

January 2021

Volume 19, Issue 1

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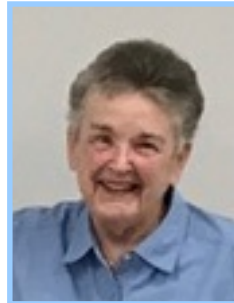
**HCMG
January 6, 2021
Meeting**

1:00 p.m.

Zoom only



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President’s Message

Anne Brown

Hi Everyone,

It’s certainly been an interesting year, but I’m happy to report that, while shut down, the Master Gardeners have still been busy. The research desk processed 151 inquiries so far this year. The demo garden, pre freeze, was beautiful, all the gardens around Fredericksburg are reportedly doing well, and Pat and her crew have done a wonderful job keeping all of us informed. Also, Donna Bellis and the education committee did a masterful job of getting the students trained virtually, so all but four who elected to start again in 2021 graduated from the class. Many of the interns have already certified and the rest have until May to get their hours.

The research desk had its challenges also. Mark Schultz has been working on a process so that the inquiries can be worked on from home, thus resulting in being able to do our number one job of answering all the horticulture questions that come into the research desk and keeping ourselves safe.

Also, I want to congratulate all of you who bailed us out by buying plants after we had to cancel Blooms and Barrels. We had 1300 plants we had already grown up when the word came that we couldn’t do our plant sale. That represented a lot of money spent buying and growing the plants. So, instead of incurring the loss of money already spent, you all went out and gathered orders from neighbors and friends and we sold out. We not only recouped our expenses, but we also made a small profit which helped the organizations overall ability to run. And we didn’t have the problem of donating the 1300 plants.

Jackie Connelly also keeps us up to date on what’s going on via the e-minder every Sunday. If you don’t read this weekly, you really should. It is full of information about the going on in the MGs but she also puts in helpful and interesting tidbits that are fun and informative.

Finally, a huge thanks to Rachael and her Executive Committee. She has provided the leadership during this challenging time to provide the communities we serve with 7,263 hours of service and has been instrumental in keeping us relatively sane going through this pandemic.

I look forward to working with you all this coming year as we continue our outstanding contributions to our communities and as we all have fun doing what we love to do.

Texas Hill Country Master Gardener's **Volunteer of the Year 2020** awarded to **Chris Seifert**

Jackie Skinner announced this year's recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award at the Annual Christmas Lunch and Meeting. "The member chosen for 2020 by our Executive Committee, based primarily upon nominations submitted by our membership, is a well-deserving individual with whom some of you may not be acquainted.



Her tenure goes all the way back to our founding in 2008. She served as our organization's president, often assisted at the Riverside Nature Center Field Day project, and most importantly, she artfully introduced a good number of us incoming students (myself included) to the principles of proper soil management...a subject which, under a less talented tutor, might have put us all to sleep. But her creativity and enthusiasm kept us attentive, and oh my goodness, we have all greatly benefited from her excellent instruction. Further, she offers her tips for successful gardening to the public through her presentations to horticultural groups such as the Rose Garden Club of Medina.

Our 2020 recipient is currently serving as Committee Chair of our project, The Coming King Sculpture Garden, and she also regularly devotes time to the Glory Community Garden, both in Kerrville. In fact, she has logged over 300 volunteer hours during this year alone! She is well loved for her sweet disposition and kind willingness to help and teach."

Chris was not able to attend the meeting so Rachel Garrison accepted on her behalf.

Then Jackie Connelly met Chris at the Coming King Sculpture Garden to give her the award and take her picture.



Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace



I had a hard freeze a couple of weeks ago. I covered the tomatoes, attempting to protect them, but it did not work. That night it got down into the low 20's and stayed there all night. **You can protect tomatoes from a light frost, but not a hard freeze.** Oh

well, there's always next year. It was cold enough that I thought the Swiss chard might not pull through, but two weeks later they seem to be doing well.



Tomatoes after freeze



Chard after Freeze

I waited until after the cold snap to plant the garlic. Garlic can stand cold weather, but I decided to wait to get them started in hopes of some warmer weather. Most of the cloves have sprouted. The key here is not to let the soil dry out. Gardens in the winter can fool you. You think that because it's cool the soil should stay moist longer. You still need to check your soil moisture regularly. Garlic needs to be fertilized from time to time as well. Remember, do not neglect feeding your plants during the winter.

