

April 2023

Volume 21 Issue 4

President's Message	1
Hill Country Veggies	2
Pot Party	3
Propagation Class	4-5
CEU Speaker Bio	6
Class of 2023	7
Demo Garden	8-9
Cowboy Breakfast	10
Minutes	11-12
Gardening 101	13

Wednesday
April 5, 2023

HCYEC

Meeting 1:00 pm
 CEU 2:00 pm

**Invasive Plants:
 Stop the Spread,
 Spread the Word!**

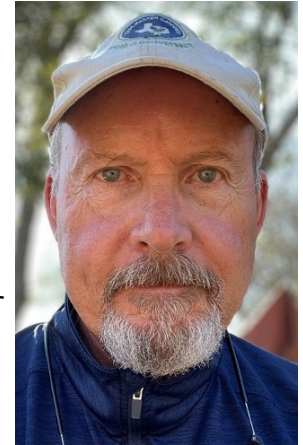
Cheryl Hamilton,
 Co-Founder
 Balcones Invaders of
 Texas Program

Bio on page 6

"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, sexual orientation, or gender identity".

President's Message

Dave Kinneberg



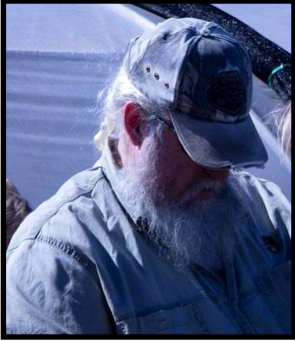
My mom's favorite vegetable dish was boiled zucchini served with lots of butter. In fact, she boiled most vegetables which is why I grew up hating them. (I love butter though.) I don't mean to disrespect my mom. She was a high-school home economics teacher and boiled vegetables were in style in the 1950's.

Not wanting to eat a vegetable has never stopped me from growing it. Why? Two reasons come to mind.

First, there is the challenge of growing something new and different. Since I'm not dependent on my garden for sustenance (thankfully), I can grow "experimental" plants simply for the sake of growing them. If successful, I can always give the produce away. For example, Malabar spinach; it sounded terrible when someone suggested it but turned out to be a great vegetable for Hill Country (and one that is very tasty).

Second, my wife is a wonderful cook and there is a better-than-even chance that, if she prepares it, I will enjoy the result. For example, I grew up hating sweet potatoes (always served in a casserole with marshmallows on top). Two years ago, my daughter gave me a sweet potato from her local HEB that had sprouted, and she wondered if I could use it to grow some more. After checking the internet, I grew several "slips" which resulted in over 100 pounds of sweet potatoes. Most I gave away and my wife made sweet potato fries from the ones we kept. Now I'm hooked. (Connie Townsend deserves a lot of credit for my harvest. Besides telling me to be patient, she taught me that "slips" aren't necessary to propagate sweet potatoes.)

A substantial portion of my garden is devoted to asparagus, a vegetable I detested as a child but one my wife enjoys. After two seasons growing asparagus, I do too. Partly this is because my wife roasts the asparagus (wow!) and partly because I feel a certain amount of "ownership." According to my wife, I am favorably biased towards anything I grow in my garden. Is that so surprising? For me, it's just another good reason to become a master gardener.



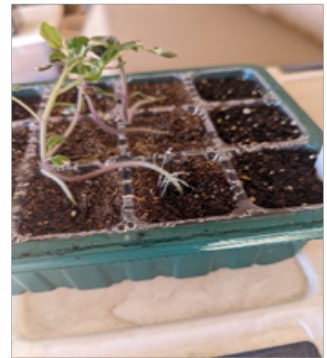
Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG

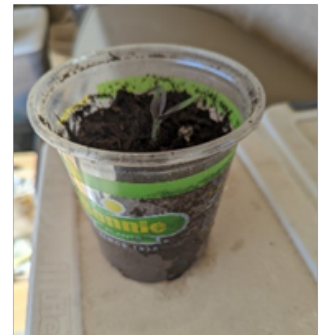
Last month I was able to transfer some of the sprouted seeds from the paper towels of the germination test and plant them into the plastic grow cells. I made sure that the soil in the grow cells was moist with a little water in the plastic reservoir that the grow cells sit in. These were then placed on the heat mats. I then put the clear plastic dome over the grow cell with the top vent opened about half way. After a day or two, I dump the water out of the reservoir in order to avoid saturating the soil in the grow cells. Placed the clear plastic domes back, then turned on the grow lights. I would turn the grow lights off the last thing at night the turn them back on the first thing in the morning. I had a bit of trouble dislodging some of the germinated seeds from the paper towel. At the last Master Gardeners meeting, a fellow Master Gardener asked if it would be OK to just cut a small piece of the paper towel in order to avoid harming the seedlings and plant the piece of paper towel along with the seedling. I thought that would be a good idea and will try that in the future.

