

February 2022

Volume 20, Issue 2

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HCMG
February 2, 2022

Happy Bank
 Youth Event Center
 Kerrville

1:00 Meeting
2:00 Continuing Ed

**“ I Promise you a
 Rose Garden”**

Meg Ware
 See page 11 for info

“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



The warm temperatures on Christmas this year contrasted sharply with the horrendous cold of last February. I enjoy hiking in the Kerrville-Schreiner Park (along with several other Master Gardeners) and wore short pants and a tee-shirt over the holidays this year. Last February, ice prevented me from driving to the park. Instead, I put on my winter hiking gear (including crampons) and walked down the hill in our neighborhood to the community garden to check my plants. The stillness and beauty of the snow almost compensated for the lack of electricity and water at our home. Unexpectedly, the vegetables in my garden (covered with two frost blankets and a layer of ice) fared better than those in my winter greenhouse (a plastic tent) which relied on an electric heater.

I was sure the plants in the HCMG greenhouses would be as dead as those in mine. Fortunately, our greenhouses didn’t lose power because of their proximity to the hospital (a good lesson for the future). Water was the big concern and had to be hauled in once the roads became passable. In the end, we lost very few plants and the annual plant sale was a huge success. Kudos to the B&B and greenhouse teams!

Sadly, the demonstration garden was hit hard as were most of our yards. Many plants had to be drastically cut back or replaced. The beautiful retama tree was cut down. However, like many of our yards, surviving plants came back more beautiful than ever. Even the retama is coming back. My vegetable garden was typical; the plants that survived did unusually well. I had ten artichokes on the single remaining plant and the Irish potatoes and kale were surprisingly productive. Across Hill Country, the summer and fall scenery was vibrant.

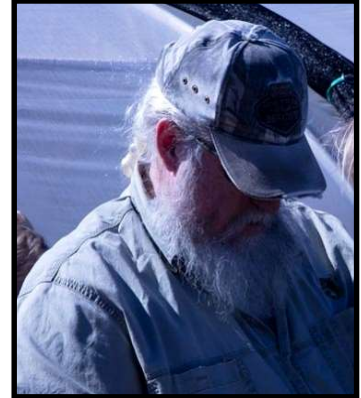
How does frigid cold affect our plants? Why do some plants survive and then burst into spectacular growth while others die off? I think this would be an interesting CEU presentation. If anyone knows of a possible speaker, please let me know. In fact, please send me your ideas for CEU topics and names of interesting speakers. My contact information is on the HCMG site.

Cold weather is not unusual for Hill Country. Some years are mild; some, like last year, have snow and ice. That’s just one of the reasons being a master gardener in Hill Country is such a challenge.

Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG

I have not had a successful winter growing season this year. Having had issues with the local wildlife earlier, I was late in finally getting my winter garden in. Things were, *I said were*, developing nicely until the last cold snap. I lost everything. I've cleaned up the beds and will wait for Spring. The last two years have not been normal years. Last year started off with a week of snow, ice and cold temperatures, which wiped out my winter garden. During the Spring we had a few cold snaps that caused me to plant later than I usually like to. Late Spring and into Summer, cooler than normal temperatures but above average rains. All in all, a decent Summer. This fall, however, the rains went away. OK, I can deal with that. But then, the local wildlife attacked, thus delaying the Fall planting. We did come to an



understanding and things started to look up. The garden was developing nicely, then was slammed by the latest cold front. I don't know what I was thinking, 2020 and 2021 are best forgotten. Moving on.



Getting Ready

Here we are at the beginning of a new vegetable gardening season. I always look forward to getting the newest seed and gardening catalogs, this year is no exception. So far, I've received *Gurney's* and *Jung Seeds & Plants*. The one I look forward to the most is from Baker Creek. Baker Creek puts out a smaller free edition titled *Heirloom Seeds* as well as a much larger edition titled *The Whole Seed Catalog* that is available at some of our local book stores.



New Catalogues



Waiting for Spring

What I like best about Baker Creek is that this is a place to get all sorts of different varieties of seeds. They deal with growers from around the world and I thoroughly enjoy reading the commentary about all the different plants. Every now and then, it's fun to try something new. I do enjoy trying new varieties of vegetables. There are a few new tomatoes that I'm considering this year. I figure why not, how bad could 2022 really be?



