

August 2019

Volume 17, Issue 8

President's Message	1
Continuing Education	2
Conservation flyer	3
Hill Country Veggies	4
NICE Plant: Pigeonberry	5
Scholarship Recipients	6
Certificates awarded	7
Vegetable Show	8
Pigeonberry cont'd	9
Minutes	10
Kronkosky Place cont'd	11
New jobs for HCMGs	12

HCMG will meet on  
August 7, 2019

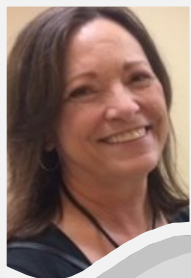
at

1:00 - Business Meeting  
2:00 - CEU Program

"Hill Country Butterflies  
and their Host Plants"  
Merry Langlinais,  
Naturalist, Author &  
Photographer



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".



Rachel Garrison

### President's Message

***"Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful!' and sitting in the shade."***

**— Rudyard Kipling**

August....what springs to mind when you think about this month of the calendar? Dog days of summer? End of summer? School days ahead? Cooler temperatures on the horizon? A fall garden?

While you are thinking about these things, I'd also like you to think about one of our newer HCMG projects. Consider getting involved with the project as you read Keeley Porter's description of the project, the needs, and your potential involvement. HCMG has a variety of ways to serve our communities. Each of us can find ways to contribute.

#### Kendall County, Kronkosky Place, Rainbow Senior Center Garden

The Rainbow Senior Center (RSC) is a private not-for-profit senior activity center. RSC offers programs and services that encourage adults in the community to take an active role in maintaining their physical and mental health, enriching their quality of life.



One of the ways they've been able to accomplish this was by the creation of three vegetable-growing areas on site at Kronkosky Place. The seniors are encouraged to come out to the garden areas to assist with various tasks such as watering, planting, and harvesting. The benefits of Nature and fresh air are incalculable!

Over the last 5 years, two Texas Master Gardener volunteers have been educating the RSC members about how to grow organic produce to supplement their meals; make healthy food choices, understand daily nutrition requirements, and learn for themselves the pleasure and many other benefits of working in a garden to plant, nurture and eat food grown with their own hands.

Each year, the RSC Garden harvests around 900 pounds of fresh produce that is used in the congregate meal program, the Kendall County Meals-on-Wheels Program, and is also sent home with RSC members. The Garden has become a vital source of

***continued on page 11***

**HCMG 2019 Continuing Education Opportunities prepared by Raeann Reid**

*Attendance at events other than Master Gardener meetings is optional. This list is for those wishing to attend other educational offerings; not all events are eligible to fulfill continuing education credits toward annual recertification. Be sure to call and confirm event.*

**August 7, 1:00 p.m.** business meeting, 2:00 p.m. CE program. Hill Country Master Gardeners. Merry Langlinais, naturalist, author and photographer of western Bandera County, will present, "Hill Country Butterflies and Their Host Plants." Copies of Merry's book, Critters of Red Heart/The Winged Ones II, will be available for sale for \$ 27.04 with tax (cash, local checks, credit cards accepted; no smartphone apps). Hill Country Youth Event Center. HCMGs, interns.



**August 15, 10:00 a.m.**, Riverside Nature Center/UGRA EduScape Talk. Dr. Chrissie Segars, turf grass specialist, will talk about the benefits of using turf grasses in your landscape and different ways they can help the environment. UGRA classroom, space is limited. RSVP to RNC, 830.257.4837 or mc.kerrville@gmail.com.

**August 15, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Fredericksburg Beekeepers. Attend if you are interested in beekeeping. Gillespie County Extension Office. Visitors welcome.

**August 16, registration 1:30 p.m.;** workshop 2:00-5:00 p.m. Cibolo Nature Conservancy, Conservation Easement Workshop. (flyer on page 3) For more info, contact Carolyn Vogel, 512.633.4995 or cavogel2013@gmail.com. Cibolo Nature Center auditorium. Register online @www.cibolo.org. \$20, walk-ins welcome.

**August 27, 6:30 p.m.** social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m., NPSOT Fredericksburg. Kelly Simon, Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Biologist will present "How to Use iNaturalist to Become a Citizen Scientist. Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

Hunt Garden Club. Summer hiatus.  
NPSOT Boerne. Summer hiatus.  
NPSOT Kerrville. Summer hiatus.  
Rose Garden Club of Medina. Summer hiatus.