If you are not using your beds, consider planting some sort of cover crop. Cereal rye is a good choice or maybe some clover. Let them grow a few inches then turn it back under and plant again. You should be able to do this, two or three times over the winter. This will help to build up the nitrogen levels in your soil as the plant material will compost and help to keep the soil loose. This will help you get a jump start in preparation for springtime, which will get here sooner than we think.

I hope everyone has a great time over the Holidays and a Happy New Year!



Chard 2 weeks later



Garlic Beginning to Germinate

Eastern Bluebirds by Carol Hagemeyer, MG



Texas Bluebird Society:

Thanks to Carol Hagemeyer for suggesting a link to the list of Texas native plants that provide food for the Eastern Bluebirds.

Bluebirds are secondary cavity nesters, meaning their beaks are not strong enough to excavate their own nesting sites. You need to supply a nest box in order for them to come to your yard. The greatest enemy to the bluebird is the house sparrow, which may take over a nest. Bluebirds are insect eaters and will help control the bugs in your garden. They also like the berries of our native plants, such as pigeon berries and Possumhaw.

The Texas Bluebird Society is a grassroots organization in support of these lovely birds. We offer a list of native plants such as perennials, trees, and berry bushes, to attract Eastern Bluebirds and increase their food supply. To get the list visit our website at [\[texasbluebirdsociety.org\]](https://texasbluebirdsociety.org) and click on Resources then scroll down to the Texas Native Plants that Provide Food for Eastern Bluebirds.

Membership in the Texas Bluebird Society supports our efforts to encourage success in hosting bluebirds (\$20.00 per year per household). With the membership you get a free nest-box. The nest box may be purchased for \$25 alone. Proceeds go to building materials for the cedar to build more Bluebird boxes. Our online newsletter gives tons of information for good locations for bluebird boxes, how to mount them, which direction to face the boxes, and how to check the next boxes for babies. We encourage people to enter their information from the beginning of monitoring eggs to the baby fledgling's leaving the nest on our website: NestWatch: https://nestwatch.org/home_2015_species/eastern-bluebird/

I am a distributor for bluebird boxes for the Hill Country area. I keep nest boxes to distribute. My phone number is **830 285 0035**. If you are interested in the membership and/or nest boxes, please call. There is a distributor list and map on the TXblues website: [\[txblues.org\]](https://txblues.org)





Helping Hands of Bandera County

*Where there is need
-find hope*

Every year the HCMGs find a charity to support. Since we represent 5 counties, we rotate every year as to the county that receives our donation. This year Sue Hall, MG, presented Jesse Parks, Executive Director of Helping Hands, with a check for \$3,700.00 from the generous donations of the Hill Country Master Gardeners.

The New Garden Shed

By Rachel Garrison, MG

The shed delivery was pretty fascinating. It arrived on a semi flat bed truck. The process of moving it from the truck to our selected location was amazing. (Right) Rachel Garrison and Anne Brown proudly displaying the new shed.

Photo of delivery process found on page 13



The President's Volunteer Service Award Program (PVSA)

PVSA was established to honor volunteers who give hundreds of hours per year helping others. These volunteers can be individuals, families and organizations located throughout the United States.

The PVSA is an initiative of the Corporation of National and Community Service (a federal agency) and is administered by the Points of Light Organization (established by President George HW Bush in 1990). The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes US citizens who have achieved the required number of hours of service. Hours are measured over a 12 month period and awards are designed based on accumulated hours. Our period is from November 1 thru October 31 of each year. Recipients receive a letter of congratulations signed by the current President of the United States, a certificate and a service pin.

