

December 2018

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Jackie Skinner

President's Message

I once found a charming garden sign that read, "In search of my mother's garden, I found my own." I bought it and set it in an appropriate place, loving the sentiment. In actuality however, I never wanted anything to do with my mother's garden. She didn't have one because she murdered anything green placed under her care, and my father wasn't much better. Their pictures should have been posted on every nursery wall in Southern California. In the horticultural sense, they personified the Marquis and Madame DeSade.

The worst of punishments they could mete out to wayward children was WEEDING!! (OH, GAD! NOT THAT!!) But by the time my sister and I were teens we were able to find some positive merits in being sent forth to perform yard work. On warm summer days we'd don our best looking shorts and "toil" out front, lemonade in hand, in the hopes of catching the attention of carloads of boys driving past. Oddly enough, this juvenile attempt at coquetry ultimately led to my distraction by and appreciation of the those hardier posies that had prevailed in that front yard, against all odds. My nascent love of horticulture began in "the garden of weedin."

Mother had an uncanny canniness for growing Canna Lilies. They were gorgeous, voluptuous, robust inflorescences that would have done any funerary proud. More than once I saw her go after them with a pick because the upstarts were spreading well beyond the small plot designated for them. In later years, Canna Lilies seemed the obvious first try for a small bed alongside my rental house. After all, if they could overcome her determination to kill them, they must be my kinda plant. But to my frustration and sense of unfairness, to this day, no matter where I have lived, they have denied me satisfaction. Bells of Ireland also survived her torture along with Nasturtiums, Hyacinths, Chinese Lanterns, plum and apricot trees, even Cosmos. They all thrived in my parents' gardening Hades while they have chosen death over life in my little gardens of Eden.

Nevertheless, I keep trying with the old fashioned annuals. I have been rewarded with Sweet Williams, Pansies, Snapdragons, and Feverfew. These are my winter time go-to's. They bravely stand up to freezing temperatures and punishing north winds without complaint because they have heard tales of what could have befallen then in my mother's garden. Paper Whites are magnificent in January...I bought bulbs for \$1.00/each recently, knowing they will return and naturalize year after year, making those dollars well spent, and they are the one thing her beds and mine have enjoyed similarly.

I have not been able to replicate my mother's garden, possibly because I can't find it in my heart to adopt her tough love approach to her victims. Instead, I grow pretty little maids in winter that could have been but never were part of her repertoire. It would seem, therefor, that between she and me, we've gotten it covered. And let me be clear about one thing. My mother was the sweetest, most loving and understanding of mothers, and I was deeply blessed to be her child. (But then, I wasn't a plant.)

HCMG 2018, 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, not all events are eligible to fulfill CEUs credits toward annual recertification. Please verify the event with the provider.

Angela Fiedler, Kerr County Extension Agent, said this about the picture of her youngest daughter,

“I think this speaks a 1000 words about our garden project!!”

The organizations that routinely appear here are not hosting CEU events in December.

If you need more CEU hours to complete the required six hours before the end of the year, please contact our Timekeeper, Jackie Connelly, at jconnelly@stx.rr.com for a list of approved CEU on-line courses and webinars.

Following are the HCMG CEU programs for 2019.

January 2, 2019 no meeting.

February 13, 2019 Carol Bailey, territory sales manager for the Espoma Company, will present ““There was no MiracleGro in the Garden of Eden.”

March 13, 2019 Merry Linglinais, author, photographer, Bandera County Historian and member of the Bandera Canyonlands Alliance, will present a program on 52 species of butterflies and the native plants they prefer while in the Hill Country.

April 3, 2019 Beth McMahon, Gillespie County AgriLife Horticulture Agent, will present a program on edible flowers.





Hill Country Veggies

December 2018

By Allen Mace

Normally in Comfort we expect our 1st freeze around the 3rd or 4th week in November, sometimes even into December. This year it blew in a bit early.

That's ok, winter is here. A few years back, around this time of year, I called one of the local propane companies and was shocked at the price. When I inquired why the price was so high, the answer was that they had not anticipated the lower temperatures. I told them they should have expected lower temperatures

because it happens every year at this time, it's called, wait for it, "Winter", it happens every year at this time. When winter hits, our warm season vegetables freeze back, but we do have vegetables that will grow through the cool season. My perennial cool season vegetables are cabbage, chard, and sorrel. I had 22 degrees one morning and all my plants are fairly young, so as of today, they look a bit wilted. Hopefully, with some warmer

weather, they'll perk back up and be fine. The squash, cucumbers and tomatoes held on at 31 degrees, but gave it up at 22 degrees. Other vegetables that do well over the winter are your lettuces, mustards and most of the Brassica family. These plants will need some extra care. Be sure to fertilize on a regular basis. Check your soil moisture before you water. The soil will hold its moisture longer because of the cooler temperatures. It's easy to over water during the winter so check before you water. Adding mulch will help to keep the soil temperature a little bit warmer as



well as hold soil moisture a little bit longer. As with starting any garden, you should work

