

December 2022

Volume 20, Issue 12

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Christmas party and meeting

**Wednesday,
 December 7, 2022
 HCYEC**

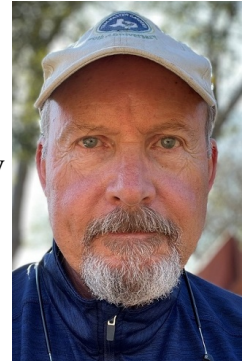
**Potluck setup at
 11:30
 Lunch at 12:00
 Meeting at 1:00**

Hospitality Committee will provide turkey, ham, and beverages. The members attending should bring sides and desserts.

"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



This is my twelfth letter, and it marks the end of my first year as president. I know much more about HCMG now than I did a year ago. In 2022, I experienced my first "pot" party and attended my first B&B. I also went to my first HCMG potluck dinner. Because of COVID, I didn't know many MG's outside of those in my class; now I am acquainted with most members, if only by name. In fact, as I look back, it's remarkable how unqualified I was when I became president. Thank goodness for my fellow officers who kept me on the "straight and narrow" and to the many MG's who pitched in when I needed help. I'm gratified that HCMG gave me another year to serve as president and grateful to the "new" executive team for volunteering for 2023.

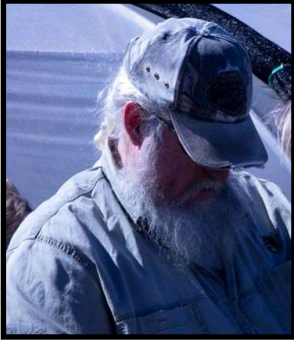
For me, the highlight of 2022 was the 20th anniversary party. It was a special event to mark a special milestone. While we can't celebrate an occasion like this every year, we need to have special activities to keep things interesting. MG's made it clear at the November general meeting that we should consider field trips. It has also been suggested we hold a "fall festival" in the demonstration garden to better publicize HCMG and all we do. Another idea is to invite some "highly paid" speakers for special events that are open to the public.

Please let me know what you would like to do in 2023. Let's make next year as memorable as 2022.

And please consider joining the leadership team. We lost two key committee chairs in 2022 connected with the B&B: Janell is stepping down and Fernando moved away. Fortunately, Anne and Sandy agreed to take on the greenhouse and Jackie C. will run the B&B sale. These three do so much for HCMG already. While we have a plan for the greenhouse, Jackie could use help from MG's who are willing to learn the ropes and take over the B&B in 2024. In addition, we need a public relations chair.

While I knew it already, 2022 confirmed to me that HCMG is a wonderful group of people. Because of that, I look forward to facing the challenges that are certain to come our way in 2023.

Happy Holidays!



Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG

Turn out the lights, the party's over.
They say that all good things must end.....



Squash Bed

Well, and that's a deep subject, as of last week my 2022 vegetable garden is done. We dropped below 32 degrees and the squash, sweet potatoes and tomatoes are no more. In years past, I would cover the plants with blankets or plastic to get them through a light freeze. This year I decided that I had had enough. So, I harvested what I could and walked away.

All in all, I had a better-than-expected growing season. Without a doubt, the squash was my star performer, both summer and winter. The sweet potatoes were my biggest surprise. I will be planting them both again next year. The tomatoes produced well once the temperatures cooled down. Regular potatoes were a big disappointment. The biggest take-away were the wicking pots. I will be building a few more for next year.



Tomato Pots

In January I will start planning for next years garden. I'm hoping to expand the site to add more space for winter squash, sweet potatoes and regular potatoes. I have a few varieties of beans and maybe some cucumbers that I would like to grow. When you create a larger area, you tend to fill it up. There's this thing about vacuums, when you create one, something will always fill it. Every year I tell myself that this is the year I'll slow down and focus more on my vegetable garden.

This year, I'm telling myself that again.

We shall see. For now, I wish everyone a great Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Years.



Sweet Potato Bed



Harvest



Side Note: I just could not help myself

HCMG Welcomes Newly Certified Members from the Class of 2022

Photo Credit: Pat Wolters



Above: President Dave Kinneberg, Tish Hulett & mentor Janice Walker

Right: Dave Kinneberg with Aimee Tennant

Below: Dave Kinneberg, Debbie Castillo & mentor Rachel Garrison



CULTIVAR FARMS Article Hits the Newsstands...

By Judy Beauford, MG

One of our approved projects is the Cultivar Farms in Boerne. Hill Country Mission for Health (HCMH) sponsors of the Cultivar Farms focus on education about vegetable growing and its nutritional benefits. It fits right in with the Hill Country



L to R Front row – Michael Bell, Sandy Corbin, Judy Beauford, Shirley Smith
 L to R Back Row – Pat Corbin, Shari Wortham

Master Gardeners (HCMG) mission statement. The Cultivar Farms made headlines in the *Boerne Lifestyle* November 2022 edition. Please see article on page 28 at <https://citylifestyle.com/boerne/issues/2022-11> HCMG members Judy Beauford and Shirley Smith (Class of 2017) have been co-coordinators of the operations of the garden since 2015. Shari Worsham (Class of 2014 Tarrant Co MG - transferred to HCMG in 2017) works at the gardens. Michael Bell, Pat and Sandy Corbin, (Class of 2022) joined the team this year. Since 2013, when we first began VMS, there have been 3,046 volunteer hours there.