After a few weeks, the next step is to transfer the spindly seedlings from the grow cells to a 4 inch cup. At this point I want to plant as much of the stem into the soil as I can. Each of the hairs along the stem can become a root fiber if it comes in contact with soil. The stem hairs want to become roots. I found a few that had become roots and were reaching down to the soil. Nature always finds a way. After these seedlings have been transferred to the large cups, its back to the grow lights and heating mats. I like the clear plastic cups because I can easily keep track of soil moisture and I can watch the progression of root development.

After a week or so, on nice days, I start placing the seedlings, in the 4 inch cups, outside but protected from the direct and hot sun. I also start to water them as needed with water soluble fertilizer added to the water. This is to start acclimating these young plants so eventually they can go into the garden. I do not leave them out too long and never overnight. In a few more weeks, I will transplant the seedlings into larger pots to grow the roots out, then they will be ready for the garden.



Spindly seedlings



4 inch cup



Stem Hairs



Developing roots



Transplanted seedlings

Filling Our Greenhouses Ahead of B&B

With winter's dreary evidence behind her, Darla Cluster readies *Salvia greggi* for a vibrant spring bloom

By Vickie Killeen, MG



Our "Veggie Brain Trust" Lisa Cantini, Dave Kinneberg, Janice Walker and Sandy Lewis check out new arrivals donated by Bernard Warren.



Sandy Martin's smile is as bright as the Four Nerve Daisies that she's potting.



Getting the job done and earning volunteer hours are Bernard Warren, Anne Brown, Kay Nelson, Janice Walker, Donna Bellis, Aimee Tennant and student, Susan Thomas.

Now We're Having Fun By Vicki Killeen

Our students left their propagation class with increased knowledge and boxes of new plants to grow. Master gardeners donated all of the plant material used in the workshop. So much material was donated that students were able to take home additional cuttings to practice their newly learned skills.



Clockwise from top left: Instructor Debbie Lea opens the day-long workshop. Students learn how to grow African Violets from a single leaf & stem cutting using a container that absorbs water from the bottom upwards, Sonja Wilke and Karen Tabor are ready for their next propagation project. Education Chairman Donna Bellis shows a successfully propagated succulent to Julia Thieriot. Assisting the instructor by preparing and distributing cuttings are certified master gardeners Imelda Horne and Bernard Warren. Belinda's Dream and Grandma's Yellow are the two antique shrub roses in James Ludwig and Brian Schroder's cutting containers.

The Fun Continues



Clockwise from top left: Certified master gardeners stayed busy preparing cuttings for students. From left: Anne Brown, Janice Walker, Kara Grant and Sandy Lewis.

While waiting on their next samples, Sharon Walling chats with classmates Louise and Bill Haney. Students stay busy all day as new cuttings are distributed and new techniques of propagation are explained.

A welcomed lunch break was enjoyed by all, including a 4-legged student auditing the program!

At the close of the workshop, Mary Contois has packed up her plants and is clearing her tools of the trade.

Invasive Plants: Stop the Spread, Spread the Word!

Invasive plants are wreaking havoc on the health of our ecosystems. They cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. The Edwards Plateau "Dirty Dozen" form monocultures. They displace and compete with native plants and alter hydrologic conditions, nutrient flow and fire patterns. Removal of invasive plants and replacement with native plants is essential to restoring the biodiversity of our public and private lands.



**Cheryl Hamilton,
Co-Founder
Balcones Invaders
of Texas Program
San Antonio, TX**

Cheryl has been a member of the San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas since 2008 and an Alamo Area Master Naturalist since 2007. Cheryl co-founded the Balcones Satellite of the Invaders of Texas Program in 2010. Since inception, teams of volunteer citizen scientists have eradicated more than 200,000 invasive plants from city, state and national parks in the San Antonio area.

Cheryl has presented more than 100 invasive and native plant workshops at the local, state and national level since 2009. She is an instructor for Alamo Area Master Naturalist program and for the Native Landscape Certification Program in San Antonio. For three months every summer, Cheryl volunteers as a Visitor Protection Ranger at Big Bend National Park. Cheryl received a Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 for contributing more than 4,000 volunteer hours to the master naturalist program.