the soil. I like to till it up and work in some compost and slow release fertilizer. This should replace nutrients that were depleted by the last garden. The mulch from the summer garden is breaking down and becomes compost for the winter garden. Most

folks just close the garden down for the winter. If that's the case, get some winter rye or some clover and plant it in your beds. Once these get a few inches tall, till them under and replant. By doing this, you will be adding nutrients back into your soil as well as composting these plants in your beds. This will help build up your soil in preparation for the spring season. Just because things have slowed down for the winter, there're still things we can do to



prepare for the next season. If you have access to a green house, you may be able to grow some warm season vegetables. Remember that we don't have as much sunlight during the winter, so you may need to provide some artificial light in the green house. Heaters in the green house may be needed when the temperatures drop, as we know they will from time to time because it's now, wait for it, "Winter".



Eating Local and Sustainable Food

**By
Pat Wolters**

I have always been interested in health and healthy eating. When

we moved to the Hill Country 45 years ago, I envisioned growing all of the food for my family organically and sustainably (I don't recall using the word sustainably 45 years ago but the principles are the same). Luckily for me and my family, there was HEB to supplement the food I was unable to grow successfully. I would like to explain a little about the word sustainability. There is no one truth when it comes to defining food sustainability, though most definitions cover the following:

- Sustainable farming practices promote organic and low carbon food production, avoid the use of artificial fertilizers and pesticides as well as GMO, is beneficial to biodiversity & the environment and provides soil fertility for future food production.

- Low environmental impact with minimal use of the earth's resources: careful use of water, minimizing energy usage when related to transportation & storage methods: in other words eat local and eat what is in season.

- Upholding animal welfare includes treating animals with care & respect, provide pastures for grazing & allows animals to move freely rather than confined to cages or restricted holding pens. As my daughter would say, "the animals have a really good life until you kill and eat them".

- Food that is safe and healthy, produced without hazardous chemicals, non-essential antibiotics or growth supplements. I'm reminded of a quote from Joan Rivers, "At my age, I need all the preservatives I can get".

- Good employment practices & community support includes a liveable wage for workers alongside safe, hygienic and fair working conditions. My daughters might feel they were not paid a fair wage but that's for another discussion.

There is abundant evidence of disease reversal or disease prevention with diets of whole, minimally processed food, plant

predominant diets and even plant-exclusive diets.

So if you are interested in eating local and sustainable food, growing your own is one option. You can also seek out local producers and purchase from them. Currently, Farmers Markets account for less than one percent of food sales in the U.S.



I saw a young man at HEB filling his basket with nothing but fresh produce and I had to take a picture.

Go to page 5 where I've listed some local Farmer's Markets you might want to visit.

**Eating Local and Sustainable Food continued
from page 4**

Kerrville

Kerr County Farmer's Market
4000 Riverside Drive
Wednesday from 2-6 p.m.

Kerrville City Farmers Market
AC Schreiner Home, 529 Water Street
Friday 4-7 p.m.

Kerr County Produce
215 A Street
Wednesday 10-5:30 p.m.

Jenschke Farms
313 Francisco Lemos Street
Monday—Friday 10-6 p.m.
Saturday 10-5 p.m.

Bandera

Bandera Farmers Market
702 Main St.
Thursday 8-11 a.m.

Boerne

Farmers Market at Cibalo
33 Herff Road
Saturday 9-1 p.m.

Fredericksburg

Market Square, 126 W Main
Thursday 4-7 p.m.

Hunt

The Market @Bridget's Basket
1551 TX-39
Wed-Sat 7:30-5 Sun 10-3

A great article that answers many questions about
what to eat: "The Last Conversation You'll Ever
Need to Have about Eating Right"
Mark Rittman & David Katz
Grub Street
[http://www.grubstreet.com/2018/03/ultimate-
conversation-on-healthy-eating-and-
nutrition.html](http://www.grubstreet.com/2018/03/ultimate-conversation-on-healthy-eating-and-nutrition.html)

Seasonal Food Guide can be found at
Foodprint.org



Donna Bellis and Lydia Jones working at the
Special Opportunity Garden. Special Opportunity
Center members volunteer to work in the
garden each week to learn about growing and
harvesting organic vegetables, herbs and
flowers. This year a pollinator garden was added.

Photo Credit: Pat Wolters





Garden Tour

**Students from the
McCullough County
Master Gardener class &
Hill Country Master
Gardeners
toured gardens in
Fredericksburg**

**Above:
Lipe Memorial Garden
Fourth Thursday Workday
Jim Wilhite
jim.wilhite@twc.com**

Photo Credit: Raeann Reid



**Above:
Good
Samaritan Center
Third Wednesdays
Workday**

**Left:
Biblical Garden at
United Methodist
Church
Second Thursday
Workday
Peggy Benson
830-997-9960
peggyben@austin.rr.com**



