

August 2022

Volume 20, Issue 8

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HCMG
August 3, 2022
HCYEC

1:00 Business Meeting

2:00 Program

Texas Native
Ornamental Shrubs.

Lynn Cox,
 past president of the Bexar
 County Master Gardeners

“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



Before becoming a master gardener, I only cared about growing lawn and “practical” vegetables. My wife dealt with the decorative aspects of the yard and, when we relocated to Kerrville, we relied on landscapers. My horticultural interests are now much broader. Not only have I moved beyond the “typical” tomatoes and peppers to more exotic vegetables that tolerate Texas heat (e.g., Malabar spinach) but I actively seek out new additions to our yard to add color, texture, and contrast. I even photograph many of the wildflowers I encounter on my hikes.

As my interest in horticulture has grown, so has the need to identify plants. Unfortunately, I have always had issues associating names with people, places, and things (and this seems to be getting worse with age). To help identify plants, I downloaded a couple of apps to my phone. I won’t mention names because I don’t want to promote any of them. I will say, however, that some apps work better than others.

For example, one program covers “all species” (plants, amphibians, fungi, fish, reptiles, arachnids, birds, insects, mollusks, and mammals!). However, if I point my phone at our cat, I get a surprising answer: domesticated dog. Not only does this insult the cat but it undermines my faith in their algorithm. My other apps specialize in “insects” or “plants” and these seem more reliable. Whichever app I use, I always check the result against internet images for confirmation.

My daughter recently told me that if you “swipe up” on a plant or animal photo, a “look up” option appears, which, if pressed, will identify the image. This feature could be unique to recent iPhones and, if so, will probably be available on other phones soon. I tried it on a cactus in the HCMG demonstration garden the other day and got “peyote” for an answer. Now, as the person who makes markers for the demo garden, I’m sure we aren’t growing peyote. However, when I tried this on a photo of our cat, I got “tabby cat” -an improvement over the other app. The nice thing about this feature is that nothing needs to be downloaded.

Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG

Hot, Hot, Hot and Hot, Hot, Hot and Hot, Hot, Hot again.



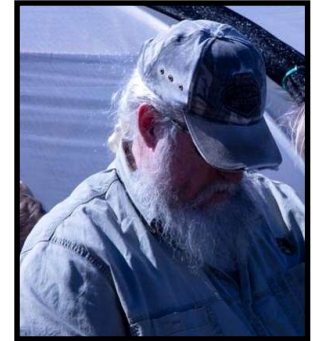
Squash not liking the heat

planted them in a large wicking tub, another plus. I have yet to harvest any of the tubers so the jury is still out on them. I won't harvest them until later this fall, keeping my fingers crossed.



Sweet potatoes loving the heat

This sums up my garden this season. I'm not having much success. The squash did great early on but have now gone into survival mode. I've pulled half of them and will be pulling the rest soon. The tomatoes have just started to put on some fruit but it's dismal at best. The leaves are small and curled up. I believe this is a survival technique to protect itself during hot dry times. The tomatoes that appear to be doing better than the others are the ones that are in wicking pots, but they are not producing fruit either. I planted some Butternut squash this year and they seem to be growing and have produced some fruit, there is hope. The potatoes produced good plants but very few usable potatoes. The bright part of this year's garden is the bed of sweet potatoes. Sweet potatoes like heat, that's a plus. I also



Tomatoes with dismal production

This year reminds me of the drought from 2010 to 2011. In 2010, I had no measurable rain from April until October. That year I just abandoned my garden in mid-summer and walked away. I did not return until early the next spring. I was surprised to find a few of the collards, planted the year before, had survived. Not only survived, but were starting to grow once again. These collards went on to bloom and produced seeds that I collected and are still viable today. Out of disaster, life refused to give up, only to flourish again. Just as then, this Phoenix will rise out of today's ashes to soar once again. For now, what are some lessons learned.

Last year it remained cool all the way into May. This year, the wind would not let up, then it turned hot very quickly. The last two years I have been later than I'd like in putting plants out.

Continued on page 5

2022-2023 HCMG Scholarship Awardees

By Carl Luckenbach

“Kamron and Cassie were awarded our HCMG Scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year and we are proud and pleased to extend our scholarship to them for another year.”



