

August 2, 2023

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August 2, 2023

HCYEC

Meeting 1:00 pm

CEU 2:00 pm

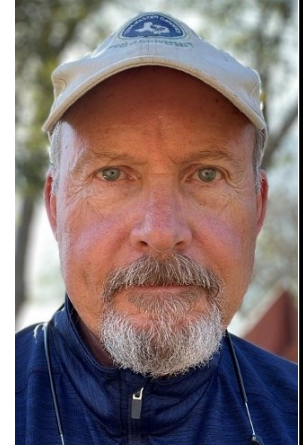
Native Plants and Native Birds: A Relationship Worth Nurturing.

Patsy Inglet

Information on page 8

“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



One of the benefits of being a Hill Country Master Gardener is taking home a plant or two after a monthly meeting. There are three ways this can happen: 1) your number is picked at one of our many drawings and you “win the lottery,” (and “thank you” to Sheryl Landrum for the great job she did calling out many random numbers at the July meeting); 2) a HCMG member brings a bunch of cuttings or plants to the meeting and asks the audience to “please take one”; or 3) a HCMG friend brings a few special items from their garden just for you.

Although my number has yet to be called, my garden and patio are much more delightful because of plants brought home from monthly meetings.

I have also benefitted from the bounty of the “demo” garden. Not surprisingly, many of the garden specimens need to be regularly trimmed and their progeny removed to maintain the garden. An example is the Obedient Plant (described by Jackie Skinner as the “Disobedient Plant”). I took a daughter plant home hoping that it would spread over one of my beds. Unfortunately, the neighborhood deer taught it some manners. Other transplants and cuttings from the demo garden have done much better.

I’m very proud of my Cuban oregano and my night-blooming cereus both of which I propagated from leaves offered at general meetings. While these plants may not challenge veteran gardeners, they are confidence builders for “newbies” like me. My wife especially enjoys a false shamrock and a “mother of thousands” given to us by a HCMG friend. I have an aloe from another HCMG friend that needed a new home. And one of my all-time favorites is a bush morning glory from the demo garden that survived being transplanted and two difficult winters in my yard and is still going strong.

Continued on page 4



Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG

This summer has turned HOT, HOT, HOT AND HOT. I don't like it at all but there is nothing I can do about except endure. This is the type of summer that I have to decide whether to pull everything and begin again in the fall, or try and keep my plants alive through this heat in order to jump start the fall garden season. I have chosen to pull all except a few tomatoes. I have harvested what tomatoes I have and will try and pull the plants through. The squash, beans and potatoes are history. It just got to hot for them to produce and in the case of the potatoes, I got started way too late.



Harvested Tomatoes



Propagated Basil

The basil that I propagated earlier is growing well. I have transplanted them into a bigger pot and placed them out of direct sun.

I am excited about the Cherokee purple tomato that I grew earlier. This is the 2nd generation of these tomatoes from seeds I had collected from a plant I grew two years ago. This 2nd generation plant had a very large tomato that I let grow until it became overly ripe. I collected the seeds and some pulp into a glass jar then added some water. By doing this, the seeds go through a fermentation process. The pulp will separate from the seeds and the viable seeds will sink to the bottom of the jar. This takes about 5 to 7 days. Then I will skim off the stuff floating on the top as well as drain off most of the water. I will add

fresh water and drain it off a few times until I'm left with only clean seeds. These I will pour through a small mesh screen sieve then put the clean seeds on wax paper to dry. The seeds will be arranged as to not to touch each other. This will prevent seeds from sticking to one another. Dry them on wax paper and not a paper towel. Wet seeds on paper towels creates a mess. I have made this mistake in the past, it was not pretty. The dried seeds will then be placed in a small plastic jar for safe keeping.



Fermenting seeds



Tomato cuttings

A few days ago, I took some cuttings from this same Cherokee purple tomato plant. I trimmed the lower leaves, leaving only 2 or 3 leaves at the top of each stem. I place them into a jar of water and set the jar on the counter. In about a week, I should see small roots starting to form on the stems. A few weeks later, I hope to be planting new clones, of the parent plant, into pots. If all works as planned, these will be my fall tomatoes.

HILL COUNTRY HOMESTEADING

PLAN, GROW, HARVEST, ENJOY

Tips Specific to the Texas Hill Country
Raising Bees | Chickens | Permaculture
Vegetable Gardening | Small Acreage Animal Production

Friday, August 4th, 9am - 4 pm

\$45 / person, includes meal



Registration Deadline:
August 1st

Gillespie County
Extension Office,
38 Business Court
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Refunds will be given up until August 1st

Payment must be received for registration to be considered complete.