Meet the Hill Country Master Gardener Executive Group for 2019

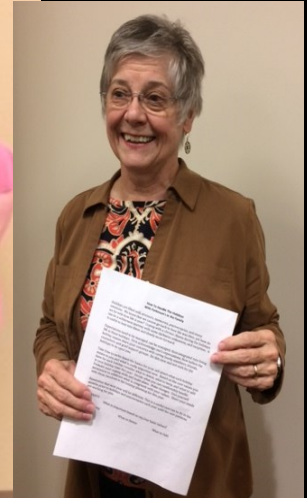
Left to right: Bernadell Larson, Treasurer, Patti Schlessiger, Secretary,
Debbie Bacon, Vice-President, and Rachel Garrison, President



**Poinsettias
growing in
greenhouse**
Schulenburg, Texas



UGRA presents award to the Hill Country Master Gardeners for their work on the UGRA EduScape



Jackie Skinner, HCMG President, Ray Buck, UGRA, Diane McMahon, MG and UGRA Board Member, Bob Waller, UGRA, Pam Umstead, Project Leader, and project committee members: Melayne Arnold and Debra Foley. Meg Scott-Johnson (project committee member who didn't make the picture at the MG meeting but was later found presenting to the Parkinson's Support Group.)

Photo Credit: Pat Wolters



Trail of Lights, Wimberley, Texas

**HCMG Monthly Business Meeting
November 7, 2018
Hill Country Youth Events Center
Minutes**

Call to Order-Jackie Skinner, President, called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance-Dennis Davidson led the pledge.

Invocation-Patty Zohlen gave the invocation.

Introduction of UGRA Representatives

Presenting Appreciation Plaque – Pam

Umstead introduced representatives of UGRA, Ray Buck, Bob Waller and Diane McMahon. Ray Buck read the resolution, and Bob Waller presented the HCMG project committee a plaque.

Committee members present were, Pam Umstead -Project Chair, Melayne Arnold, Debra Foley and Diane McMahon. Not present was committee member Meg Scott-Johnson.

Verification of Quorum – Patti Schlessiger verified a quorum was present.

Treasurer's Report – Bernadell Larson

Approval of Treasurer's Report-Bernadell made available copies of the Treasurer's Report, and went over revenues and expenses. A motion was made to accept report and 2nd, and all approved.

Approval of September 2018 Minutes- Rose Marie Masanke motioned to accept minutes, Melayne Arnold 2nd, and all approved.

Old Business

- Election of 2019 Officers -Jackie Skinner announced the slate of officers for 2019: President-Rachel Garrison, Vice-President-Debbie Bacon, Secretary-Patti Schlessiger & Treasurer-Bernadell Larson. She asked for nominations from the floor, and there were none. Melayne Arnold moved the slate of new officers be accepted, Kathy Gunther 2nd, all were in favor.
- Annual Giving – Kerr County-Patty Zohlen nominated Hill Country Crisis Council, and gave an informative description of the services they provide. She proposed that HCMGs donate money to use for items needed to furnish their facility. Jackie Skinner asked if there were any other nominations from the floor, and there were none. Jackie Connelly moved we accept HC

Crisis Council as our Annual Giving Organization, Raeann Reid 2nd, and all approved.

New Business

- 2019 Membership Dues (\$20)-Bernadell Larson with the help of Debbie Bacon collected dues prior to the monthly meeting.
- Annual Christmas Lunch – (Reservations due November 15th)-Linda Proffitt, Bernadell & Debbie also collected payments for the Christmas luncheon prior to the monthly meeting. Payment can be mailed to: Hill Country Master Gardeners, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension PO Box 290464 3775 Highway 27 Kerrville TX 78028 830-257-6568
- Nominations for Volunteer of the Year Award Due November 15th-Jackie Skinner announced all nominations are due to her by November 15th.
- CEU Program Survey – Proposed Subjects for 2019-A copy of the survey was available at the sign-in table for those wishing to make suggestions.
- Forum Results – Lydia Jones said 10 came to Forum with 1 signing up and paying while there. Two more committed at the Forum. A few applications have already been received.
- Propagation Committee Plans for 2019 – Debbie Bass gave a report on what the propagation committee has been doing. Many plants have been started in hopes of selling them at the Blooms & Barrel Plant Sale in April. Demonstration Garden
- General Work Day, Saturday, November 10, 9:00 a.m. - Please come and help!
- Need 2019 Chairmen for: Webmaster, Public Programs, and In-House Programs

Meeting was adjourned.

CEU Program for November – Dr. Chris Distel, Schreiner University, "Impact of Climate Change on Plants"

Respectfully submitted:
Patti Schlessiger, Secretary



**Hill Country Master
Gardeners 2018
Executive
Committee**

Jackie Skinner
President

Wil Rolfe
Vice President

Patti Schlessiger
Secretary

Bernadell Larson
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

Submissions to

Newsletter.editor.hcmg
@gmail.com

***Some things Going on in Comfort***

I took these photos in my garden this morning and had not seen any webs like this before. They were kind of enchanting until I wondered if I should be afraid of the scary spiders that made them! As close as I can tell from a web search they are made by sheet weaving spiders but I can't seem to find out if the ones in Texas are of any concern.
Caryl Hartman