**Addresses for Events Listed**

Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Road, Boerne  
Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension Service, 95 Frederick Road, FBG  
Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Highway 27, KRVL  
Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam St, FBG  
Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St. KRVL  
Upper Guadalupe River Authority, 125 Lehmann Drive, KRVL



Shirley Smith dug up this Soltol from a friend's property. At the time it only had three leaves. It has turned into a beautiful plant and the bees really enjoy the blooms.



**HCMG 2019 Continuing Education Opportunities** prepared by Raeann Reid

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**Note: This workshop does not qualify for MG CEU**



## CONSERVATION EASEMENT WORKSHOP

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2019**

**\$20 REGISTRATION**  
**CIBOLO NATURE CENTER**  
AUDITORIUM  
140 City Park Road | Boerne, TX 78006

**WORKSHOP TOPICS TO INCLUDE:**

- the basics of conservation easements
- tax implications and estate planning
- open space valuation
- the role of land trust organizations
- a panel discussion with landowners

**REGISTRATION: 1:30 PM**  
**WORKSHOP: 2:00-5:00 PM**

REGISTER ONLINE @  
[www.cibolo.org](http://www.cibolo.org)  
(walk-ins welcome)

For more information, contact:  
**Carolyn Vogel**  
Workshop Coordinator  
(512) 633 - 4995  
[cavogel2013@gmail.com](mailto:cavogel2013@gmail.com)

Hosted by The Cibolo Conservancy

**PROUD MEMBER**  TEXAS  
LAND TRUST  
COUNCIL

Member of  
 **Land Trust Alliance**  
Together, conserving the places you love







## Hill Country Veggies

August 2019

By Allen Mace

The tomato trial has been going on for about 60 days now. I planted all the plants on the 15th of May. Water and fertilizer were

going to be a critical factor this year. Because of the number of plants and the size of the beds, plant spacing is a bit tight thus the need for consistent watering and feeding. My soil and well water are alkali, so I knew that pH was going to be an issue. Every time I watered, I used Miracle-Gro. This helped to acidify the well water. We had somewhat regular rainfall this year and rainwater is acidic as well. Milder temperatures has helped also.

Beds 1, 2 and 3, the plants did not grow as tall as I expected, but they bloomed out and started producing fruit early. Bed 4 just grew and grew before these plants started to bloom. To date, bed 1 has produced the most followed by bed 2.



Bed 3, I suspect might be Cherokee Purple. These plants are a bit taller than the ones in beds 1 and 2.

Cherokee Purples are an heirloom indeterminate so, I expect these vines to continue to grow as long as they are well watered and fed, into the fall until our first frost.

Beds 1 and 2 are acting more like a determinate, with shorter plants but a lot of fruit at once.

Bed 4, I suspect it an indeterminate, but I'm not sure. All in all, this has been a better year than most, but time will tell.





**Pigeonberry would be a complementary addition to any native-plant woodland garden.**



**Cindy Anderson,  
HCMG,  
Native Plant  
Society of Texas**

## **Pigeonberry: a NICE plant for summer shade**

Texas is a large, diverse state and plants that work for one region may not always be the best choice in a different region. The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) created the NICE Native Plant Partners program (formerly called Operation NICE!) to help nurseries offer natives that are right for the local environment. Two local chapters of NPSOT, the Kerrville and Fredericksburg chapters, implement this program by choosing one native plant to promote each season – in cooperation with wholesalers, in order to assure availability – and in cooperation with participating local nurseries. Formerly known as “Natives Instead of Common Exotics,” the NICE acronym has also been updated. It now stands for “Natives Improve and Conserve Environments.” The program’s goals still remain the same – to introduce people to great native plants that are available locally to use in place of non-native species.

“Plants that are not native to a local region may seem suitable, but quite often they offer nothing in the way of food or habitat for key wildlife species,” says Diana Armbrust, President of the Fredericksburg chapter of NPSOT. “Native plants, on the other hand, have grown here for centuries, providing dependable sources of nectar for insects, shelter for birds, and food for wildlife.

The Kerrville and Fredericksburg NPSOT chapters are featuring Pigeonberry (*Rivina humilis*) at six local nurseries as their NICE Plant of the Season. Previously at five, we are thrilled this month to welcome Medina Garden Nursery as our sixth participating nursery. The late Bill Ward, a geologist, writer and long-time NPSOT member from Boerne, wrote about this lovely plant in the Plant Profiles section of the state NPSOT website a few years ago. Much of this text came from Bill’s article.