Adult level: **Bronze 100-249** **Silver 250-499** **Gold 500+**

Hill Country Master Gardeners volunteers who have reached these goals are:

BRONZE PIN - 100 to 249 Hours of Service

(2020= 14, 2019=21, 2018 = 24, 2017 = 26, 2016 = 18 2015 = 17)

Debbie Bacon, Judy Beauford, Donna Bellis, Darla Cluster, Rachel Garrison, Sue Hall
Kathy Lewis, Raeann Reid, Mark Schultz, Shirley Smith, Pam Umstead, Jim Wilhite,
Pat Wolters, and Shari Worsham

SILVER PIN - 250 – 499 Hours of Service

(2020= 7, 2019=7 , 2018 = 4, 2017 = 4 2016 = 5, 2015 = 6)

Debbie Bass, Anne Brown, Jackie Connelly, Keeley Porter, Chris Seifert, Jackie Skinner
and Janice Walker

GOLD PIN - 500+ Hours of Volunteer Service

(2019 – 1, 2018 =2, 2017 = 4 2016 = 1 2015 = 0)

No one received the gold pin this year



Christmas Lunch 2020

Left:
Nancy Rodriguez,
Imelda Horne, &
Phil Goodrich and
wife

Years of Service Awards

Twenty Years of Service Class of 2000

Dusty Gilliam Tom Collins

Fifteen Years of Service Class of 2005

Anne Brown Sue Hall
Sandy Martin Connie Townsend

Ten+ Years of Service Class of 2010

Jackie Connelly Jan Grimes
Donna McCanlies Joyce Studer

Five+ Years of Service Class of 2015

Debbie Bass Frank Dunlap
Brenda Fest Mike Muskopf
Edna Platte Nancy Rodriguez
Janice Walker



**Photo Credit:
Patti Schlessiger**



**Starting at top: Jackie Connelly receives award from Roy Walston
Dusty Gilliam & Sue Hall
Rachel Garrison presents awards to Janice Walker (above) and Debbie Bass (left)**



Christmas Lunch 2020
Left: Rachel Garrison & husband, Patty Zohlen
and husband & Jackie Connelly
Photo Credit: Patti Schlessiger



Left: Karen Fuller, Pam Umstead, Duane
Robinson and wife, & Rita Aliperto



Left: Bob Moore, Sue Hall, Carol Hagemeyer,
Leigh Thomas, & Jan Grimes



Christmas Lunch 2020
Left: Beth McMahon, Lindsey Forster, Roy Walston and wife, Kim Keese & Anne Brown



Left: Darla Cluster, Jackie Skinner, Kerry Brittain, & Debbie Bacon



Left: Melayne Arnold, Dee Dunton, & Patti Schlessiger

**Hill Country Master Gardeners
Christmas Luncheon & Awards Program
December 2, 2020
Riverhill Country Club**

Invocation was given by Sue Hall.
Lunch

Welcome— guests included Roy Walston and his wife Serna, Lindsey and Kim from the Kerr County Extension office, Beth McMahon, and a few spouses of our members.

Minutes & Treasurer's Report—approved.

Introduction of the 2021 of Executive Committee:

- Anne Brown, President
- Patti Schlessiger, Vice President
- Donna Nutt, Secretary
- Jackie Connelly, Treasurer

Announcements:

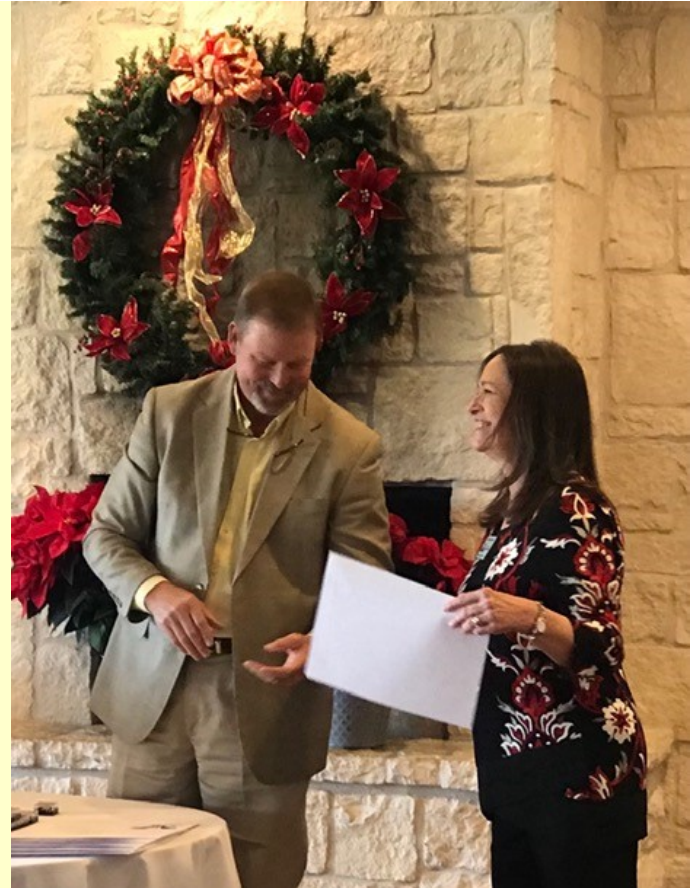
- ◆ If you still need 2020 hours –help with Kerr County & Gillespie County Pecan Show next week -see VMS or last eminder (this event has since been canceled)
- ◆ Pam Umstead – invitation to Glory Garden for Christmas decorating – Saturday, Dec 5, 2020 at 10 a.m.