Baker Creek Catalogue

News from the Demo Garden

By Jackie Skinner, MG



Monarchs

The HCMG butterfly garden is a total success. These Monarch caterpillars were discovered in late December gorging on Texas Milkweed. Frank Dunlap and Marge Muniz researched the needs of migrating Monarch butterflies, and it appears their studies paid off. Our butterfly garden was partially funded by the Native Plant Society of Texas as part of their "Bring Back the Monarchs" program.

Native milkweeds are critical in the life cycle of many butterflies found in the Hill Country. We were able to obtain Antelope Horn, Texas and Zizotes milkweeds from Medina Nursery. Like many of our native plants, they require very specific growing conditions in order to thrive. Be sure to research them online before planting them."

Sea Holly

When member Jennifer Benitez installed this plant in the demonstration garden last March I declared that we'd be lucky if this thing survived the summer, let alone thrive. But now we have three healthy plants, one of which is in full bloom as of Monday, November 29th.

Sea Holly is an unusual and extremely rare plant best suited for cool, rainy climates. The one in our demonstration garden is a hybrid which has obviously adapted to our Texas Hill Country



HCMG General Meeting

January 5, 2022 at 1pm
Dietert Center

Call to Order (Please silence your cell phones)

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation – Patty Zohlen

Verification of Quorum – Rita Aliperto

Welcome – Newly elected President, Dave Kinneberg, welcomed everyone to the meeting, including new officers. He thanked the previous officers for the terrific job they did considering the obstacles they faced during 2021, including COVID and the February storm. He is open to hearing any suggestions and ideas from the membership going in to the 20th anniversary of Hill Country Master Gardeners.

Approval of Minutes - Melayne Arnold moved to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Dee Dunton.

Approval of December financial statement – Jackie Connelly presented the financial report in Rachel Garrison’s absence. Copies were provided to the membership. Patty Zohlen moved to approve the report and Melayne Arnold seconded.

Committee Reports

Plant Sale – Janell Dahms emphasized three important dates everyone should put on their calendars: April 7th (spa day), April 8th (move day), and April 9th (plant sale). She explained that the standardized format signage project for the plant sale plants and tables is nearly finished. She would appreciate about 15 volunteers to verify the data on 10 or so information sheets. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

Greenhouse – Fernando Gonzalez indicated the greenhouse has been sanitized and the committee is working toward buying plants as early as next week. “Pot parties” will be announced as necessary. He said the Greenhouse Committee is small, but if anyone wants to be on

the committee should let him know. The perimeter deer fence will not be put up this year due to the difficulty of installing it. There may be a supply chain issue this year, mainly on pots, and also a significant price increase.

Education – Donna Bellis said they have 30 applicants for the February class and more on the waiting list. There will be an Education Committee meeting on January 27th at 1pm via ZOOM; Facilitator training February 3rd at 1pm at HCYEC. The graduates of the 2020 class who missed out on the propagation class are invited to attend a make-up class on March 29th 1-4 pm. The 2020 students and facilitators are also invited to the landscaping class. Mentors are still needed. Interested parties should contact Rachel Garrison. Those who have already volunteered to mentor interns should be on the lookout for an email from Rachel.

Demonstration Garden – Jackie Skinner reported that 2022 may not be a particularly good year for the demo garden initially due to the extremely cold weather. Jackie demonstrated a landscape stake to combat the wind on tender plants needing protection from freezing. She indicated she may call for an “all member” work-day to help weed prior to the March clean-up day.

Other Announcements

Roster Changes – Dave reported that HCMG currently has 90 members on the roster, 4 on Leave of Absences (LOA) in 2021 and 4 LOA in 2022.

Audit Committee – The audit committee will meet January 21st to review the financial information. The committee consists of Rachel Garrison, Jackie Connelly, Dave Kinneberg and Diane McMahan.

New Chairs – Dave indicated we still need chairs for the Demo Garden, In-House Programs & Public Relations.

Announcements from the Floor

Vickie Killeen spoke with the Kerrville Daily Times.