**Pigeonberry** is a tough little perennial that makes an attractive border plant or ground cover in shady areas. It grows in low clumps with dark-green wavy-edge leaves. During much of the growing season, it supports short stalks of small pinkish-white flowers and red berries, both at the same time. In late fall, the leaves and stems turn purplish-red. Pigeonberry grows to about one foot tall in the Hill Country’s dry, poor limestone soil. It loves to grow in the shade of live oaks or other trees and shrubs. In moist stream-valley woods and thickets, it may grow two to three feet tall. It ranges from across the southern US to Arizona and through Central America and the Caribbean to South America. In Texas it has been collected from the Red River Valley, throughout Central and South Texas, and out to the Trans-Pecos. The wide distribution of this species indicates it can grow in a wide variety of soil types and moisture conditions.

Southwestern Native Americans supposedly used the fruit of Pigeonberry to make red dye. In Mexico, Pigeonberry leaves were used to treat wounds. There is some evidence from a study of leaf extracts that the leaves are weakly effective in reducing growth of certain bacteria. **Cont’d on page 9**



## 2019-2020 HCMG Scholarship Recipients by Carl A Luckenbach



**Gabriella Alisa Hale** is enrolled in the Plant and Soil Sciences program at Texas Tech University's Department of Plant and Soil Science with a specialization in Horticulture. She expects to graduate in May of 2020. Her plans are to continue her studies until she receives her PhD in Plant Breeding and Genetics. Her cumulative Grade Point Average is 3.67.

Gabriella is currently conducting a project involving building a working gas exchange chamber to measure the photosynthetic rate of plants in sealed chambers. She considers this research important to the horticultural industry because it will enhance our understanding of how to improve breeding for desirable traits, plus help growers improve cultivation yields.

Gabriella is a graduate of Fredericksburg High School. During high school, and before, she was involved with the 4H BB gun shooting competition. Also while in high school, Gabriella was involved with child care at a Fredericksburg church and other service opportunities. At Texas Tech, in addition to her scholarly pursuits, she is co-owner of a maintenance and contracting firm whereby she serves as accountant as well as doing painting and finish work. Her firm recently completed a project involving constructing a ticket booth for Texas Tech.

Looking to the future, Gabriella aspires to a career in research, focusing on improving horticultural breeding methods. She also wishes to operate a greenhouse operation on some

property she owns.

Gabriella is serious about horticulture!

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**Rachel Nicole Fuqua** has graduated from Texas A&M University in May 2019 with a Bachelor's Degree from the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, with a major in Agricultural Leadership and Development and a minor in Horticulture. Her cumulative grade point average was 4.0. She is now a graduate student pursuing a Master of Agriculture degree with the declared major of Horticulture.

At A&M, Rachel maximized opportunities to learn about the horticulture industry. In addition to classes, as a member of the A&M Horticulture Club, Rachel attended various industry events, such as the International Plant Propagation Society Southern Region Meeting twice. She competed in the National Collegiate Landscape Competition in plant identification and employee development. As a member of Aggie Master Gardeners, she gave multiple presentations to other students on campus who wanted to learn more about plants. She also conducted tours of The Gardens at Texas A&M. For the past year, she has served as a student assistant under the Texas Master Gardener Coordinator. Her list of extracurricular activities is long.

Prior to coming to Texas A&M, while growing up in New Braunfels, Rachel was involved in 4 H for 10 years. Her projects included Horse, Leadership, Robotics, Clothing & Textiles, Foods and Nutrition, Range Science, Shooting, Vet Science, Photography, and Junior Master Gardener. She went to several national events, including the National 4-H Congress. She was awarded the 4-H Bronze, Silver, and Gold Stars, and was the high point individual at the 2015 Houston Livestock Show Horse Judging Contest. She also volunteered in a number of service projects.

Rachel's career goal is "to bring joy to others through agriculture, specifically horticultural education."



## *Certificates Awarded to Interns from the Class of 2019*



**These four students completed the required hours to become certified as a Texas Master Gardener. They were presented certificates by their mentors at the July Hill Country Master Gardener monthly meeting.**

Pictured Clockwise:

Fernando Gonzalez and Darla Cluster

Rachel Garrison and Karen Fuller

Mark Schultz and Anne Brown

Jackie Skinner and Jim Wilson

Photo Credit: Mark Shultz (except for picture of Mark Shultz which was done by Vickie Killeen.)





## 2019 HCMG Vegetable Show



Produce winners and judges from left: Chris Davis (onions) Pam Umstead (tomatoes and onions), Raeann Reid, judge, Mindy Skaggs (tomatoes), Pat Wolters (squash and tomatoes), and Connie Townsend, judge.