Class of 2023



Photo Credit: Pat Wolters

Front row left to right: Meta Pugh, James Ludwig, Brian Schroder, Julia Thieriot, Barbara Green, Susan Thomas, Tirza Kaylene Holguin

Second row left to right: Maria Soupley, Sharon Walling, Jean Sutton, Jeannie Osborne, Linda Lockhart, Mary Contois, Suzy Floyd, Sheryl Landrum

Back row left to right: Louise Haney, Bill Haney, Eva Euler, Betty Loy-Pinard, Sonja Wilke, Barbara Hoffman, Tamara Ruby

Not pictured: Karen Tabor, Eliana Valeron and Abigail Reagan

Ew-w-w-w! Student Linda Lockhart holds up a sample (dead) tarantula so that she and classmate Eva Euler can closely observe it. Entomologist Molly Keck always has an informative and fun lecture on garden critters, both good and bad.

Photo credit: Vickie Killeen



Demo Garden Cleanup

The Demonstration Garden Committee conducted their annual garden clean-up on Friday, March 10. In only a few hours the garden transformed its appearance from bleak and neglected to well-tended and ready for spring. Members who couldn't be there that day had come earlier in the week to assure their sections were as tidy as those of their neighbors. By noon the heavy work was done. The Committee extends a hearty thanks to Diana Johns, Tom Collins, and students Linda Lockhart, Mary Cantois, and Sheryl Landrum for contributing their work hard to help us out. Might we have some new Committee members in the making? **By Jackie Skinner Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen**



Above: Demonstration Garden Chairperson Jackie Skinner with Tom Collins looking on with a smile at everyone else who is hard at work.

Below: Barbara Castillo and Sheryl Landrum, a dream team of garden workers.



Left: Tex Lang & Allen Perry glad to take a short break.

Below right: Diana Johns wondering when this project will start being fun (as promised).

Below middle: Our Honey Bee Evans picking through her yet-to-bloom Anacacho Orchid Tree





Demo Garden Cleanup

Clockwise from top left: Darla Cluster and Sue Hall, two perfect gardeners creating perfect results.

Tish Hulett and Aimee Tennant living the moment as they consider the fifty ways to kill an armadillo.

Many sections manicured by loving hands

Lisa Contini, Mary Cantois, Debbie Bacon and Marge Munis happy to say "That's all, Folks!"

Our intrepid Dave Kinneberg - the only one there that day brave enough to weed the cactus section.



Glory Community Garden Cowboy Breakfast

Gardeners getting an early start - our youngest gardener begged her mom to join us, and 3 others with experience and enthusiasm! All were working their beds during the event. Girl Scouts serving breakfast tacos, Clifton Fifer brewing cowboy coffee (the grounds went into a bed), and friends enjoying the beautiful weather.

By Pam Umstead



HCMG Monthly Meeting
March 1, 2023
HCYEC

Call to Order (Please Silence Your Cell Phones)

Pledge of Allegiance – the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the group.

Invocation – Patti Schlessiger delivered a beautiful invocation.

Welcome/Opening Remarks – Dave Kinneberg welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there was anyone that needed to be recognized. No one spoke up. Dave told the group about an acquaintance of his who asked him a gardening question. He referred the person to our newsletters. Dave thanked Pat Wolters for the great job she does putting together our monthly newsletters.

Verification of Quorum – Rita Aliperto verified a quorum had been met.

Approval of Minutes from February 8, 2022 Meeting – Dee Dunton made a motion to approve the February minutes. The motion was seconded by Tom Collins.

Treasurer's Report – Rachel Garrison explained certain line items on the report and asked membership if they had any questions. No questions were asked.

Business Items

Nominating Committee – Dave Kinneberg spoke about a recent Director's Meeting he attended (via ZOOM). He told how the newly elected officers were already forming a Nominating Committee to recruit candidates to fill future positions. Our group normally starts this process in the fall, but Dave felt we should follow suit and begin the process now. He is asking for volunteers to be on the Nominating Committee. Those interested on being on the committee should contact Dave. In 2024, the President, Secretary and Treasurer positions will be vacant. Rachel provided a brief overview of the Treasurer's duties and fielded questions from the membership. She also said HCMG has insurance to cover our liability. The current Executive Committee, along with past members will happily assist new

members be successful in their positions.

Standing Committee Reports

Education – Donna Bellis spoke about the 2023 interns as 25 energetic and interested students. The class is almost halfway through. On April 5th, there will be a graduation ceremony beginning at 11-11:15 am followed by a potluck lunch at noon. Project and Committee Chairpersons should have their recruitment booths/tables set up by 10am in the adjacent room. The remaining classes have room for auditors, please sign up in VMS.