Continued on page 9

Continuing Education Opportunities

By Raeann Reid, MG

For the most up-to-date information on continuing education opportunities, please see websites, Facebook pages, newsletters, etc., sponsored by the following organizations. ♦ Opportunities eligible for continuing education credit must be horticulture-related. For example, a program on birding would not count toward meeting your annual CEUs; however, a program on landscaping to attract birds to your property would count. If you have questions about eligibility, please contact our president Dave Kinneberg, our timekeepers Jackie Connelly or Patty Zohlen, or the AgriLife Agents Beth McMahon or Justin Klinksiek. ♦ When recording hours for continuing education credit, provide sufficient detail in “Event Description” to tie the event to horticulture. Usually, the title and sponsor or speaker are sufficient. See Timekeeping Requirements in the Hill Country Master Gardeners Handbook. ♦ Please contact Raeann Reid at rrbiehle@gmail.com to add additional sponsors or to correct information.

SPONSORS	WEBSITES	OTHER
Texas A&M AgriLife	https://agriflifeextension.tamu.edu/browse/program-areas/	
Bexar County	https://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/	youtube.com/myextension210
Gillespie County	https://gillespie.agrilife.org/agriculture-2/horticulture/	Gillespie County Horticulture Newsletter
Kerr County	https://kerr.agrilife.org/	Top of the Windmill (newsletter)
Travis County	https://travis-tx.tamu.edu/	
Texas Master Gardeners	https://txmq.org/	See newsletters and websites.
Bexar County Master Gardeners	https://bexarmg.org/	
Hill Country Master Gardeners	https://www.hillcountrymastergardeners.org/	See weekly eMinders, https://www.hillcountrymastergardeners.org/ceu-opportunities
Travis County Master Gardeners	https://www.tcmastergardeners.org/	
Texas Master Naturalists	https://txmn.tamu.edu/	See map to link to each TMN Chapter.
Hill Country Chapter	https://txmn.org/hillcountry/	https://www.facebook.com/TMNHillCountryChapter/
Native Plant Society of Texas Austin Boerne Fredericksburg Highland Lakes Kerrville Lindheimer New Braunfels Williamson County	http://npsot.org/wp/ https://npsot.org/wp/austin/ https://npsot.org/wp/boerne https://npsot.org/wp/fredericksburg https://npsot.org/wp/highlandlakes/ https://npsot.org/wp/Kerrville https://npsot.org/wp/lindheimer/ https://npsot.org/wp/newbraunfels/ https://npsot.org/wp/wilco/	Many of the NPSOT chapters have facebook pages and YouTube channels and meetings are live in person, live virtual, and virtual any-time.

Continued on page 6

Continuing Education Opportunities Continued

Nature Centers		
Cibolo Nature Center and Farm	https://cibolo.org/	See Facebook, also.
Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center	https://fredericksburgnaturecenter.com/	See Facebook, also.
Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center	https://www.wildflower.org/	See Facebook, also.
Riverside Nature Center	https://riversidenaturecenter.org/	See Facebook, also.
Garden Clubs		
Austin Organic Gardeners	https://www.austinorganicgardeners.org/	http://www.austinorganicgardeners.org/nextevent.html
Hunt Garden Club	https://huntgardenclub.com/	https://www.facebook.com/thehuntgardenclub/
Rose Garden Club of Medina		https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Patio-Garden/Rose-Garden-Club-of-Medina-531535857382602/
Garden Centers		
The Natural Gardener (Austin)	https://tngaustin.com/events/	
San Antonio Garden Center	https://sanantoniogardencenter.org/programs/	
Other Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations		
Hill Country Alliance	https://www.hillcountryalliance.org/upcomingevents/	https://www.facebook.com/HillCountryAlliance/
Natural Resources Conservation Service	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/tx/home/	
Upper Guadalupe River Authority	http://ugra.org/	

From my back porch I can watch the Guadalupe River hold on to the last bits of morning fog.

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA)

By Pat Wolters, MG

After listening to the CE program by Kamron Newberry at the January HCMG meeting, I wanted to know more about CEA.



Despite over half the world's habitable land being devoted solely for the purpose of agriculture, it is shocking that there is still a scarcity when it comes to food production in various regions. This is exactly why controlled environment agriculture has become an integral new innovation in the field of farming.

Controlled Environment Agriculture is the method of growing produce within a closed ecosystem and managing numerous variables. The purpose behind this method is to reduce the threat of diseases and pests, maximize efficiency, increase sustainability and yield, and also to bring down the overall cost of operation. This includes applying automation techniques on the humidity, light, carbon dioxide levels, temperature and nutrition.