There are sixteen rows, 36-feet long, eight raised beds, and three asparagus beds maintained to grow many garden vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, squash, kale, Swiss chard, beans, okra, onions, watermelons and cantaloupes. Usually the output from the garden is between 1700 and 1900 pounds of produce per year, mostly donated to the Hill Country Family Services and the HCMH clinic. This year drought, heat, and illness have taken their toll. We have delivered only 690 pounds, including a bumper crop of watermelon totally about 100 pounds.

Congratulations to our HCMG members for their dedication and providing healthy fruits and vegetables to clients of the Hill Country Mission for Health.



December To Do List

centraltexasgardener.org

Plant: ornamental & wildlife

- Hardy perennials, shrubs, trees
- Roses (best time!)
- Winter annuals, including calendula, snapdragon, pansy, viola, dusty miller, ornamental kale and cabbage, alyssum, stock, cyclamen, dusty miller, flowering kale and cabbage
- Avoid planting cold tender plants like Pride of Barbados, Esperanza, lantana, plumbago

Plant: herbs

- Perennials thyme, oregano
- Avoid planting rosemary
- Cilantro transplants, parsley, dill, fennel, chervil, summer savory, borage, rue, chives
- Be prepared to cover in case of deep freeze

Plant: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Vegetable Planting Guides (Central Texas) <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/home-landscape/edible-gardens/growing-vegetables/>

Prune

- Prune freeze damaged plants or not? Best to leave seeds on plants for birds and protect root system. If picky relatives coming, okay to prune
- Avoid pruning shrubs right now unless you see damage
- Do not prune oak trees unless you have damage: paint wound immediately
- Okay to prune trees other than red oaks and live oaks

Divide/Move

- Shrubs, roses, trees, evergreen spring-blooming perennials while dormant
- Asters and other fall-bloomers which are dormant

Prep

- Select spots where you want fruit trees, grapes, or berries to plant in January; for now, prep with compost
- Mulch cold tender plants like gingers, Esperanza and semi-tropicals
- Keep that row cover ready! Do not protect plants with plastic!

Other tasks

- Rake leaves into beds to mulch over winter and return nutrients to the soil
- Mow leaves on grass (if not raking to beds or compost) to break them down
- Collect leaves from neighbors to add to compost pile!
- Deeply water new plants; keep new seedlings moist but not drenched

Butterfly in flight in the demonstration garden on Oct 2, 2022 by Tex Lang



2023 HCMG Training Schedule Dates/Topics

	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>
February 14	Class Orientation	Garden Safety/Greenhouse Tour
February 18	Soils of the Hill Country (HC)	Composting/Soil Amendments
February 21	Entomology	Herbs
February 23	Propagation	Propagation
February 28	Vegetable Gardening	Plant Pathology
March 2	Plant Biology	Caring for House plants/Chemical Safety
March 7	Native Plants of the HC	UGRA Eduscape Tour
March 8	Vegetable Families	Container Vegetables/Seeds
March 14	Fire-wise	Rainwater Harvest/Drip Irrigation
March 16	Research Desk	Earrthkind, Superstar Plants
March 21	Introduction to Landscaping Principles/Ornamental &Native Grasses	
March 23	Trees	Vermiculture
March 28	Fruit Trees	Garden Tours Fredericksburg
March 30	Garden Tours all day	
April 5	Volunteer Opportunities/Graduation/Potluck Lunch/HCMG meeting &CE	

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A GARDENER IF:

Laras_Garden_

1 You consider well aged manure a thoughtful gift.

2 You think store bought tomatoes are disgusting.

3 You have taken bags of leaves (i.e., Other people's trash) off the street to use as mulch.

4 You have saved pits or seeds from fruit you liked, in your purse or pocket, to sprout at home. If they sprouted, you were momentarily intoxicated with your ability to create life.

5 You hoard yogurt containers, plastic bottles and egg cartons. What! They're useful in the garden.

6 You sometimes forget your to-do list because the plants need staring at.

7 When you see someone trimming trees, you wonder if you could use a cutting of that.

8 A sale at the nursery is more exciting than a sale at the department store.

9 When you meet someone who likes to garden, you feel an immediate and unbreakable bond with them. You also wonder whether their harvests are better than yours.

10 You would not be reading this if it were not about GARDENING!

**Hill Country Master Gardeners
 Monthly Meeting
 November 2, 2022**

Call to Order (Please Silence Your Cell Phones) Dave Kinneberg called the meeting to order and welcomed members and guests.

Pledge of Allegiance – Membership recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation – Ray Tiemann shared a beautiful invocation.