Membership – Barbara Castillo reported that membership cards were available in the back of the room.

HCYEC Public Programs – Ray Tiemann touted the successful Plantastic seminar last month. Eighty people signed up. There was a broad spectrum of folks in attendance from several surrounding counties. If anyone has suggestions for future class subject matter, please contact Ray.

Demonstration Garden – Jackie Skinner asked for assistance for the Demo Garden clean-up day on Friday, March 10th at 9am from those in need of hours. Additionally, we will be spreading mulch on the entire garden on Wednesday, March 29th at 9am. Those interested can bring wheelbarrows, shovels...etc. if they want. Tex Lang will be taking time-lapsed photographs to show the transformation of the Demo Garden throughout the year. Tom Collins will be volunteering in the newly created Pollinator Meadow, but Jackie is still requesting a person or team to oversee and look after the caterpillars that visit the garden. Jackie thanked Dave Kinneberg for all he does in the Demo Garden.

Greenhouse/B&B – Anne Brown provided everyone with an update on the Blooms and Barrels plant sale, reminding the group of the spa, move and sale dates and times (April 6, 7 & 8). On the day of the sale, some MGs will be starting at 7am so we can

continued on page 12

Minutes continued from page 11

Greenhouse/B&B visit with the folks waiting in line. MGs can purchase 3 plants on spa day, April 6th, hopefully prior to the plants being groomed. MGs may also purchase bagged soil for \$5 each on spa day.

Garden Shed – Patti Schlessiger is beginning to collect items for the Garden Shed that will be sold at the B&B sale. Bring your donated items to the storage shed where the rain barrels are stored on the right side. But no books, please. Patti is also requesting help with working at the booth. You may contact Patti or any of the other committee members for assistance with your donated items: Dee Dunton, Diane McMahon or Nina Wagner.

Other Announcements

Glory Community Garden – Pam Umstead invited the group to the Cowboy Breakfast and cowboy coffee at the GCG on Saturday, March 4th at 9am. There is no charge, but donations will be welcomed. On Tuesday, March 21st, they will be breaking ground for the new building which will be equipped with an ADA approved restroom. No more porta-potty!

Final Comments – Dave Kinneberg is asking that anyone using the building next to the greenhouse, please lock the door on your way out. Per Jennifer Smith, it was left unlocked.

Debbie Bacon won the door prize.

Adjournment
 Respectfully submitted,
 Rita Aliperto, Secretary

Next Meeting: April 5, 2023 HCYEC

10 am – Set up recruitment tables/booths

11am – Class of 2023 graduation

12 pm – Potluck

1 pm – HCMG General meeting

2 pm – CEU, Cheryl Hamilton, Invasive plants



Propagation Class:

Jeannie Osborne and Jeanne Sutton plant rose and Jerusalem Sage cuttings into a miniature homemade “greenhouse”.

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



“Don’t forget to water your cat regularly!”

Submitted by Pam Umstead

**Hill Country Master
 Gardeners 2023
 Executive
 Committee**

Dave Kinneberg
President

Rae Raiford
Vice President

Rita Aliperto
Secretary

Rachel Garrison
Treasurer

Anne Brown
Ex-officio Advisor

C.E.A. Advisor

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

Newsletter

Newsletter Editor
 Pat Wolters

Associate Newsletter Editor
 Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to
 Judy Beauford for
 proofreading

Photographer
 Vickie Killeen

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**HCMG's
 Jackie Skinner
 Draws a Crowd!**

**Ornamental
 Grasses Grow
 in Popularity**

By Vickie Killeen

Demonstration Garden chairman Jackie Skinner talked to interested gardeners about select ornamental grasses that are well adapted to Hill Country landscapes & growing conditions. During the presentation, Jackie demonstrated the proper technique of “combing” Mexican Feather Grass to get rid of winter damaged blades while leaving new green growth in place. She was assisted by Patty Zohlen, HCMG series chairman, who ran the PowerPoint presentation. 40 people attended the March 11 program of Kerrville’s Butt-Holdsworth Library’s “Gardening 101” series of free educational programs.

From the Demo Garden

By Jackie Skinner

This young Chicalote poppy was spotted in a section of the Demo Garden slated for a future turf display. Also known as Prickly Poppy, it doesn't display the signature yellow center disc, possibly because the blooms are highly premature. Prickly Poppies usually bloom in late June or July because that is when they begin to receive the long hours of sunlight they need to mature



Sheryl Landrum discovered this White lined sphinx moth hiding in tall grass during demo garden work. This little fellow is what some of us recognize as a hummingbird moth.

