

January 2022

Volume 20, Issue 1

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HCMG  
January 5, 2022

Dietert Center  
Grill Meeting Room  
451 Guadalupe,  
Kerrville

No Social Hour  
Room open 12:30

1:00 Meeting  
2:00 Continuing Ed

Scholarship Students will  
present their research

See page 12 for details



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## President’s Message

Two years ago, when I began Master Gardeners classes, I couldn’t imagine that I would be writing the President’s letter one day. I enrolled to learn how to grow pumpkins in Kerrville. Besides teaching me a lot about plants, the classes introduced me to a great group of people.

Rita Aliperto, our new secretary, and I were in the 2020 class, a class cut short by COVID. We are the two “newcomers” to the executive team. Our inexperience is balanced by two HCMG veterans: Patty Schlessiger, our vice-president and Rachel Garrison, our treasurer. Having gotten to know Rita, Patty and Rachel in the last year, I am confident we will make an effective team.

Rachel was our president when COVID first struck, and she and her group of officers guided HCMG through the first, very uncertain, months. Anne Brown then took over and with Patty, Donna Nutt and Jackie Connelly, kept HCMG moving forward. These two executive teams deserve credit for managing through unprecedented circumstances. Because of their efforts, HCMG today is vibrant and financially sound.

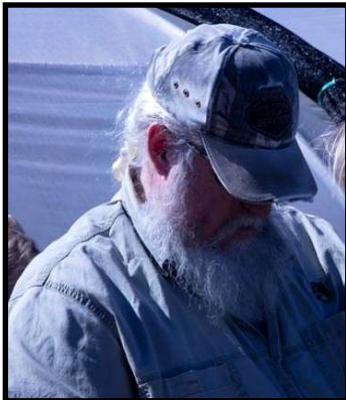
That doesn’t mean we are without challenges. There was no class in 2021 and, consequently, few new members. The 2022 class looks to be full, but it will take time before new members are integrated into HCMG. Several key projects – the reference desk and the demo garden - need new volunteers. In addition, we need future project leaders to replace those who have worked so diligently over the years. HCMG must stay true to our main purpose: to educate the community.

“What could be better than working with people who care about plants?” Edna Platte said when she explained to me the process for arranging CEU speakers for monthly meetings. Not much, I’ve discovered. I am proud to introduce myself as a Master Gardener and now, to serve as president of such a wonderful group.



Dave Kinneberg

*see picture on page 13*



## Hill Country Veggies

**By Allen Mace, MG**

This fall has been frustrating to say the least. Rabbits, yes bunnies, have taken over my vegetable garden. All the low beds have been wiped out, but the one tall bed has remained bunny free thus far. I threaten them from time to time, but so-far they have not been impressed. I really don't want to follow

through with my threats so I've declared a peace and will abandon my low-lying beds, for now.

On the brighter side, I planted Cabbage and Kohlrabi in the one tall bed that so far have been safe from the assault of the hordes of rabbits that have invaded my area this year. Note to self, might need to get a cat or two. Kohlrabi is sometimes called "German turnip" and is related to cabbage, kale and Brussels sprouts. It grows fairly quickly and ready for harvest between 50 to 70 days. It tends to like temperatures between 60 and 80 degrees. So far this year it has held up well the few times that the temperatures have dropped into the 30's.

Cabbage is a perennial favorite of mine for fall and winter gardens. Cabbage, like others in the Brassica Family, will fare well during the cool seasons. The only time that I have issues with these vegetables is during long extended periods of below freezing temperatures and that happens very seldom in our area of Texas.

As always remember that these plants are heavy feeders. During the cooler weather, water is not as big an issue as during the warmer season, but don't forget to check it from time to time. Once the plants get some size to them, I still like to put a few inches of mulch around them. This helps to hold the soil moisture and I believe that it helps to insulate the roots and keeps them just a bit warmer during the cold snaps.

That's it for now. I hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday season. Start planning your spring gardens. It's just around the corner and will be upon us sooner than we think.



**Low Bed**



**Tall Bed**



**Kohlrabi**



**Cabbage**

## Hill Country Master Gardener 2021 Christmas Party



“There’s a happy feeling nothing in the world can buy  
When they pass around the coffee and the pumpkin pie” Sleigh Ride

Photo  
Credit:  
Vickie  
Killeen





Hill  
Country  
Master  
Gardener  
2021  
Christmas  
Party

Photo  
Credit:  
Vickie  
Killeen





Hill  
Country  
Master  
Gardener  
2021  
Christmas  
Party



Above:  
President Anne Brown congratulates Brian Strickland on 20 years as a certified Master Gardener.

**Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen**





**Now is the perfect time to plant this Texas gem, so that it can get settled before producing early-spring blooms.**

## **Texas Redbud: an easy-care tree and early harbinger of spring**

Texas is a large, diverse state and plants that work for one region may not always be the best choice in a different region. The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) created the N.I.C.E. Native Plant Partners program to help nurseries offer natives that are right for the local environment. Two local chapters of NPSOT, the Kerrville and Fredericksburg chapters, implement this program by choosing one native plant to promote each season – in cooperation with wholesalers, in order to assure availability – and in cooperation with participating local nurseries.

The N.I.C.E. acronym stands for “Natives Improve and Conserve Environments.” The goal of the program is to introduce people to great native plants that are available locally to use in place of non-native species.

### **WHY PLANT NATIVES?**

The home page of the state website, NPSOT.org, says:

- Native plants are drought tolerant, naturally conserving our precious water resources
- Native plants provide habitat and food for birds, butterflies, bees and other wildlife
- Native plants don't need special pampering or fertilizing
- Natives are natural to their eco-system
- Natives help us maintain biological diversity

This winter season (which begins on December 21), the Kerrville and Fredericksburg NPSOT chapters are featuring the Texas Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* var. *texensis*), at five local nurseries as their N.I.C.E. Plant of the Season.



**By Cindy Anderson**  
Native Plant Society  
of Texas  
Hill Country Master

*Continued on page 7*

### *Texas Redbud continued from page 6*

*Note:* The following story by the late Bill Ward was published in January 2010 on the website of the Native Plant Society of Texas – npsot.org.

Texas Redbud is a multi-trunked small tree or large shrub that grows on the thin limestone soils of the Hill Country. It is popular as a landscape plant because of its profuse clusters of tiny rose-pink blooms.



In an ideal year when spring comes on slowly, every limb of the redbud is covered with the bright flowers before the leaves sprout. That is when the tree is most attractive and when it may linger in bloom for two or three weeks or more. Warmer spring weather seems to rush the bloom period and encourage leaf growth, which somewhat diminishes the effect of the blooms. Even then, they are pretty trees.

Some years, an unusually late and frigid cold snap will nip the buds of the early bloomers among our redbuds. However, in this part of the Hill Country, most years the Texas redbud is not as likely as the Texas mountain laurel to have its flowers destroyed by late freezes.

Everyone welcomes the early-spring blossoms of the redbud tree. They are one of the first signs that winter is on the way out. If the redbuds are blooming, can the bluebonnets be far behind?

Blooms aside, Texas redbud is a handsome landscape tree. From spring into fall its many branches are abundantly covered by glossy deep-green heart-shaped leaves a few inches across. In the fall, the leaves turn yellow for a few weeks before they are shed.

Texas redbuds are easy to grow in alkaline soil and can thrive in part shade to full sun. In the Hill Country, redbuds thrive and bloom profusely as small understory trees in dappled shade. They should be watered regularly until established, after which they can survive on occasional rains. This species of redbud would probably not do well in overly wet, poorly drained areas.

The Texas redbud has a couple of cousins, one from East Texas and one from the Trans Pecos, which also are grown in this area. The Eastern redbud (*C. canadensis* var. *canadensis*) is widespread over the eastern half of the US. It tends to have a single main trunk and fairly rapidly can grow to be a large tree, even in our alkaline soils. Still, I think the smaller Texas redbud has deeper-colored blossoms and nicer foliage than the eastern variety, and it demands less water.

The drought-tolerant Mexican redbud (*C. canadensis* var. *mexicana*) is a multi-trunked tree with glossy leaves a little smaller than those of the Texas redbud. There is a great deal of overlap in the ranges of the three redbud varieties. Natural hybrids may confuse recognition of redbuds in the wild. Apparently a number of cultivars are available in the nursery trade, further confusing identification.

Redbuds of any variety, especially the young ones, need to be protected from deer. The trunks are just the right diameter for bucks to rub, and the low branches are easily broken or browsed.

*Continued on page 8*

**Texas Redbud continued from page 7****WHERE TO FIND IT**

Our local N.I.C.E. nurseries have happily agreed to stock up on our Plant of the Season in order to have it available to the public. These independent nurseries carry only the best plants for our area, as well as high-quality soil amendments and gardening supplies.



Look for the “N.I.C.E. Plant of the Season” sign stake at these nurseries and growers in Kerrville, Fredericksburg, and Medina:

Natives of Texas, 4256 Medina Highway, Kerrville, 830-896-2169

Plant Haus 2, 604 Jefferson Street, Kerrville, 830-792-4444

The Gardens at The Ridge, 13439 S. Ranch Road 783 (Harper Rd.), Kerrville, 830-896-0430

Friendly Natives, 1107 N. Llano Street, Fredericksburg, 830-997-6288

Medina Garden Nursery, 13417 Tx. Highway 16, Medina, 830-589-2771

Our chapter website contains articles of past N.I.C.E. plants, going back as far as 2009. To peruse the list, go to the following link: <https://npsot.org/wp/kerrville/nice-2> and scroll to the bottom of the page for the list of featured plants.

