

December 2017  
Volume 15, Issue 12

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**Jackie Skinner**  
**President**

fountain grass in an autumn setting is incomparable, and the fact that they're in bloom when you buy them is a big bonus because you're given the opportunity to select one that most complements your color scheme. Because my garden is somewhat dark under the heavy shade of live oaks, I have typically chosen yellow. But now I see that, according to The Language of Flowers, the yellow ones signify slighted love (which explains a lot). Not being a fan of slighted love, I believe I'll move along to the red ones whose message is "I love."

 **Hill Country  
Master Gardeners  
will have their annual  
Christmas Party  
on  
December 6, 2017  
11:30 am**

**River Hills  
Country Club**



**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.*

The arrival of fall, resplendent in its shades of gold and russet, inspires me to write about Chrysanthemums. I know, I know. They're as common as my putting something down and, five minutes later, not being able to find it. They probably feel like stepchildren, being welcomed here only in the autumn when there's not much else to choose. But their ready availability from September through November should not diminish their value in a Hill Country flower garden.

The common species, Chrysanthemum x morifolium, or Florists' Chrysanthemum, is likely to be the one you'll find now at your local grocery or big box store. The miniature cultivars, topping out at 12 – 24," create a stunning low border. They're deciduous, but usually only during the coldest part of winter. Side by side they can create a miniature green hedge which blooms several times on and off through the warmer seasons, in merry hues of yellow to rust, light pink to burgundy, or white. When the flowers are spent, just trim their stems down to about 2." You'll be surprised at how quickly they recover with fresh flushes of leaves.

Their companionship alongside purple

While garden books admonish us to pinch them back, regularly fertilize, check them for aphids, and to beware of over- or under-watering, I don't bother myself with such efforts, but rather, give them a more relaxed, "you're on your own" lifestyle. After they've bloomed I cut them down with my grass shears. Occasionally they get a shot of good quality compost, particularly after Mr. Armadillo has ravaged his way through a bed and dug them all out of the ground. Mostly though, they seem happy just to have avoided the post-holiday refuse pile, and in appreciation go about doing their job with nary a complaint (unlike their master).

When family and friends bring a Chrysanthemum to your Thanksgiving table, please don't discard it after it ceases to bloom. You'd be shunning a posy that has been nurtured in the Far East for over 2,000 years and so loved in Japan that the Emperor sits on a Chrysanthemum throne. Find a nice spot, in shade or sun, and plant it for years of future enjoyment. Or to make me happy (which could be, and rightfully so, the priority objective here).

**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.  
Be sure to call the sponsor and confirm event.*

**November 17, Fredericksburg, Texas A&M** AgriLife Extension Service, 12:10-12:50 p.m. Beth McMahon, Horticulture Agent, Gillespie County, will present "Winter Squash – Growing and Cooking." Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension Office. Open to the public, \$10.

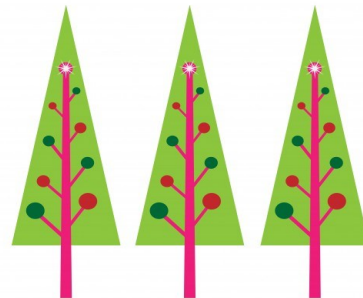
**November 21, Hunt Garden Club,** 10:00 a.m. Kevin Barry, well known for producing and creating unique art from the garden, will present "Growing and Decorating with Gourds. Hunt United Methodist Church. Visitors Welcome.

**November 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 at [home.windstream.net/Wildfong/KCCSS.html](http://home.windstream.net/Wildfong/KCCSS.html). Visitors welcome.

**The following organizations will not offer CEU programs the balance of 2017:**

Cibolo Nature Center/Herff Farm  
Hill Country Master Gardeners  
Hunt Garden Club  
Kerr County Cactus and Succulent Society  
NPSOT Boerne  
NPSOT Fredericksburg  
NPSOT Kerrville  
Riverside Nature Center

If you need CEU hours to complete recertification requirements for 2017, please contact Jackie Connelly, [hcmgvolunteers@live.com](mailto:hcmgvolunteers@live.com), for some online training opportunities. Online training is limited to 3 CEU hours.