Register online by scanning
the QR Code or in person at
the Gillespie County Extension
Office or
by calling
(830) 997-3452.



Patsy Inglet is a native Texan originally from the Houston area, although she lived and worked 25 years overseas as a teacher with her engineer husband, Tom. They “retired” to the San Antonio area in 1999 and started their new career as “professional volunteers.”



Birds started as a volunteer interest, but they have now become a passion and a focus of Patsy’s educational and conservation efforts and recreational activities and travels. She has traveled to every continent to see as many birds as possible, banded birds in the field, monitored birds in the nest, and taught many children and adults the basics of birding. Patsy & Tom are self-confessed and unapologetic “Bird Nerds”.

Patsy is ...

- ◆ A Texas Master Naturalist (Class 8) in the Alamo Chapter. Patsy was awarded the Presidential Citation and Pin for 5,000 hours of volunteer work in 2015 and earned the 10,000 hour pin in 2020. She and Tom teach the Bird Class for the Alamo and Lindheimer, Chapters.
- ◆ On the board of Bexar Audubon Society, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, and Audubon Texas.
- ◆ Current Education & Engagement Chair for Bexar Audubon Society.

Connecting people of all ages with nature, via birds, and helping to conserve our natural legacy have become top priorities in Patsy’s life.



President’s message continued from page 1

While working in the cacti section in the demo garden, I’ve taken several small pencil cacti that grew in the gravel path as well as some spineless and hairy prickly pears pads that needed to be pruned. All have flourished in my yard. Another favorite of mine is a “bunny ears” (or “polka dot”) cactus. Interestingly, the polka dot cactus in the demo garden died last winter and I can bring back a “starter” if the section leader agrees.

You must be ruthless to keep your garden under control (or so I’ve been told) but it’s not so easy to toss a living thing. Giving away plants is a good way to minimize the guilt. It’s also a good way to repay your friends for their generosity. And, at this point, I am deeply in debt.

Does anyone need a garlic chive? Or a spineless prickly pear?

Georgeson Botanical Gardens at the University of Alaska/ Fairbanks

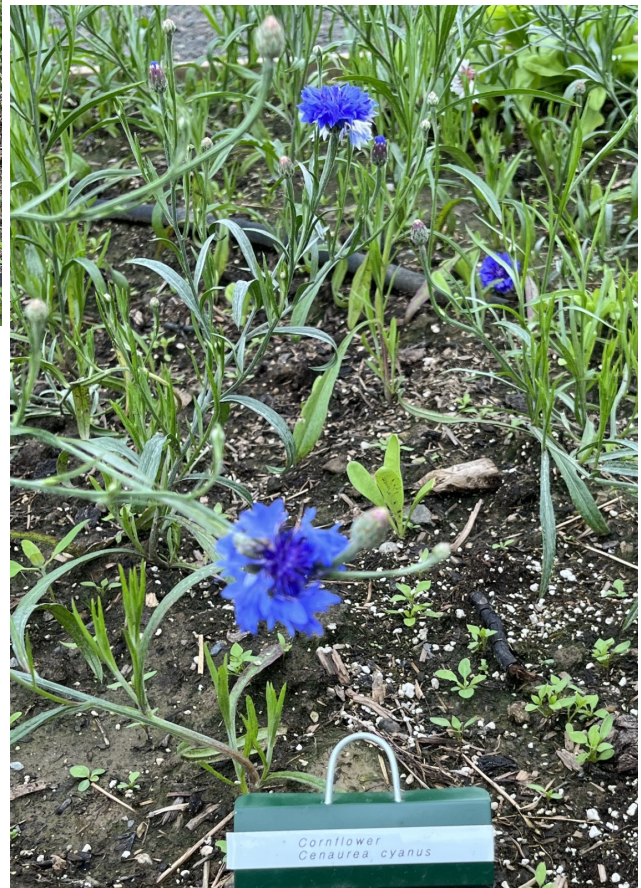
Debbie Bacon is in Alaska and Western Canada for the summer. She says “It’s very interesting to see they have some of the same flowers we have in the Hill Country that can survive the -50 degree winters! They also have a 5’ tall rose garden maze that is several acres. The peonies areas are extensive, and are harvested for hospice bouquets. Staying cool here. High of 65 today in Denali.”