**Why go native?**

To sustain our local ecosystem, native plants are essential, and many non-native plants are extremely detrimental. Non-natives may seed out more easily, grow faster, and use more water – proliferating and crowding out native species until the natives become extinct.

Native plants, on the other hand, have lived here for centuries (without fertilizer or pesticides); have evolved to withstand our temperature and moisture extremes and our poor soil; and have supported the local wildlife by providing food and shelter for our native animals, birds and insects.

As they are forced to compete with non-native plants for resources, the native plants become fewer and fewer until they are crowded out or eaten to extinction.

**– From the Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter and Fredericksburg Chapter:**

The Kerrville Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas hosts monthly programs at the Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville, September through May. See [npsot.org/kerrville](https://npsot.org/kerrville) for details.

The Fredericksburg Chapter of NPSOT meets monthly at Presbyterian Memorial Church, 601 North Milam Ave., Fredericksburg. See [npsot.org/fredericksburg](https://npsot.org/fredericksburg) for details.

**Cindy Anderson is a member of the Native Plant Society of Texas (Kerrville Chapter) and the Hill Country Master Gardeners. An enthusiastic (though often frustrated) gardener, she has learned first-hand the value of native plants, and gladly shares reviews of her favorites in this quarterly seasonal column.**





## HCMG 2021 Volunteers of the Year

Texas AgriLife Kerr County Extension Agent Justin Klinksiek presents Hill Country Master Gardener Volunteer of the Year Awards to Fernando Gonzalez and Pat Wolters.

**By Vickie Killeen**

Overcoming the twin obstacles of Covid 19 and Winter Storm Uri required the dedication of two outstanding volunteers to accomplish Hill Country Master Gardeners' goals for community service. The two worthy recipients of this year's highest recognition are Pat Wolters of Kerrville and Fernando Gonzalez of Kerrville. The pair received their awards at the annual Christmas luncheon with more than 50 members in attendance.

Ms. Wolters and Dr. Gonzalez (retired) each accumulated more than 150 volunteer hours dedicated to the gardening organization. To retain certification, members of HCMG need only achieve 25 hours of volunteer service and 6 hours of continuing education.

The Volunteer of the Year award recognizes a member of the Hill Country Master Gardeners whose unselfish and dedicated service makes a significant difference for its membership and the communities served in 5 counties. These exemplary volunteers regularly attend meetings, participate in committee and volunteer activities and introduce innovative ideas into the organization. In addition, the volunteer of the year demonstrates a positive attitude and offers encouragement to other members.



Beth McMahan, Sandy Martin, Pat Wolters and Janice Walker exchange Christmas greetings.



Left to right: Darla Cluster, Kerry Brittain, Bee Evans, & Jackie Skinner greet Linda Proffitt and her guest Patsi Shaw. Jan Sewell, Anne Brown, Gayle Anderson, and Dave Kinneberg make a festive group.

*“Here we are as in olden days, happy golden days of yore  
Faithful friends who are dear to us gather near to us once more”*



Trudy Boardman, Dave Cobb (Debbie’s guest) & Debbie Bacon

*Have Yourself  
a  
Merry Little  
Christmas*

**Photo  
Credit:  
Vickie  
Killeen**



Meg Scott-Johnson, Pam Umstead & Melayne Arnold

**HCMG Monthly Meeting  
December 1, 2021  
Riverhill Country Club**

**Call to Order** (Please silence your cell phones)

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Invocation**-Pam Umstead

**Quorum verified**

**Approval of November 3, 2021 Minutes-**

Approved-Bernadell Larson moved, Patty Zohlen seconded.

**Approval of November Financial Statements-**

Anne Brown read the bank balances aloud, \$44,499.37 in the scholarship fund and \$26,137.47 in the operating fund. Questions should be addressed to Jackie Connelly.

**Welcome to Everyone**-Anne Brown thanked everyone for coming.

**Recognition of Guests**-Anne Brown asked members to introduce their guests to the group. Linda Proffitt introduced her sister-in-law; Debbie Bacon introduced her friend; Rita Aliperto introduced her husband and Brian Strickland introduced his wife.

**Introduction of Officers**- Anne Brown introduced the 2022 Executive Committee consisting of Dave Kinneberg(President), Patti Schlessiger(Vice President), Rachel Garrison (Treasurer) and Rita Aliperto(Secretary), and thanked them for being willing to serve.