**Addresses for Events Listed Above**

Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library,  
505 Water Street, Kerrville  
Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension  
Office, 95 Frederick Road, Fredericksburg  
Hunt United Methodist Church, 120 Merritt  
Road, Hunt

Organizing the books for the Propagation  
Specialist Training: Patti Schlessiger,  
Jackie Connelly, Lydia Jones, Melayne  
Arnold, and Anne Brown.

Photo Credit: Pat Wolters



## Hill Country Master Gardeners Monthly Program and Business Meeting November 1, 2017

The Monthly business meeting was held at the Kerr County Youth Event Center classroom. 67 members were present.

President, Jackie Skinner, called the meeting to order at 1 pm. Dyana Orrin led the members with the Pledge of Allegiance. & Patty Zohlen gave the invocation. Quorum was verified.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved. Dee Dunton moved to accept the minutes and Patty Zohlen seconded and the motion carried.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Jackie Connelly provided the October Treasurer's Report which was approved.

### OLD BUSINESS

- Greenhouse Update: Anne Brown spoke about the greenhouse needing one more thermostat and that the new door will arrive next week.
- Election of Officers for 2018: Anne Brown nominated and acclimates the new officers for next year: Jackie Skinner (President) Wil Rolfe (Vice President) Patti Schlessiger (secretary) and Bernadell Larson (Treasurer).

### NEW BUSINESS

None

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Dues and Volunteer Agreement Forms Due December 31st:
- Christmas Luncheon (December 6): Reservations due November 15th.
- December Charitable Donation: Hill Country Daily Bread Ministry was suggested for this year by Rachel Garrison. Hill Country Daily Bread Ministry was approved. Caryl Hartman moved to accept the charity donation for 2017 and Patty Schlessiger seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- Nominee for Most Valuable Volunteer for 2017: Please submit your nominees keeping in mind the previous winners and the current president are not eligible. Nominee should be involved in several projects and attend meetings regularly.
- Logo Wear Coordinator has been found.
- Invasive Species Citizen Scientist Project: To

be a permanent project.

- 2017 Graduate Certifications: Donna Guthrie and Nancy Person.
- Tierra Madre Garden Club Donation to HCMG: Anne Brown was instrumental in securing a bench for the greenhouse with a donation from Tierra Madre Garden Club.
- Update on Education Committee:
  - \* Classes planned for 2018 have been scheduled and instructors secured.
  - Forum Results: 11 visitors were present and expressed interest in Master Gardener classes for 2018.
- Results of Propagation Specialist Training Class: 42 participants, 2 from Kerr County: Sandy Lewis, Debra Bass.
- Update on UGRA Project: Work will begin in January
- Glory Community Garden: Fall Festival will be held this Saturday from 10am to 2pm.
- A Chair for Public Programs is still needed.
- Kerr County Fair, October 27, 28, 29 results: 20-25 contacts were informed of the Information Forum happening this Friday, November 3rd.

Today's CEU program for November: Joanne Hall — Ornamental Grasses.

### ADJOURNMENT

2:05 pm.

### PROGRAM

Beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Hours Earned: 1 hour membership networking, 1 hour Monthly meeting, and 1 CEU

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Jones, Secretary



## Hill Country Master Gardeners host Texas Master Gardeners at Workshop

Photo and Article Credit: Vickie Killeen

Can you find HCMG  
Debra Bass, Sandy Lewis  
and Duane Robinson?