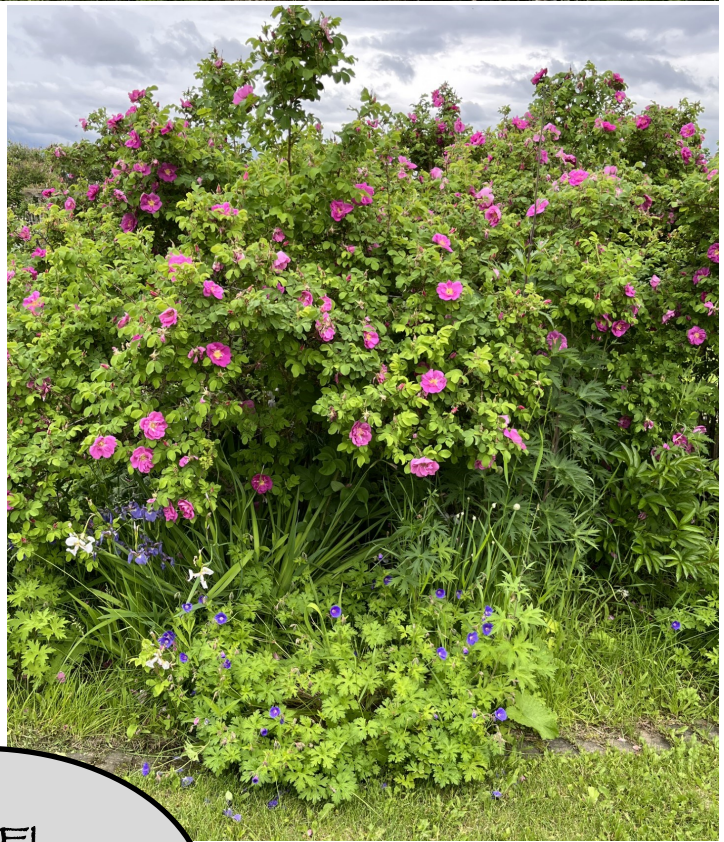


Peonies in Alaska—because of Alaska’s northern latitude and late growing season, many flowers bloom at different times from what is common in the “Lower 48”. For instance, most peonies in Alaska bloom from late June through September, not the usual May and early June. This timing difference has economic value for peonies grown as fresh cut flowers.

The Georgeson Botanical Garden started research on peonies in 1998 and have demonstrated that peonies can, indeed, be grown as cut flowers in Alaska, and they are in demand in national and world markets. Because of this research we now have the very first agricultural export crop from Alaska, and we are shipping cut peonies all over the United States. The Alaska Peony Association has been formed and there are farms located from Fairbanks to Homer and many places in between.

Research by Alaskans for Alaskans and the World!





Beautiful Flowers
in Alaska



HCMG Awards Scholarships By Carl Luckenbach



Phiala Drake graduated from high school Lago Vista High School in 2019. She began her academic career at Texas State University during 2019-2020, majoring in Public Relations. She attended South Plains College in Levelland during 2020-2021, and entered Texas Tech in the fall of 2021. By this time, she had changed her major to Horticulture. During 2022, Phiala completed a six-month internship at a golf course in Big Sky, Montana. She thrived in this environment, and now works part-time at The Rawls Course at Texas Tech, in Lubbock. During recent years, in addition to her golf course activities, she was a grape harvester, as well as a groundskeeper at a winery. Her extra-curricular activities include being President of the Texas Tech University Turfgrass Club, membership in the Texas Tech University Horticulture Society, and being Vice-President of the Heart of Lubbock Community Garden Club. After graduation, Phiala aspires for a career in turfgrass management at golf courses. She expresses thanks to Hill Country Master Gardeners and states “I am unbelievably grateful.”

Dylan Osborn graduated from Wylie High School, near Abilene, in 2021. While in high school, he participated in FFA and completed numerous dual-credit courses through Angelo State University. Beginning in 2015, he owned and operated his own lawn care business. He was a member of the National Honor Society.

In 2023, Dylan completed an associates degree in Agriculture, and also became a certified welder. Throughout these years, he has participated in several activities, including part of the audio visual team at Beltway Park Church, volunteering at food panties at two churches, volunteering at Love and Care Ministries, volunteering with the Salvation Army Angel Tree project, and helping in a community garden. In general, his interests include volunteering, gardening, and spending time with family.

In August, 2023, Dylan will enter Tarleton State University as a junior, majoring in horticulture. His long term goal is to own and operate a greenhouse, nursery to produce plants and food. He is interested in experimenting with different ways to propagate crops for sustainability in both controlled and natural environments. He has been experimenting with growing various plants in his own back yard and is currently experimenting with aquaponics.