KAMRON NEWBERRY grew up in the Wolfforth community, immediately southwest of Lubbock, where he graduated from Frenship High School. There, he was active in FFA, serving as Chapter Vice-President and showing market barrows in many state qualifying events, as well as leadership events.

After high school, Kamron entered Angelo State University. After completing his freshman year, he transferred to Texas Tech University, from which he graduated in May of 2021 with a GPA of 3.5. He majored in Plant and Soil Science, specializing in Horticulture and Turf Grass Science.

During the Fall Semester of 2019, Kamron participated in a study abroad program at the University College Dublin, in Ireland. There he attended classes ranging from Vegetable Production to Protected Crop Production to Crop Breeding. His eyes were opened to large-scale hydroponic tomato production.

He has been recognized on the President's list two semesters as well as being on the Dean's List. He is the Assistant Greenhouse Manager of the Texas Tech Horticulture Gardens and Greenhouse Complex. This entails growing plants from seed, to doing maintenance work, to planning and conducting plant sales twice a year. In his spare time, he has coached a youth soccer team, assisted in Arbor Day at Texas Tech, and volunteers at the South Plains Food Bank Grub Farm where he helps clean out vegetable beds. He operates a small landscaping business tending and installing flower beds and other landscape features. He has his own vegetable garden where he grows tomatoes and peppers. He has built his own hydroponic nutrient film technique (NFT) system where he grows lettuce and spinach for a spring mix. Kamron is pursuing a Master's Degree in Horticulture so that he can research ways to improve various hydroponic growing techniques through automation. He considers hydroponic production to be the newest sustainable technology for growing food. He aspires to a career in commercial greenhouse crop production.

Kamron made an excellent presentation to Hill Country Master Gardeners in January 2022, highlighting his research project in hydroponics. He made similar presentations at the Texas Nursery Landscape Association Horticulture Forum and also in the Texas Tech University Graduate Poster Competition. He earned second place in both of these events. He has recently begun his second experiment in which he will try to determine how little water is necessary to apply to aeroponically grown lettuce to get maximum results.

2022-2023 HCMG Scholarship Awardees



CASSIE HUTCHESON MARBACH grew up in Rockwall, where she was home schooled for her last three years of high school. After studying Horticulture at Stephen F. Austin for two years, she went to Lubbock for two years, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture, maintaining a 3.9 Grade Point Average. After spending the summer of 2020 in Harper, where she worked as a counselor and cook at a Christian summer camp, she entered graduate study in Horticulture at Texas A&M University, where she aspires to complete her PHD degree in December of 2024. She has made the Dean’s List and President’s list at all three universities. During May through June of 2019, Cassie participated in a program in Spain studying Wine Production and Culture.

Cassie has been exposed to various aspects of Horticulture through various jobs, internships, and teaching assistantships. During the past school year, she worked in floriculture labs and demonstrated floral designs. She designed and conducted experiments on the effects of cold stratification and potassium nitrate on the germination speed, flowering rate, and biomass for a particular seed. She worked on research projects in viticulture and enology, collecting and processing data, on enzyme digestions and gel migrations for a microbial enology project. She also spent a summer in Dayton, Ohio, interning for Monrovia Nursery Company, acquiring skills and knowledge in tissue culture, grafting, seedling propagation, perennial production, and the associated shipping, sales, and marketing. Her dissertation projects include consumer analysis regarding willingness to pay more for sustainably produced wines and researching the economic benefits of using “green juice” in grape and wine production practices.

When she was 16, Cassie set a goal to graduate from college by the age of 20, which she has achieved. Another goal is to complete her university education while being debt-free. She appreciates our scholarship to help her in that effort. After graduating with her PHD, Cassie hopes to be an independent representative for the entire Texas grape industry on the benefits of producing grapes in environmentally friendly ways.

In addition to her academic work, Cassie has also completed three levels of the Wine & Spirit Educational Trust, an international organization. She aspires to attain her level 4 diploma in the near future. Her goal is “to become an advocate for Texas wine and benefits of producing grapes in environmentally friendly ways by becoming a certified wine expert and proudly representing Texas wine.”



The Upper Guadalupe River Authority EduScape is featured in the July/Aug 2022 issue of **TEXAS Gardener Magazine** - it should have been published a while back, but delays held it up until right now - in the midst of a drought - perfect timing!