Awards Program

- ◆ Intern Certifications –Lola Auger, Allan Perry, & Phil Goodrich received their certificates (pictures on page 11)
- ◆ President's Volunteer Service Awards— Roy Walston helped present the awards. There were 14 Bronze Medals and 7 Silver Medals awarded.

Photo Credit: Patti Schlessiger

Continued on page 11



Roy Walston and Rachel Garrison presenting volunteer service awards



Debbie Bacon receives Volunteer Service Award Bronze Pin & Certificate



Patty Zohlen presents HCMG Certificates to her mentees, Allen Perry (above) and Lola Auger (below)

Photo Credit: Patti Schlessiger



Phil Goodrich receives his HCMG certificate from his mentor, Imelda Horne



Trudy Broadman, Sally Hohmann, Future HCMG Class of 2021, & Linda Proffitt at the Meeting

Special recognition – Anne Brown presented a special recognition to Roy Walston for his many years as the Kerr County Extension Agent and his involvement with HCMG. He was presented gift cards to Mamacita’s restaurant and a local feed store. He responded with thanks and kind remarks for HCMG and our assistance in horticulture matters.

2020 Volunteer of the Year– Jackie Skinner, the 2019 recipient, presented the award to Chris Seifert. Among her qualifications, Chris volunteered more than 300 hours this year, led our volunteers at The Coming King Sculpture Garden, and volunteers at the Glory Community Garden. Since Chris was unable to attend the luncheon, the awarded will be given to her at a later date.



Anne Brown presenting special recognition award to Roy Walston, Kerr County Ext. Agent



Rachel Garrison and Jackie Skinner accepted the Volunteer of the Year Award for Chris Seifert. See page 2 for write up.

Photo Credit: Patti Schlessiger

All in attendance may claim 2 hours volunteer time for this meeting.

The next scheduled meeting is January 6, 2021 at 1 p.m.

Location to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Rachel Garrison.

**Hill Country Master
Gardeners 2020**

**Executive
Committee**

Anne Brown
President

Patti Schlessiger
Vice President

Donna Nutt
Secretary

Jackie Connelly
Treasurer

Rachel Garrison
Ex-officio Advisor

C.E.A. Advisor
Angela Fiedler

**Committees &
Project
Coordinators are
listed on our
website**

Newsletter & Website

Newsletter Editor
Pat Wolters

Associate Newsletter Editor
Patti Schlessiger

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Judy Beauford for
proofreading

Photographer
Mark Shultz

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@gmail.com

News from the Demo Garden

By Jackie Skinner, MG

A few members of the demonstration garden committee recently teamed up to select, deliver, and unload 2-1/2 yards of soil amendments to the garden with the intention of improving growing conditions in the planned butterfly garden, and to create a 6-foot long caliche-type berm for native wildflowers at another bed. Contributors to this effort were Dave Kinneberg, Darla



Photo Credit: Jackie Connelly

Cluster and her very helpful friend Elfego, Jennifer Benitez, Debbie Bacon, and committee chairman Jackie Skinner. Shown in the photo are Jennifer, Jackie, and Debbie.



The process of moving the garden shed into position