Dylan has expressed his appreciation of being awarded a Hill Country Master Gardener Scholarship, stating “This scholarship will be a tremendous help with my tuition.”



**Hill Country Master Gardeners
Monthly Meeting
July 6, 2023
HCYEC**

Welcome – Dave Kinneberg welcomed all and gave the order of the day’s activities. Thanks to Rachel Garrison and her assistants in organizing the potluck.

Invocation delivered by Patty Zohlen delivered the invocation.

Potluck followed.

Call to Order (Please Silence Your Cell Phones)

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the membership.

Welcome/Opening Remarks – Dave Kinneberg welcomed the membership. No visitors were identified.

Verification of Quorum – Marge Muniz verified that a quorum had been met.

Approval of Minutes from June 7, 2023 Meeting – A motion was made by Brian Strickland and seconded by Ray Tiemann to approve the June minutes.

Treasurer’s Report – Rachel Garrison explained line items on the Treasurer's report where a \$300 donation had been moved from the scholarship fund to the General Account. Also, Dave contacted the speaker from a previous CEU session regarding her honorarium which had not been cashed. She requested it be identified as a donation instead. The report is posted on the website. Dave also addressed an expense issue for the greenhouse. KPUB reviewed dates and times of the usage which occurred after the April B&B. It appears that the heater was turned on. Measures are being taken to correct the problem: posting necessary operating instructions; ask Drew Aliperto to help assess and install necessary updates.

New Member – Dave Kinneberg welcomed and congratulated our first new member from the 2023 class, Sheryl Landrum.



Jackie Skinner, mentor, Sheryl Landrum, and Dave Kinneberg, President

Business Items

Audience Tracking – Dave addressed the need to report the audience numbers when members do a presentation. He requested that members email him and he will forward to Jackie Connelly with the count. VMS does have a field to input the information but no easy way of capturing it for yearly reporting.

By-law Review Committee – Dave asked for anyone interested in being on the committee to email him. Melayne Arnold volunteered for the committee.

Standing Committee Reports

Scholarship – Carl Luckenbach presented the names and background of this year’s scholarship recipients. 1) Dylan Osbourn, who will be attending Tarleton State University in Horticulture.

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2) Phiala Drake, who will be attending Texas Tech in Horticulture.

Education – Donna Bellis reported that 2 members of the Hospitality Committee will be assisting with the class of 2024. Classes will start on February 13th and will incorporate 2 field trips. Currently there are 13 or 14 on the wait list from last year. Changes that will be made to the requirements to the upcoming class: an initial meet and greet session for potential candidates stressing the volunteer hour requirement; payment for class and background check prior to commencement of the class will be required; applications will be made available on-line; sign-up dates are 8/1 through 9/30.

Demonstration Garden – Jackie Skinner encouraged everyone to take a stroll through the Demo Garden. She reported the wall in section 8 is being installed by Tanner Tippins as his Eagle Scout project. Also, in the new Wild Scape area, plans are to amend the soil in the fall. The Demo Garden committee will meet at 10:30 am prior to the August meeting.

Tom Collins reported on his find of the Common Sootywing butterfly in the Demo Garden, the first recorded sighting in Kerr County.

Dave Kinneberg also reported that Jennifer Smith, the Kerr County 4-H Agent, is working on fencing around the back of the garden to create a Learning Garden for its members. He also reported, with a heavy heart, that our dedicated Jackie Skinner will be moving to the Houston area in October.

Other Announcements

October Meeting Field Trip – Plans are to visit the Medina Garden Nursery and Native Plants of Texas after the October business meeting. Coordination of those who intend to attend and car pool will be conducted at the September meeting.

Erin Davis, of the Forrest Service dropped by and let us know that we had been selected to receive Wild Fire Prevention kits.

Annual River Cleanup – Imelda Horne and Rae Raiford will be coordinating the HCMG booth at the UGRA River Cleanup at Flat Rock Park on Saturday, July 22nd. The children’s activity this year will be native bee house, demonstrated by Imelda Horne.



Homesteading Seminar – Ray Tiemann again reminded everyone of the seminar, August 4th in Fredericksburg. Beth McMahon also gave additional details regarding the seminar on self-sustainability. Cost is \$45.

Research Desk Tree Home Visits – Anne Brown mentioned that if anyone is interested in joining her on the tree visits to contact her.

Final Comments – Dave Kinneberg noted the next month’s CEU will be Patsy Inglet.