Photo Credit: Mark Schultz



### Official Rules

1. Only current members of HCMG group may enter produce.
2. The produce entered must have been grown by the person entering it.
3. The following produce may be entered:
  - 3 onions (any type of bulbous onions)
  - 3 potatoes (any type except sweet potatoes)
  - 3 tomatoes-large size (any type or color)
  - 3 tomatoes-small size (includes cherry, roma, pear or plum)
  - 12 green beans (pole or bush)
  - 3 any summer squash (includes patty pan, yellow, zucchini)
4. Top 3 winners of each category will be announced.
5. A prize awarded for 1st place in each category.



**Continued from page 5:**

Pigeonberry is very appealing to the eye with its pale pink blooms and scarlet fruit that it bears simultaneously. The fruits are numerous, red and almost translucent, often appearing on the lower part of the stem while the upper part is still blooming. These fruits are a favorite food for many kinds of birds. Its lovely leaves are 1 to 3 inches long and wavy on the edges. This plant blooms for an especially long time, beginning as early as March and continuing until October. In the winter, it loses its leaves, and the dry stalks can be cut to the ground. It starts coming back in late winter during most years. During hot summers, without supplemental water, it may go dormant. In a native-plant garden, Pigeonberry is a nice companion plant to mountain sage (*Salvia regia*). It also looks good among cedar sage (*S. roemeriana*) and tropical sage (*S. coccinea*). Pigeonberry can be used as a ground cover under taller plants such as American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) and Mexican buckeye (*Ungnadia speciosa*). Pigeonberry would be a complementary addition to any native-plant woodland garden.

Leaves, roots, and probably the berries of Pigeonberry are poisonous to the gastrointestinal system. Perhaps that explains why deer usually seem reluctant to browse this plant most of the year. However, in areas overly populated with deer, Pigeonberry may be nibbled to death if the deer cannot find a plant more desirable.

Our local NICE nurseries have happily agreed to stock up on our plant of the season in order to have it available to the public. These independent nurseries carry only the best plants for our area, as well as high quality soil amendments and gardening supplies. Joining our NICE group of nurseries this season is Medina Garden Nursery, beloved by many of our local gardeners for their huge assortment of native and tropical plants, mostly grown on-site. Meandering through these gardens is always the highlight of a scenic day trip to Medina.

**Look for the “NICE Plant of the Season” sign at these nurseries and growers in Kerrville and Fredericksburg:**

- ◆ Blue Oak Trading Company, 1834 Junction Highway, Kerrville, 830-315-2583
- ◆ Natives of Texas, 4256 Medina Highway, Kerrville, 830-896-2169
- ◆ Plant Haus 2, 604 Jefferson Street, Kerrville, 830-792-4444
- ◆ The Gardens at The Ridge, 13439 S. Ranch Road 783 (Harper Rd.), Kerrville, 830-896-0430
- ◆ Friendly Natives, 1107 Llano Street, Fredericksburg, 830-997-6288
- ◆ Medina Garden Nursery, 13417 TX. Highway 16, Medina, 830-589-2771

**Why go native?**

To sustain our local ecosystem, native plants are essential, and many non-native plants are extremely detrimental. Non-natives may seed out more easily, grow faster, and use more water – proliferating and crowding out native species until the natives become extinct.

Native plants, on the other hand, have lived here for centuries (without fertilizer or pesticides); have evolved to withstand our temperature and moisture extremes and our poor soil; and have supported the local wildlife by providing food and shelter for our native animals, birds and insects. As they are forced to compete with non-native plants for resources, the native plants become fewer and fewer until they are crowded out or eaten to extinction.

***From the Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter and Fredericksburg Chapter***

## HCMG Monthly Business Meeting July 3, 2019

Call to Order (Please silence your cell phone.)  
Rachel Garrison called the meeting to order.  
Pledge of Allegiance-Vickie Killeen led the membership in the pledge.

Invocation-Patty Zohlen gave the invocation.  
Verification of Quorum – Patti Schlessiger verified a quorum was present.

Approval of June 5, 2019 Minutes-Approved

### **Executive Committee Reports**

Treasurer's Report – Bernadell Larson provided handouts and went over the report. Approved as read.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

**Education Committee** – new chairman-Lydia Jones resigned, and Donna Bellis has volunteered to be chair, leaving her position as Booth Supply Manager vacant.