### ***Texas Master Gardeners Propagation Specialist Class of 2017***



*"You guys know how to propagate and host!!!! Just loved your class! Can't wait to come back for the greenhouse specialist training." - Michelle, Collins County*

*"I want to thank you again for everything you and your fellow Master Gardeners have done for all of us to make our experience so enjoyable and special on October 30-31 at the Event Center." - Joanne, Galveston County*

*"...Relevant content, wonderful people, tasty food and snacks and super hospitality." -Jim, Brazos County*

*"Just wanted to thank everyone for the hospitality AND the 5 pounds gained. Couldn't have done it without you. LOL!!! The information provided was wonderful and will be put to good use down here." - Esmeralda, Hidalgo County*

### **The Eyes of Texas were upon us. And we shined!**

Forty-two Texas Master Gardeners came from far and wide - North Texas to the Rio Grande - to participate in the Plant Propagation Specialist Workshop hosted by Hill Country Master Gardeners (HCMG) on Oct 30-31.

Two days of extensive training, program materials, and plant samples equipped these community volunteers with everything needed to return home to their 22 far-flung counties and become local resources by training other Master Gardeners and the public.

Students were instructed on wide-ranging topics such as "Overcoming Seed Dormancy," "Air Layering Asexual Propagation." Hands-on work with plants, soils and propagation techniques gave attendees experience in how to take the information they learned and expand local county educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

**Instructor Tom LeRoy and workshop organizer HCMG Duane Robinson demonstrate air-layering.**





### **Propagation Specialist Class continued:**

Included in the workshop was a guided tour of the HCMG Demonstration Garden and its two greenhouses adjacent to the Kerr County AgriLife Extension Office. The 2-day program was organized by HCMG Duane Robinson (Propagation Specialist) and HCMG Jackie Connelly under the direction of Roy Walston, Kerr County AgriLife Extension Agent, and held at the Hill Country Youth Event Center in Kerrville.

Principal instructor was Tom LeRoy formerly with Texas A&M. LeRoy holds a BS in Horticulture and a MS in Plant Breeding. In addition to a 35-year career with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, retired agent LeRoy has co-authored 3 gardening books with colleague Bill Adams: Growing Fruits and Nuts in the South, Common Sense Vegetable Gardening in the South and The Southern Kitchen Garden.

HCMG Debra Bass of Mico and HCMG Sandy Lewis of Kerrville attended the workshop.

HCMG classroom facilitators who provided plant materials and assisted students were: Debbie Bacon, Anne Brown (Propagation Specialist), Vickie Killeen, Lloyd Kneese, Terry Lashley, Allen Mace, Ronda McIlvain and Patti Schlessiger.

The HCMG Hospitality Committee received glowing reviews from the attendees. Providing home cooked gourmet meals and snacks were Kim Courtright, Mickie Cunningham, Deborah Lea, Dyana Orrin, Chairman Linda Proffitt, Raeann Reid, Jackie Skinner and Joyce Studer.

The Texas Master Gardener Specialist program is designed to support or expand specific county educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Requirements for receiving the Specialist designation include: active Texas Master Gardener certification, a minimum of 16 hours of specialist training, and a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer service in a designated program or project in the area of specialty. Certification is awarded annually at the Texas Master Gardener Conference.



**Hands-on experience with grafting heirloom tomatoes onto vigorous & disease resistant root stock.**



**The classroom fills with 42 eager students**



**Practice with sticking easy-to-root cuttings in a self-watering container.**



**It was a cold, windy and damp garden tour led by Lloyd Kneese, Raeann Reid and Anne Brown (center of huddle).**



**Propagation Specialist Class continued**  
Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



**“Double, double. Toil and trouble.”  
Macbeth, William Shakespeare**

Class facilitators prepare tomato grafting planting media while celebrating Halloween. Perlite and vermiculite were added...twice. Containers were changed...twice.  
From left: Terry Lashley, Allen Mace, Jackie Connelly, Patti Schlessiger, Anne Brown and Debbie Bacon.



**Gourmet home-cooked lunches and snacks were  
a big hit.**

Below—The Culinary Crew: Raeann Reid, Linda Proffitt, Mickie Cunningham, and Joyce Studer

Photo Credit: Linda’s husband



**HCMG Lloyd Kneese (left), Terry Lashley (center),  
and Patti Schlessiger (center right)  
make new friends.**





## Glory Community Garden Fall Festival

**The Nov 4th event was a great success!**

Pictured to the right: Master Gardener's Shawn Richard and Kim Courtright demonstrate Quickles. Other participating MG's included Allen Noah, Pam Umstead, Chris Seifert, Donna Guthrie, Debbie Lea, Cindy Anderson, and Meg Scott-Johnson. See the Glory Community Garden FB page for more photos.