Door prizes consisting of multiple plants were donated by Patty Zohlen and Ray Tiemann. Dave Kinneberg donated a brand new ball cap as an additional door prize.



Adjournment
Respectfully submitted, Marge Muniz



This bright pop of pink makes Rock Rose a standout in Hill Country gardens.



A rose by another name: Rock Rose

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 N.I.C.E. Native Plant Partners program 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. The N.I.C.E. acronym stands for “**Natives Improve and Conserve Environments.**” The goal of the program is to introduce people to great native plants that are available locally to use in place of non-native species.



Cindy Anderson
Native Plant
Society of TX
HCMG

WHY PLANT NATIVES?

The home page of the state website, NPSOT.org, says:

Native plants are drought tolerant, naturally conserving our precious water resources.

Native plants provide habitat and food for birds, butterflies, bees and other wildlife.

Native plants don't need special pampering or fertilizing.

Natives are natural to their eco-system.

Natives help us maintain biological diversity

ROCK ROSE

Are you looking for some bright pink flowers to add to your garden? Look no further than Rock Rose. This beauty, also known as rose mallow or rose pavonia, is actually native to our own Edwards Plateau and the Trans-Pecos region to our west. Here it grows as a small, woody perennial shrub. To our south it will grow larger, and to our north it serves as a lovely annual.

Because of its low maintenance, resilience, and showy blooms, in 2021 it was added to the prestigious Texas Superstar list. Mike Arnold, Ph.D., a Texas A&M AgriLife Research horticulturist, calls it “tough as nails,” and says that once it is established, it will bloom throughout the season to the first frost.

The blooms Rock Rose stays smaller in dry soil, larger in fertile soil, but generally grows 2-3 feet tall and wide. It does best in full sun to partial shade and, like most plants,

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Rock Rose continued from page 10

prefers morning sun, afternoon shade. Its water usage is low, it reseeds freely, and is mostly deer-resistant. Water lightly but regularly to ensure blooming.

If you want more of these plants, you can dig up some of the baby plants in spring, or take softwood cuttings from the new growth. Apply a little root hormone and then repot. You can also collect seeds from the seed pods once they turn brown.

This is not an evergreen shrub – it is deciduous. It will typically die back in the winter, at which time it should be cut back to keep it compact and blooming. Cutting it back to about 8-12” each February will encourage denser, bushier growth. It may also tend to become leggy during the growing season, so additional pruning then may be necessary.

These plants sometimes get powdery mildew, especially if they don’t get enough sun. Not to worry, however – it does not seem to hurt the plant’s health. Just be sure not to overwater

WHERE TO FIND IT

Our local N.I.C.E. nurseries have happily agreed to stock up on our Plant of the Season in order to have it available to the public. Look for the “N.I.C.E. Plant of the Season” sign stake at these nurseries and growers in Kerrville, Fredericksburg, Medina, and Comfort:

- 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
- The Garden Haus, 109 Farm to Market Rd. 473, Comfort, 830-995-5610
- Friendly Natives, 1107 N. 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:

The Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas hosts monthly programs at the Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville, September through May. See npsot.org/kerrville for details.

The Fredericksburg Chapter of NPSOT meets monthly in Fredericksburg. See npsot.org/fredericksburg for details.

Cindy Anderson is a member of the Native Plant Society of Texas (Kerrville Chapter) and the Hill Country Master Gardeners. An enthusiastic (though often frustrated) gardener, she has learned first-hand the value of native plants, and gladly shares reviews of her favorites in this quarterly seasonal column.

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

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Special thanks to
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 Vickie Killeen

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Hill Country Master Gardeners was selected by the Texas A&M Forest Service to receive a tool kit to help teach our communities how to become fire adapted and to continue our environmental work. Kari Hines, Firewise Program Coordinator with the A&M Forest Service, and Erin Davis, Staff Forester, presented Dave Kinneberg, HCMG President, with the tool kit on July 13 in the HCMG Demonstration Garden. The tool kit consists of a wheelbarrow and hand tools as well as educational signage and informational brochures. Hill Country Master Gardeners serve the communities of Kerr, Bandera, Kendall, and Gillespie counties and offers classes in fire-wise landscaping and provides free home visits to assess potential hazards.



Photo Caption: Kari Hines, Firewise Program Coordinator and Erin Davis, Staff Forester III, both with the Texas A&M Forest Service present Dave Kinneberg, HCMG President with a tool kit in recognition of HCMG's educational and environmental efforts.