Submitted by Pam Umstead, MG



Hill Country Veggies from page 2

I prefer to transplant seedlings into 6" pot in order to allow the roots to grow out before I put them in the ground. I don't like to put young plants out when there is wind in the forecast. I try to time putting the plants out just before we have rain in the forecast. I also prefer not to put young plants out until the night time temperatures are at least in the mid 60's. These conditions generally occur in early to mid- April, here in Comfort. These conditions have not happened in the last few years. I can't control how or what the weather conditions will be, but I can, ever so slightly, make a few changes to maybe, just maybe, adjust things to my favor. **Identify, Learn, Adjust and Continue On.** I will give this lots of thought over the next few months.

Drought Tolerant Plants

Taken from an article published in the San Antonio Express News Gardening, ETC. on Sunday, May 21, 2006 "Drought and Drought Stress on South Texas Landscape Plants" by David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent-Horticulture for Bexar County.



What are the Characteristics of Drought Tolerant Plants?

Some species have an inherent tolerance of drought because they have evolved in arid areas, regions with frequent drought, or regions with soils of low water-holding capacity. Some species have anatomical or physiological characteristics that allow them to withstand drought or to acclimate to drought. All plants have a waxy coating on their leaves called "cuticle," but some species have developed exceptionally thick cuticles that reduce the amount of water lost by evaporation from the leaf surface. Leaf hairs, which reduce air movement at the leaf surface, are another means of reducing evaporation from the leaf. Since the amount of surface area exposed to the atmosphere affects evaporation, leaf size and thickness are other adaptations, with thicker leaves and smaller leaves being more resistant to water loss. Some species have evolved large surface root systems to quickly absorb rainfall, while other species grow deep root systems to tap deep water tables. Some plants avoid drought by dropping their leaves during droughts and quickly regrowing new leaves when environmental conditions improve.

Lists of Drought Tolerant Plants

The plants listed tolerate drought stress better than most landscape plants. Although these plants are considered drought tolerant, new plantings will require regular irrigation for 6 weeks to 6 months or more before they become established well enough to be effectively drought tolerant. Trees larger than two inches caliper will take longer to establish. Plants are listed by common and scientific names (alphabetized by scientific name) and are divided into categories such as trees, shrubs, groundcovers and vines.

Those marked with * are considered to be Deer Resistant.***

Also, trees not so marked are vulnerable until they reach a size sufficient to withstand the rubbing of the buck deer.

Drought resistant plants listed on page 7 are formatted Common name/Scientific name

Drought Tolerant Shrub

Glossy abelia *Abelia x grandiflora*
 Century plant **** *Agave americana*
 Aloe *Aloe*
 Japanese barberry *Berberis thunbergii*
 Butterfly bush *Buddleia* spp.
 Cactus **** Some Species *Cactaceae* family
 Bottlebrush *Callistemon* spp.
 Dwarf natal plum **** *Carissa grandiflora*
 'Prostrata'
 Pampas grass **** *Cortaderia selloana*
 Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster* spp.
 Pineapple guava *Feijoa sellowiana*
 Fig *Ficus carica*
 Kumquat *Fortunella japonica*
 African daisy *Gamolepis chrysanthemoides*
 St. John's-wort *Hypericum* spp.
 Yaupon, yaupon holly **** *Ilex vomitoria*
 Juniper **** *Juniperus* spp.
 Lantana **** *Lantana* spp.
 English lavender *Lavandula angustifolia*
 Texas sage **** *Leucophyllum frutescens*
 Wax myrtle *Myrica cerifera*
 Oleander **** *Nerium oleander*
 Prickly pear **** *Opuntia ficus-indica*
 Pittosporum *Pittosporum* spp.
 Plumbago **** *Plumbago auriculata*
 Pomegranate **** *Punica granatum*
 Pyracantha *Pyracantha* spp.
 Indian hawthorn *Raphiolepis* spp.
 Rose *Rosa* spp.
 Rosemary **** *Rosemarinus officinalis*
 Texas Mountain Laurel **** *Sophora* spp.
 Spiraea *Spiraea* spp.
 Yellowbells, Gold Star *Esperanza*
 Cup of Gold (Cupea de Oro) *Tecoma stans*
 Blueberry, Sparkleberry *Vaccinium* spp.
 Viburnum **** *Viburnum* spp.
 Chaste tree,
 'Texas Lilac' *Vitex* **** *Vitex agnus-castus*
 Yucca **** *Yucca* spp.