<https://www.facebook.com/glorycommunitygarden/>

Photo Credit: Pam Umstead



## Special Opportunity Center Garden

Vegetable Garden chair, Lydia Jones, proudly displays the successful planting of additional vegetables (Swiss chard, broccoli and kale) and flowers (Snapdragons and Pansies).

Photo Credit:  
Pat Wolters





## And, the Rest of the Story



**Photo & Article Credit : Vickie Killeen**

Have you read the November 1 Hill Country Community Journal's article about our fabulous Demonstration Garden? Well, this is how reporter Bonnie Arnold got all of that in-depth information. Bonnie (left) interviewed Lloyd Kneese, Jackie Skinner, Anne Brown and Caryl Hartman for 2 hours, asking wide-ranging questions about our garden and HCMG.

While Jackie Skinner's gardening photo was selected to appear with the Hill Country Community Journal's article, reporter Bonnie Arnold also shot numerous photos of Anne Brown, Lloyd Kneese and Caryl Hartman after Jackie had to leave early.



More pictures of Vickie photographing Bonnie while she photographs

**Above:** Anne, Lloyd and Caryl by the Demonstration garden entrance.

**Right:** Lloyd, Caryl and Anne outside AgriLife Office







## Hill Country Veggies

December 2017

By Allen Mace

Things are progressing slowly as the weather continues to cool down.

The kale I planted earlier is needing to be harvested. Kale can be used in a green salad if you pick the young tender leaves. When they get bigger, it is best to pick and cook them the same way you would spinach. Swiss chard can be used when it's young and tender as well. As it grows, it doesn't seem to become as bitter as some of the other greens will. If you cut it up into bit size pieces, you should be able to use them in salads, or you can cook them with kale and other cool season greens. I



**Kale**



**Swiss Chard**

picked up some new plants: parsley, cilantro and Swiss chard. These will continue to add to the other cool season plants that I like to have handy throughout the winter months. Last month I started some garlic. So far the plants seem to be growing fine. I planted a total of 18 cloves, and so far 16 have germinated. I'm still holding out for the last two to sprout. The bed that I

want to plant them in has become the favored spot of one of our dogs, Ginger, to dig in and bury her treasures. I'll have to devise some sort of cage over this bed to keep her out. She is very smart and determined and this might be a challenge, but



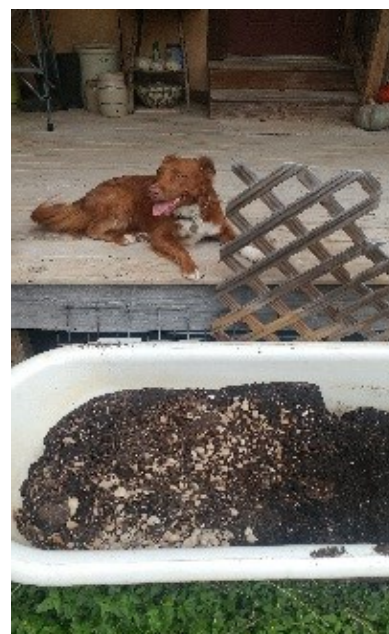
**Garlic seedlings**

I refuse to be bested by a mere pooch.

A friend asked me why I was growing garlic.

Well, garlic is a widely grown allium, second only to onions. It's one of the most favorite flavoring condiments used throughout the world. Over 2 ½ million acres, throughout the world produce around 10 million tons of garlic each year. There are literally hundreds of different species of garlic worldwide. Our relationship with this pungent allium goes back, some believe, as far as five to six thousand years ago. Most of us are only exposed to a few of the varieties that are commercially grown, mostly in California. Now days, a lot of garlic is being imported into the U.S. from China. I read an article that said when you find garlic in the stores with one to two inch stems, these come from California and the ones without stems are the imports. By cutting the stems off, more garlic can be packed into the shipping boxes to be transported throughout the world.