Booth Supply Manager needed-Karen Fuller volunteered to fill this position.

**Jr. Master Gardener committee** - members needed-There will be a 3 day training at the cost of \$100. Caryl Hartman made a motion to help support one person to attend the training, and Jan Grimes 2nd the motion. Caryl amended the motion to do a one-time 100% coverage for 5 members to attend, provided they would serve on the Jr. Master Gardener committee. It was approved.

**Logo Wear**-New Logo Wear will have the new logo. All members can order new logo badges

at a cost of \$10 or less.

### **New Business/Announcements**

**UGRA River Clean Up-Children's Activity/HCMG Information Booth**- July 27, 10am-noon-Request was made for volunteers.

**Certification Presentations**-Darla Cluster, Karen Fuller, Mark Schultz and Jim Wilson received their certifications.

**Vegetable competition awards**-Connie Townsend, Raeann Reid and Beth McMahon judged the contest. Connie discussed the rules, and read the winners names as Raeann presented 1st place gift certificates to Plant Haus and ribbons to 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners.

Winners were:

Squash, 1st Place Pat Wolters;

Small Tomatoes, 2nd Place Mindy Skaggs & 1st Place Pat Wolters;

Large Tomatoes, 2nd Place Mindy Skaggs & 1st Place Pat Wolters;

Onions, 2nd Place Pam Umstead & 1st Place Chris Davis.

### **Adjournment**

Next meeting – August 7, 2019 at Hill Country Youth Events Center

July CEU Program – Panel Discussion (see picture below– photo credit: Mark Shultz)

August CEU - Merry Langlinais, Butterflies and the Plants They Love

Respectfully Submitted:

Patti Schlessiger, Secretary



CEU expert panel from left: Duane Robinson, Jackie Skinner, Jan Grimes, Judy Beauford, Anne Brown & Caryl Hartman



***President's message continued from page 1***

nourishment for our seniors and we want to continue our production of Garden-grown produce for our seniors and homebound clients in Kendall County.

A wide variety of vegetables and fruits are grown in 30 planter box-style beds to enable the seniors to work in the Garden without having to bend over or kneel. These beds were built by local scouts to fulfill their Eagle Scout Community Project requirement. We now have the capacity to increase our production, but we are in dire need of volunteers to carry out the garden tasks. Numerous planter boxes are empty because we don't have enough volunteers to fill, plant and oversee the beds.



***Kendall County, Kronkosky Place,  
Rainbow Senior Center Garden***

The volunteer schedule is Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 0800-1000 in the Summer (to beat the heat) and from 0900-1100 during the rest of the year. There is no set commitment – we welcome volunteers if they can work one morning a month or three days a week – whatever best suits the volunteer. Several of our senior volunteers have physical limitations – we take great care to ensure no one is asked to perform any task outside their comfort zone.

Please consider the Rainbow Senior Center Garden as a place to earn volunteer service hours for your Hill Country Master Gardener annual certification. The senior volunteers say gardening is good therapy for body and mind as one communes with nature, it's good for the soul!

The RSC Kronkosky Place main facility is amazing – you'll always find fresh coffee, iced tea and water, along with light refreshments, super staff and lots of friendly members (plus clean restrooms!!)

The HCMG Point of Contact for the RSC Garden is Keeley Porter. She can be contacted via email at [keeley.porter@gmail.com](mailto:keeley.porter@gmail.com)

## Summer at the Glory Community Garden



**Nania & granddaughter, Isabella**

Photo  
Credit:  
Pam  
Umstead



**Sanya & grandchildren, President and Nevareh**



**Hill Country Master  
Gardeners 201p  
Executive  
Committee**

Rachel Garrison  
*President*

Debra Bacon  
*Vice President*

Patti Schlessiger  
*Secretary*

Bernadell Larson  
*Treasurer*

Jackie Skinner  
*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

*Continuing Education Editor*  
Raeann Reid

*Webmaster*  
Stan Zwinggi

**Submissions to**

Newsletter.editor.hcmg  
@gmail.com

**Donna Bellis is the new Chair of the  
Education Committee**



**Above, Donna Bellis receiving boxes of information from former  
Education Committee Chairperson, Lydia Jones.  
Is it just me or does one of them look happier than the other?  
A special thanks to Lydia for all her hard work on the Education  
Committee.**

Photo Credit: Pat Wolters



**Donna Bellis  
happily  
turning over  
the  
Information  
Booth  
Coordinator  
job to Karen  
Fuller.**

Photo Credit:  
Pat Wolters