In **Indoor Farming** the source of light that nourishes the plants is controlled for maximum efficiency. LED lights are primary tools used in indoor farming. This allows farmers to have greater control over the growing environment and conduct farming around the clock. Indoor farming can be executed in any indoor space which lends this method great versatility. Large rooms, containers, factories, and even warehouses are converted into indoor farms around the world.

Greenhouse Farming uses a specialized structure that is made almost entirely out of polycarbonate or glass. This allows the building to trap sunlight with greater efficiency and hence has positive benefits for the growth of crops. Within a greenhouse, a large number of variables can be closely controlled and monitored including temperature levels, humidity levels, and even sunlight.

Vertical Farming is a method on controlled environment agriculture where plants are horizontally stacked or are grown within the confines of tall towers. This is an ideal method to consider when farming in a small space or urban environment.

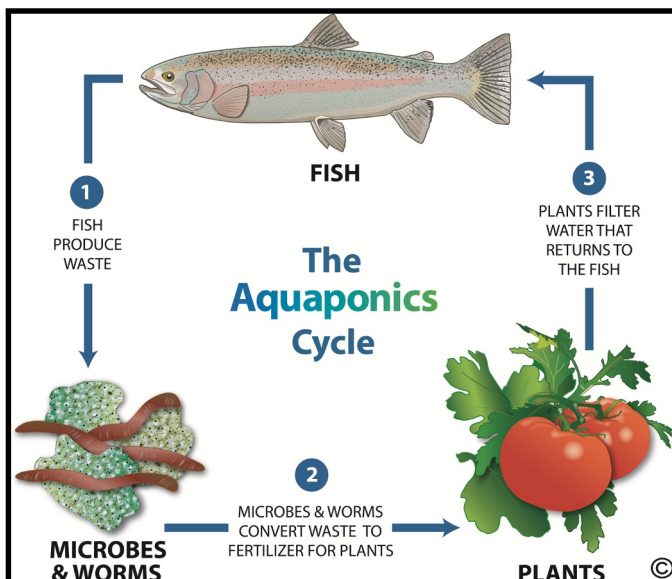
Protected Cropping is a variation of controlled environment agriculture where plants are grown outdoors like traditional farming. The major difference here is that some of the elements are controlled using structures or tools to help farmers have a greater impact on the end result of their farming cycle. This includes using tunnel houses, canopies, or hoop houses in order to control the temperature and humidity levels of a farm.

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Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) cont'd

The Different Types of Growing Methods

Hydroponics is the most well-known and widely applied method of CEA. This is the method of farming that is involved in soilless agriculture which means the plants are grown without the use of any soil whatsoever. Instead, a growing medium such as sand, Rockwool, or coconut fiber is utilized in order to hold the plants in place and offer nourishment. All the water, oxygen, and nutrition provided to the plants in this method are done manually and in a controlled manner. This is one of the most sustainable methods of farming and it helps farmers to save anywhere between 70 to 90% on total costs when compared to traditional farming. Some of the most popular subsections of hydroponic farming include: flood and drain farming, wick farming, water culture or deep water culture and nutrient film technique. Hydroponics is usually applied to grow crops such as leafy greens, tomatoes, microgreens, peppers, herbs, and strawberries.



Aquaponics farming is a combination of hydroponic farming and aquaculture. The wastes produced by the fish grown in one tank are directed to the plants growing in another tank, thereby creating a self-sustaining ecosystem. The fish waste is known to contain urea and ammonium, and this acts as a natural and chemical-free fertilizer for plants. The fish that are most often employed in aquaponics include trout, perch, tilapia, and catfish.

Aeroponics is another method of growing crops without the use of soil and even minimizing the use of water. Here, the plants are placed in such a manner so as to suspend their roots in the air in order to be sprayed by

nutrient-rich water. The roots are placed within a controlled environment and receive mist in their roots from time to time. Aeroponics is a popular method used in greenhouses by maximizing the power of the sun. This technique is widely regarded as the most water-efficient method of agriculture as it uses up to 90% less water than hydroponic farming. This is why it is sensible to apply this method in dry and arid regions around the planet.

Fogponics is a variation of aeroponic farming. It relies on suspending the plants in the air in order to expose their roots. Instead of using mist to nourish the plants, however, fogponics relies on the use of nutrient-rich mist and vapor. This vapor is supplied to all sections of the plants including the roots, leaves and stems, and is known to have rapid positive effect on the health of the plants.