Drought Tolerant Trees

Cedar *Cedrus* spp.
 Texas Redbud *Cercis canadensis* 'Texensis'
 Citrus *Citrus* spp.
 Loquat *Eriobotrya japonica*
 Yaupon Holly *Ilex vomitoria*
 Crape myrtle *Lagerstroemia indica*,
 Wax myrtle *Myrica cerifera*
 Japanese black pine *Pinus thunbergiana*
 Shumard oak *Quercus shumardii*
 Live oak *Quercus virginiana*
 Mountain Laurel *Sophora secundiflora*
 Bald Cypress *Taxodium distichum*
 Jujube *Ziziphus* spp.

Drought Tolerant Groundcovers

Bermudagrass **** *Cynodon dactylon*
 Daylily *Hemerocallis* spp.
 St. John's-wort *Hypericum* spp.
 Morning glory *Ipomoea* spp.
 Juniper **** *Juniperus* spp.
 Lantana **** *Lantana* spp.
 Liriope *Liriope* spp.
 Rosemary **** *Rosemarinus officinalis*
 Purple heart *Setcreasea pallida*
 Cape honeysuckle *Tecomaria capensis*
 Asiatic jasmine *Trachelospermum asiaticum*
 Society garlic **** *Tulbaghia violacea*
 Zoysiagrass **** *Zoysia* spp.

Drought Tolerant Vines

Crossvine *Bignonia capreolata*
 Bougainvillea *Bougainvillea* spp.
 Trumpet creeper *Campsis* spp.
 Creeping fig **** *Ficus pumila*
 Carolina yellow jasmine **** *Gelsemium sempervirens*
 Morning Glory *Ipomoea* spp.
 Honeysuckle *Lonicera sempervirens*
 Virginia creeper *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*
 Cape honeysuckle *Tecomaria capensis*
 Confederate jasmine *Trachelospermum jasminoides*
 Grape *Vitis* spp.

**Hill Country Master Gardeners
Monthly Meeting
July 6, 2022
HCYEC**

Call to Order: President Dave Kinneberg called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm and asked everyone to silence their phones.

Pledge of Allegiance: Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation: Patty Zohlen offered the Invocation.

Verification of Quorum: Jackie Connelly confirmed a quorum with 41 HCMGs in attendance.

Welcome/Opening Remarks: Dave Kinneberg welcomed everyone and asked if we had any special guests to introduce. None. Due to several ExCom members being unavailable today, he thanked everyone for filling in for them.

Approval of Minutes from June 1, 2022 Meeting: Brian Strickland moved to approve the minutes as published in the June Newsletter. Barbara Banks seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Dave Kinneberg reviewed the preliminary Treasurer's Report in Rachel Garrison's absence. She will finalize it when she returns from vacation. Anne Goette moved to approve the report as written and Joe Goette seconded, motion carried. A member questioned the approval of expenditures for the demo garden (DG). Dave explained that in January the membership approved the proposed budget. Improvements to the DG were listed in the approved budget, and as long as expenditures are within the budget, they are approved. He mentioned that the President can approve expenditures up to \$100, the Executive Committee can approve up to \$1,000 and anything else would come before the members to approve.

Standing Committee Reports

Demonstration Garden: Dave Kinneberg announced a new feature on our website

spotlighting the Demo Garden. He thanked Tex Lang for creating a very unique 360 virtual tour. Dave told us that to review the virtual tour, click on our website, resources, plants in the Demo Garden and click on the button that says VIRTUAL TOUR.

Education: Donna Bellis announced the next committee meeting on July 28 at 1 pm in the extension office. She asked members to let her know whether or not they will be there. If anyone needs hours, they can start copying the handouts for the 2023 binders in her box. She asked everyone to be mindful of using the copier in the secretary's office and always ask before making copies.

Research Desk: Anne Brown announced the interns were doing a great job on the Research Desk and said if there were any blank slots, they could sign up for extra shifts.

Public Programs: Ray Tiemann told us about the Learn Your Lawn and Landscape workshop in Gillespie County AgriLife Office on Saturday, September 24 am from 9 am to 3:30 pm. Cost is \$35 with lunch included. More will be posted in the eMinders.

