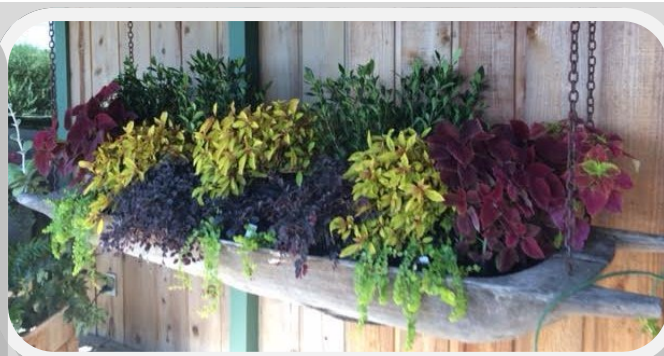
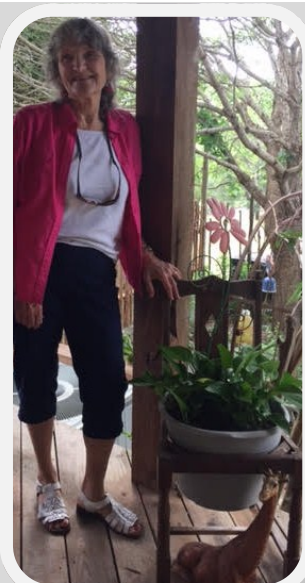
Homeowner David John (far right) greets some of his gardener guests (from left): Kim Courtright, Debbie Bacon, Carol Brinkman, Dee Dunton, Terry Lashley and Sandy Lewis.

From left: Dee Dunton clears a bed of Bermuda grass while Sandy Lewis digs irises. Carol Brinkman replants newly separated rhizomes that the homeowner requested.

**Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen**







## Plants in Unusual Containers

From upper left clockwise:

Diane McMahon with chair planter

Wooden trough at the Ridge

Cindy Anderson with succulents in old  
washing machine

Assorted succulents at the Ridge

Old metal wash stand with dahlia dai-  
sies

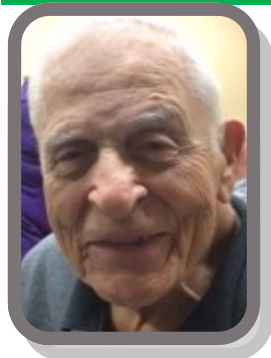
Wheel barrow with impatiens

Wooden hanging basket with monkey  
ears

3 Tier metal planter







## BUILDING AN ORNAMENTAL GARDEN DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

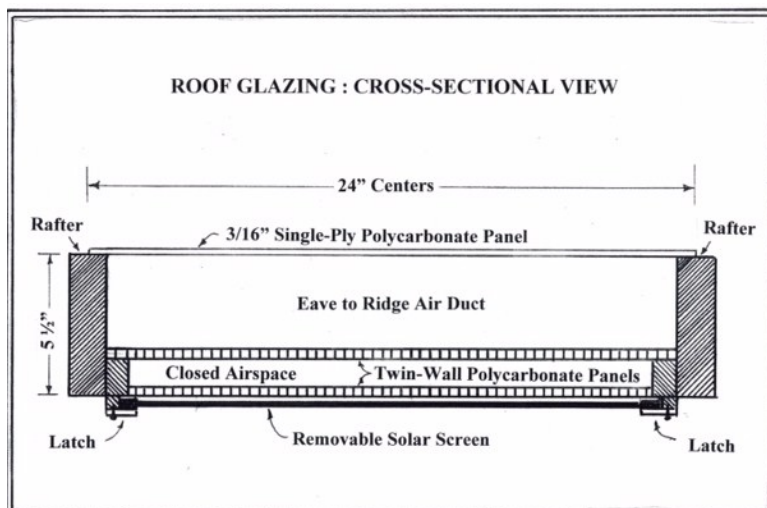
By Bob O'Connor

**Introduction:** We're now entering the dog days of summer, a time not good for foundational planting. [Did you know this canine allusion dates back to classical times and refers to the rise, in mid-July, of Sirius, the "Dog Star"? It's the brightest star in the night skies of the northern hemisphere and is located in the constellation, Canis Major. Its rise corresponds closely to the advent of the summer solstice and the flooding of the Nile River; hence, its importance to the ancients.] So, I've shifted my focus to hardscape construction work, this time to the conservatory (aka The Garden Room). In parallel I've been further exploring the evolution, diversity and defense systems of plants at a fundamental level and hope to write on the subject soon. This general field is fascinating but quite technical, especially for one not academically trained in the biological sciences. For me, acquiring a vast new vocabulary just to understand the subject is the primary challenge, necessitating full immersion and much time commitment. Because plants are sessile (rooted in place) and because they are mute, most of us tend to underrate the complexity and sophistication of their survival intelligence. Unfortunately, when some writers do take note, they often overdo the anthropomorphism and butcher the science, as was done in the popular "Secret Life of Plants" published a number of years ago. The tragedy is that books like this tend to poison the field and delay bona fide scientific research, sometimes for years.