More and more seed and plant companies are carrying different garlic from around the world. Garlic is an easy plant to grow. It does take time to mature. We now have the opportunity, to not only grow our own, but to explore new flavor profiles from around the world.



**Ginger**



## HCMG Training Information Forum

Our Education Committee sponsored an open forum for 11 locals interested in learning about the 2018 Master Gardener training class that begins February 6. Committee members who assisted chairman, Lydia Jones included: Debra Bass, Jerry & Terrie Clark, Dee Dunton, Caroll Edwards, Debra Foley, Beth McMahon, Diane McMahon, Patti Schlessiger, Nina Wagner, Janice Walker, Pat Wolters, and Patty Zohlen. Also helping at the event were Anne Brown, Kim Courtright, Lloyd Kneese, Vickie Killeen, Sandy Lewis, and Jackie Skinner.

**Photo & article credit: Vickie Killeen**



Left: Co-chairman Jackie Skinner answers questions at the Horticultural Inquiry display table.

Right: Chairman of the Special Opportunity Center Vegetable Garden Lydia Jones and Junior Master Gardener Chairman Kim Courtright share a display table packed with information for the forum visitors.



Left: Greenhouse Committee members Anne Brown, chairman Sandy Lewis, & Janice Walker are ready to answer questions about growing plants and our Blooms and Barrels annual sale.

Right: Debra Foley addresses the group during the informational program.



Left: Ready to greet guests are Dee Dunton, Kerr county AgriLife Extension Agent Roy Walston & Patti Schlessiger.

Right: Demo Garden Chair Lloyd Kneese visits with Terrie & Jerry Clark before the forum begins.





"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard"  
Winnie the Pooh



Master Gardeners, Sue Hall, Pat Wolters, Carroll Edwards, Dennis Strauch, Carol Hagemeyer and Lydia Jones gathered at Carroll's home in Bandera to wish Dennis happiness on his move to Santa Fe, NM.

Photo Credit: Lydia's husband



## Newly Certified Master Gardener

Raeann Reid, mentor,  
presents the  
Master Gardener  
Certificate to  
Nancy Person.

Photo Credit: Jim Latham

**Hill Country Master  
Gardeners 2017  
Executive  
Committee**

Jackie Skinner  
*President*

Wil Rolfe  
*Vice President*

Lydia Jones  
*Secretary*

Jackie Connelly  
*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 Walters

*Associate Newsletter Editor*  
Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to  
Judy Beauford for  
proofreading

*Event Page Editor*  
Raeann Reid

*Webmaster*  
Debra Rosario

*Web Assistant -*  
Diane Boerner

**Submissions to**

Newsletter.editor.hcmg@  
gmail.com

**Renowned Chef cooking local produce.....**



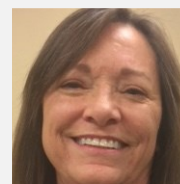
Patty Zohlen found in her kitchen  
cooking Jerry Clark's famous  
"stuffed Bell Peppers"!

Photo Credit: Jerry Clark



**Christmas Charitable Project:  
Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries**

1. Cash donations are tax deductible. Checks can be made payable to Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries.
2. Anyone not able to attend the Christmas luncheon can drop off donations at our master gardener office before Dec 6, 2017.
3. For more information on Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries go to **[www.hillcountrydailybread.org](http://www.hillcountrydailybread.org)**



Rachel  
Garrison,  
Coordinator

**The following items are needed by this ministry:**

- \* New or gently used coats – all sizes/gender
- \* Winter gloves and hats
- \* Small space heaters
- \* Food: pasta, granola bars, canned meats: tuna and chicken, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, goldfish, pretzels
- \* Hygiene products: shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, razors, body soap, Chapstick
- \* Household supplies: paper towels, toilet paper, trash bags, 55 gallon lawn bags, scissors