Other Announcement

20th Anniversary Party Reminder: Dave Kinneberg updated us on the party. Our September meeting will be moved to September 14th in conjunction with the party. Watch the eMinder for specific times. The Pavilion at the Western Arts Museum is the venue. There will be a special presentation on the history of HCMG.

Texas Gardener Article: Pam Umstead showed us the article in the magazine spotlighting the UGRA Eduscape Project in Kerrville.

UGRA 2022 River Clean Up Reminder: Dave Kinneberg reminded us about the UGRA Annual

Continued on page 9

Minutes continued from page 8

River Clean-Up on Saturday, July 23rd at Flat Rock Park. We will have a children's activity and information booth.

Scholarship Thank You: Carl Luckenbach will introduce today's presenter – Cassie Murbach, our scholarship recipient from Texas A&M University, as our CEU presentation. He read a very nice thank you note from her.

Other Business/Announcements

Special Opportunities Gardens: Donna Bellis announced the gardens were starting to produce vegetables now. Workdays are Tuesdays starting about 8:30 am if anyone is interested in volunteering.

Rain Barrel Project: Anne Brown thanked everyone for bringing in one-gallon pots needed for the rain barrels.

New Information Booth: Dee Dunton has coordinated an information booth at the Hill Country Retired School Employees Association at the Dietert Center, on August 15 from 9 (setup) – 12. We have four volunteers.

Hill Country Community Journals' article on their Community Character: Vickie Killeen announced that our own Anne Brown was chosen by them to be a HC Community Character and is in the current issue. Thank you Anne for making HCMG shine here.

Plant Cuttings: Ray Tiemann shared some cuttings from his greenhouse.

Final Comments: Dave Kinneberg mentioned his message in the July newsletter about the need for volunteers to take leadership positions in HCMG. He asked for ideas and volunteers. He then thanked everyone for coming today.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Next Meeting: August 3, 2022 HCYEC

CE: See page 1

Submitted by: Jackie Connelly for Rita Aliperto



No water needed! I brought these home from Santa Fe, New Mexico. They are happy amongst the ginger lily along my front walkway.



This is on the left of the sidewalk, opposite the blue glass. **Waterwise at its best!**
 Photo Credit: Pam Umstead, MG

Hill Country Master Gardeners 2022 Executive Committee

Dave Kinneberg
President

Patti Schlessiger
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 & Website

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Water Weekly

For the week of 07/11/22

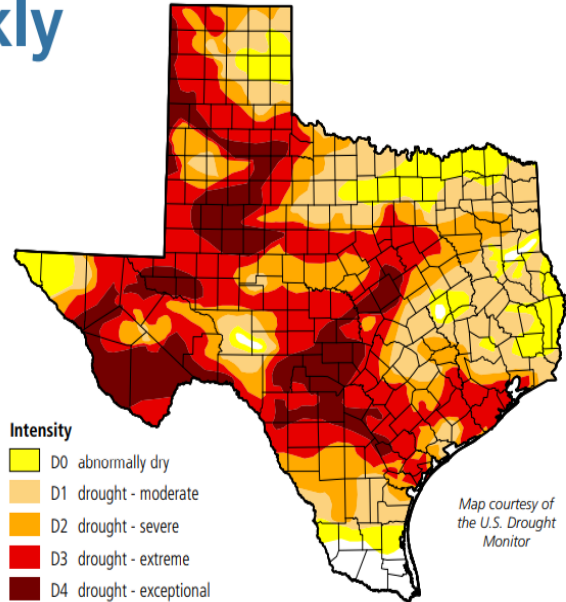
Water conditions

The latest drought map for conditions as of July 5 shows expansion and intensification of drought for the fifth consecutive week. Extreme or worse drought now covers 46 percent of the state, up from 40 percent in early June, but still below the mid-May peak of 56 percent.

Drought conditions

- ◆ 87% now
- ◆ 86% a week ago
- ◆ 85% three months ago
- ◆ 6% a year ago

www.twdb.texas.gov



Seven Ways to Conserve Water

- Water lawns just 1-2 times a week**
- Don't water lawns between 9 am and 5 pm**
- Check for plumbing leaks**
- Install water-efficient fixtures**
- Take shorter showers**
- Put a nozzle on your garden hose**
- Don't let the faucet run and run**

www.boardofwatersupply.com