**Presentation of Awards**-Anne Brown presented the Years of Service Awards

**Five Year of Service-Class of 2016**

Melayne Arnold  
Kerry Brittain  
Pat Wolters

**Ten Years of Service-Class of 2011**

Sandy Lewis  
Meg Scott Johnson

**Fifteen Years of Service-Class of 2006**

Carol Hagemeyer  
Linda Horton  
Bernadell Larson  
Diane McMahon  
Nina Wagner

**Twenty Years of Service-Transfer Membership**

Brian Strickland

**Presidential Service Awards**-Jackie Connelly explained that these awards are based on the hours of service performed in the current year

**Bronze:150 hours-249 hours**

Rita Aliperto  
Judy Beauford  
Janell Dahms  
Bee Evans  
Fernando Gonzalez  
Kathy Lewis  
Raeann Reid  
Mark Schultz  
Pam Umstead  
Janice Walker  
Jim Wilhite (unable to attend)  
Pat Wolters  
Shari Worsham

**Silver:250 hours-499 hours**

Ann Brown  
Jackie Connelly  
Darla Cluster  
Keeley Porter  
Chris Seifert  
Jackie Skinner

**Volunteer of the Year Award**

Anne Brown saved the best for last. She explained that the award was given for unselfish service making a significant contribution to the HCMG membership. She explained the difficulty in choosing just one candidate this year. Two candidates worked a similar number of hours, both worked on the B&B sale, both were on the education committee and

*Continued page 12*

**Minutes continued from page 11**

both served on other committees as well. Both candidates were unselfish with their time following the extraordinary winter storm in February. The Executive Committee felt both candidates went above and beyond so a dual award was presented by Justin Klinksiek to Fernando Gonzalez and Pat Wolters as the 2021 HCMG Volunteers of the Year. (see page 9)

**Announcements**

**Anniversary**-Anne Brown announced that 2022 will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HCMG and plans will be forthcoming for a celebration

**Mentors**-Rachel Garrison reminded the group that the 2022 class is shaping up to be a 30 student class and therefore many mentors are needed. Contact Rachel if you can volunteer.

**Education Committee Meeting**-Anne Brown announced the Education Committee members that there will be a meeting in Fredericksburg, December 2, 2021

**Lost and Found**-Anne Brown displayed a hooded red jacket and asked if anyone was missing said jacket.

**Goodbyes**

Meg Scott Johnson said goodbye to HCMG and mentioned she is on the Landscape Committee at her new neighborhood south of Houston. Jan Grimes announced that she will not be renewing as she is traveling quite a lot. Jackie Skinner spoke and said Carol Hagemeyer will also be missed as she is leaving HCMG as well.

**Adjournment**

Submitted by  
Donna Nutt  
HCMG Secretary

**January Business Meeting-Jan 5, 2022**  
**Dietert Center, Grill Meeting Room,**  
**451 Guadalupe, Kerrville**

**Save the Date**

**March 4, 2022**  
**9-3 pm**

Plantastic Vegetable Gardening

Agrilife Building  
Fredericksburg, Texas

Presentations on cover crops and soil enrichment, tomatoes, fruit trees, container gardening, organic weed control and much more.

Beth McMahon, Horticulture Agent

**Continuing Education  
for the January Meeting**

Kamron Newberry and Cassandra (Cassie) Hutcheson, the students who received the HCMG scholarships this year, will present on their research.

You might consider going to the Dietert for lunch before the meeting. The Friendship Café is open for lunch from 11:30-12:30 Monday through Friday. Meals include an entrée, sides, bread, dessert and a beverage for a "suggested donation" of \$4.00 for anyone over 60 who completes the required paperwork. If you don't want to do the paperwork, the meal is \$8.00.

To see the menu, go to <https://www.dietertcenter.org/lunch-calendar.html>



**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**

*Newsletter Editor*  
Pat Wolters

*Associate Newsletter Editor*  
Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to  
Judy Beauford for  
proofreading

*Photographer*  
Mark Shultz

**Submissions to**

**Pat Wolters, Editor**

Patwolters2865  
@hotmail.com

**or**

Newsletter.editor.hcmg  
@gmail.com

**HCMG Donates to the Grace Center of Fredericksburg**

By Vickie Killeen



This year our members generously donated \$2375 to the fund-raising campaign for a shelter under construction in Fredericksburg that will house those impacted by domestic violence. Our contribution will help purchase furnishings that will create a welcoming and safe environment.

Jackie Connelly and Jackie Skinner helped Linda Proffitt (center) gather up the donations which she delivered on behalf of all of our members to the Grace Center.

November 2020 Anne Brown gave Dave Kinneberg his Master Gardener Certificate while socially distancing.



A year later she was passing the role of MG president to him.