Overhead Solar Radiation Control: Except for the additional light requirement, basic environmental conditions in the conservatory should be much the same as for any other room of the house. Because the sun's incident light varies considerably over the course of the year, it is necessary to have a way of seasonally modifying its intensity. This I accomplish by installing removable shade screens during the summer months that can be removed during the cooler ones. (See illustration).

Mini-Split A/C Installation: Also to maintain a relatively stable temperature and humidity regime over the year, I've installed what's called a mini-split air conditioning unit in which the compressor is outside, and an insulated copper line connects the exterior compressor to the heat exchanger/air handler mounted on the inside near the ceiling. There are no ducts which make this kind of system energy-efficient, accessible and easy to install.

Still to be done: Although the conservatory is now fully enclosed and glazing done (See photograph), a considerable amount of detail work has yet to be accomplished. This includes completing the stone veneering on the outside to match the rest of the house, installing floor tiles, finishing and painting the interior walls, building cabinets to enclose the utility stations and garden timer-control boxes and, finally, constructing Smart Benches to serve the conservatory's horticultural function.







## **Hill Country Veggies**

*August 2017*

By Allen Mace

Here we are in the middle of my favorite

time of the year to grow vegetables, NOT! When I was a kid growing up in Texas and Oklahoma, we never tried to carry the vegetable garden through the summer. We always targeted July 4th as the date to start pulling plants. The middle of the summer gets very hot and dry. It takes lots of water and fertilizer to keep the plants alive. I was never excited about putting up shade cloth to protect my plants from the late afternoon sun. For some, it can become expensive to throw out the extra water and fertilizer needed to keep your plants going. Years ago, I determined that my fall garden was my best garden and the spring garden was hit or miss, with thunder storms and high temperatures. I'll be getting the fall garden going towards the end of August. I saw this on Facebook the other day and thought it represented my summer gardening efforts. I did repost it and commented that "you will never buy

a tomato as good as you can grow one". My family rarely buys tomatoes from the store.

This summer I'm expanding my gardening horizons. I've joined the Plant Propagation Committee. This should prove to be very interesting. I have, in the past, started fig trees from cuttings, but that's about the extent of my experience in propagating anything. This year will be a huge learning curve for me, but one that I look forward to. The Hill Country Master Gardeners will be hosting a Plant Propagation Specialist Training event on October 30-31, 2017.



The newly-formed **Propagation Committee** held a planning meeting for the Propagation Specialist Class that HCMG will host in October. Texas Master Gardeners from throughout the state are registering for the 2-day workshop. Committee members attending the meeting (from left) were: Patti Schlessiger, Jackie Connelly, Duane Robinson (chairman), Debbie Bacon, Allen Mace, Lloyd Kneese, Terry Lashley and Lydia Jones.

**Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen**

Tom LeRoy will be teaching this class and this will be a wonderful opportunity to learn from one of the best. Shout out to fellow Master Gardener, Duane Robinson, for taking on the leadership role of the Propagation Committee and being a driving force behind bring this Spe-

cialist Training opportunity to Kerrville. One of the hands on training sessions of particular interest to me will be Tomato Grafting. I've been seeing this in the seed catalogs for the last few years. This will be very interesting and fun to learn. Duane was able to secure a lot of seeds, and I mean a lot of seeds, from a local business that was going to throw them away. Not to miss a beat, Duane deposited them into my lap and said, "deal with these." Man oh man, if you need seeds, we can hook you up. I've signed up for a class, the 29th of July, titled Manual-

ly Operated Drip Irrigation System. For years I've been wanting to try drip irrigation in my vegetable gardens. A slow consistent watering program will increase the bounty of any garden. If you grow colorful flowers, native plants, or vegetables, a good drip irrigation system will not only increase your yields, it will utilize re-

sources more efficiently. My only experience with drip irrigation was about 30 years ago and was not very good. Since then, new methods and materials have evolved and warrants looking at again. I am very much looking forward to this class.



**Hill Country Master  
Gardeners 2017**

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*President*

**Wil Rolfe**  
*Vice President*

**Lydia Jones**  
*Secretary*

**Jackie Connelly**  
*Treasurer*

**Debra Rosario**  
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**Roy Walston**  
*C.E.A. Advisor*

**Committees &  
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Coordinators are  
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**Newsletter & Website**

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*Event Page Editor*  
**Raeann Reid**

*Webmaster*  
**Debra Rosario**

*Web Assistant -*  
**Diane Boerner**

**Submissions to**

patwolters2865@hotmail.com

or

Newsletter.editor.hcmg@  
gmail.com

**Newly Certified HCMG**



2017 interns Patti Schlessiger (left) and Kim Courtright (center) received their certification diplomas from Vice President Wil Rolfe (right) at the July membership meeting. Patti and Kim recently completed their 50 hours of volunteer service.

**Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen**

**Public Education Class:  
"Build Your Own Rain Barrel"  
June 21, 2017**

After a one hour lecture on rain barrels and water catchment, twelve participants went outside and with supervision built their own rain catchment barrel.

**Photo Credit: Anne Brown**