Verification of Quorum – Rita Aliperto indicated a quorum has been met.

Approval of Minutes from October 5, 2022 Meeting – Patty Zohlen moved the October 5th minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Debbie Bacon.

Treasurer’s Report – Rachel Garrison explained entries on the Treasurer’s report including many rain barrels that were sold. She stated that the monthly cost of our website has gone up slightly. The complete report will be posted on our website.

Business Items

New MG’s! – Aimee Tennant, Tish Hulett and Debbie Castillo were honored for successfully completing the program. They were presented with a certificate and their official nametag.

Vote for Executive Officers –

The Nominating Committee put forward the following candidates for Executive Committee positions for 2023:

- Dave Kinneberg, President;
- Rae Raiford, Vice President;
- Rachel Garrison, Treasurer; and
- Rita Aliperto, Secretary.

Dave Kinneberg asked the membership if

there were any other nominations from the floor, to which there were none. The membership unanimously voted to approve the slate of names submitted.

Vote on Options for Meetings – At last month’s meeting, Dave asked the membership to think about four options for our future meetings and that it would be put to a vote at the November meeting. The options were as follows:

- ◆ Keep meeting at the HCYEC in Kerrville;
- ◆ Meet once per year at another venue;
- ◆ Meet in each county we represent once per year; or
- ◆ Rotate each month.

After a lively discussion, the topic was closed for discussion and put to a vote. The votes were counted, and the membership decided it would be best to continue to meet in centrally located Kerrville.

Standing Committee Reports

B&B Review – Janell Dahms spoke about a meeting held by the Blooms and Barrels committee regarding next year’s plant sale. Jackie Connelly has agreed to chair the committee. Janell cited many improvements/changes that will be implemented next year such as separating the exit and entrance better, matching tick-checkers with the cashiers, creating an express lane and other flow suggestions, **Cont’d page 9**



Minutes continued from page 8

simplifying the hospitality offerings, reducing the number of plants a MG may purchase (from 5 to 3), allowing MGs to only purchase plants on Spa Day, special speakers, posting information sheets on website instead of printing copies. MGs will also begin working the line outside the event since customers start lining up early in the morning. The placement of the garden shed, and MG booth will change slightly. Jackie Skinner will be staffing the Demo Garden before and during the sale.

Education Committee – Donna Bellis currently has around 16 applicants for the 2023 class. Please continue to share with your friends and neighbors.

Research Desk & Greenhouse – Anne Brown stated that no one is currently staffing the desk and it will be taken offline until next year. If anyone is interested in the Research Desk Committee, please let Anne know. The Greenhouse Committee will start operations in the 2nd or 3rd week of January. Pot parties will commence which will be advertised via email. Anne Brown and Sandy Lewis will co-chair the Greenhouse Committee; Kay Nelson and Lisa Cantini will likely co-chair the 2024 Greenhouse Committee.

Other Announcements

MG of the Year – Get your nominations in for the 2022 Master Gardener of the Year Award. Deadline is November 15th.

Update on December Meeting – Our Potluck Christmas party/meeting will be Wednesday, December 7th. Due to space constraints, this year’s event will be members only (no guests). Jackie Skinner spoke on Linda Proffitt’s behalf and said Hospitality Committee will provide turkey, ham, and beverages. The members attending should

bring sides and desserts. A signup sheet was provided. Dave asked the membership for nominations for a charity this year (rotating among the respective counties we serve) so the offerings can be collected at the December meeting. This year’s charity is to be slated for Kendall County. Judy Beauford recommended we consider Hill Country Mission for Health (HCMH).

Their mission statement reads:

HCMH is a charitable health care clinic that provides primary healthcare for eligible adults between 18 and 64 years of age, who are low-income, are uninsured or under-insured, and who reside in Kendall County communities.

Judy said they mostly need monetary assistance. Please make your checks payable to Hill Country Mission for Health and bring to the Christmas potluck/meeting.

Anything else? Ray Tiemann graciously brought flower & vine seeds to share.

Final Comments – Dave Kinneberg thanked Anne Brown and Imelda Horne for working at the Glory Garden event a couple weeks ago.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: December 7, 2022 at HCYEC

Respectfully submitted,

**Rita Aliperto,
Secretary**

Big Tooth Maple



**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

Newsletter Editor
Pat Wolters

Associate Newsletter Editor
Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to
Judy Beauford for
proofreading

Photographer

Submissions to
Pat Wolters, Editor

Patwolters2865
@hotmail.com



Gardening 101 Schedule of Programs

Butt Holdsworth Library –505 Water St., Kerrville, TX
2nd Saturday of Month from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| January 14, 2023 | Winter Container Gardening | Joan Leach, MG |
| February 11, 2023 | Care of House Plants | Kay Nelson, MG |
| March 25, 2023 | Choosing the Right Plant for Your Landscape | Janelle Dahms, MG |
| April 8, 2023 | No program due to B&B | |
| May 13, 2023 | TBD | |