Farming has largely been an industry that has been dependent on the kindness of various external factors in order to determine success. CEA strives to wrestle control back into the hands of the farmer.

Did You Know About This???

By Vickie Killeen, MG

Who knew you could buy amaryllis bulbs coated in colorful wax, do absolutely nothing to them, and get gorgeous blooms? Well, a dear gardening friend of mine knew. And she gave me one for Christmas!

All that the waxed bulb needs is light. No water, no planting, no mess, no care. Just put it in a spot indoors that will get bright light (but not direct sun) and Mother Nature takes care of the rest. Mine went from a dormant bulb to these beautiful blooms in one month.

Check out this website for all you might want to know about waxed bulbs. We can learn together.

<https://bloomaker.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360049071291-Waxed-Amaryllis-How-do-I-care-for-my-Waxed-Amaryllis->



Minutes continued from page 4

They are doing a feature on our two Volunteers of the Year – Pat Wolters and Fernando Gonzalez.

Anne Brown is asking for volunteers for assisting with Research Desk – mainly getting the new interns trained and up to snuff.

Bob Huff gave an overview of the newly approved project headed up by Anne Goette. The project focuses on youth horticultural education for approximately 35 girls, ages 5 through 18 who are pursuing their Girl Scout Horticulture/Gardening badge requirements. No additional volunteers will be necessary at this time.

Approval of Budget – Dave Kinneberg showed a slide of the proposed budget submitted by Jackie Connelly. Membership was also provided a copy of the proposal. He explained some of the line items and made comparisons between last year versus this year. He gave Jackie much deserved credit for the great job she did putting it together. The floor was opened for questions and then a vote. The 2022 budget proposal unanimously passed with acclamation.

Adjournment
 Respectfully Submitted,
 Rita Aliperto, Secretary



Continuing Education Program-Kamron Newberry

Hill Country District Pecan Show December 2021

Photo Credit: Patty Schlessiger, MG



Left to Right:
 Master Gardeners,
 Janice Walker,
 Diane McMahon,
 Kara Grant,
 and Lola Auger
 help with the
 pecan shelling

The current pecan show program, from 1971 to present, under the direction of Texas AgriLife Extension, formerly the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, and the Texas Pecan Growers Association, has played a very important role for the Texas pecan industry by teaching growers how to grade their pecans for better prices, identifying the most outstanding varieties for each region of the state, recognizing and awarding the most successful pecan management programs in the county, region and state, and advertising and promoting Texas premium quality pecans. Additionally, it is an important historical record and educational tool for pecan scientists. Each year pecan growers from the Hill Country area, Bandera, Kendall, Kerr and Real counties collect and enter their pecan entries to compete for awards, recognition and advancement to the South Texas Regional Show. Growers will compete for ribbons and plaques with the Champion Commercial, Classic and Native all receiving plaques.



Agrilife staff + Larry Stein & Laura Rhodes



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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 Pat Wolters

Associate Newsletter Editor
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“I Promise You a Rose Garden”

by Meg Ware will be the February HCMG Continuing Education program. Meg will cover a bit of everything concerning roses from choosing varieties to the care of roses. She will bring a handout on basic yearly rose care.

Meg and her husband started growing roses in 1971 and joined the St. Louis Rose Society in 1972. In 1980 they became American Rose Society judges. Meg is now a Master Consulting Rosarian and Life judge. She has grown almost every type of rose in both St. Louis and here in Texas and loves looking for something new. Rooting cuttings is a fun hobby for me, not because I need the roses, but for the joy of doing it. She currently has about 100 roses including everything from miniatures through large shrubs. She loves to show her garden to visitors, at least when it is not frozen.

Master Gardeners present Grace Center executive director with our donation of \$2375.

They are standing in front of Schätze Haus, an upscale resale on West Main in FBG. The proceeds from this store go to Grace Center.

Left to right: Hattie Allen, executive director of Grace Center, Anne Brown, Linda Proffitt, and Raeann Reid.



Programs at the Butt Holdsworth Library In Kerrville

Programs are held in the large classroom and begin at 10 am

By Patty Zohlen, MG

February 12, 2022	Container Gardening	Anne Brown, MG
March 12, 2022	Shrubs and Trees	Anne Brown, MG
April 2, 2022	Companion Planting	Connie Townsend, MG
May 14, 2022	Hibiscus for the Hill Country	Jackie Skinner, MG