

January 2023

Volume 21 Issue 1

President’s Message	1
New Certifications	2
Volunteer Service Awards	3-4
Nice: Mountain Laurel	5-6
Glory Garden	7
Table Decorations	8-10
Potluck & Meeting	11
Christmas Donation	12
Minutes	13
Roses in December	14

Wednesday

January 4, 2023

HCYEC

Meeting 1:00 pm  
 CEU 2:00 pm

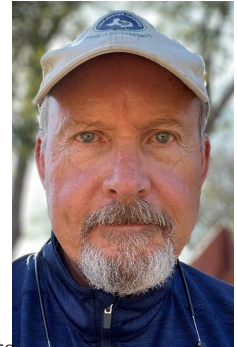
“Community Garden Project at Schreiner “University”

Professors  
 Karolyn Andrews and  
 Ruth Grubestic

“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



My grandfather was civic-minded. Of the many things he did for his community (Pocatello, ID), two stand out for me: he was awarded a special certificate by the Red Cross for the quantity of blood he donated over his lifetime, and he started a garden at the local “old folks” home so that residents could have fresh vegetables. He kept the garden going for so long that, at one point, he was older than most of the people who lived there.

Master gardeners share my grandfather’s civic devotion. Sure, it’s fun to get together for a potluck dinner (and the food at the Holiday Luncheon was terrific) and to socialize at “pot” parties. We tend to be life-long learners who enjoy discovering new ideas and putting new concepts to work in our yards. But, of the many reasons to become a master gardener, I believe the driving force for most of us is to serve our community. As proof, I point to the number of hours spent on our projects, our community gardens, and our committees. According to the keeper-of-records (Jackie Connelly), in 2022 (through November) we donated almost 8500 hours of community service.

And it makes a difference. Go to the Glory Community Garden to see the impact of our work on the lives of the people who participate in GCG events. Or listen to the questions at a public lecture at the library given by one of our specialists or talk to one of the many visitors to our demonstration garden. These are but a few of the many examples that could be mentioned.

We donate our time – our most valuable commodity - throughout the year unlike many who make a “year-end contribution” to a favorite charity (which we do as well; I understand we collected \$1650 for the Hill Country Mission for Health in Boerne). And, as the service awards demonstrate, some of us have been doing this for a long time.

I’m proud to be part of HCMG. And I’m sure my grandfather would be proud of us too.

**Best Wishes for a Prosperous 2023!!**



## Four Newly Certified Hill Country Master Gardeners

Four interns from our Class of 2022 received their Hill Country Master Gardener certifications at our December meeting. Certificates and name tags were presented by HCMG President Dave Kinneberg.

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



Clockwise from top:

- ◆ Queen Anne Brown, & Ray “Tex” Lang
- ◆ Kathy Enke
- ◆ Sandy Corbin and her mentor, Patti Schlessiger
- ◆ Pat Corbin and his mentor, Patti Schlessiger

**The President's Volunteer Service Award** program 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 (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 accumulative hours. Our period is from November 1 thru October 31 of each year. Recipients receive a letter of congratulations signed by our current President of the United States, a certificate and a service pin.

**BRONZE PIN - 100 to 249 Hours of Service**

**(2022 = 19, 2021 = 13, 2020= 14, 2019=21, 2018 = 24, 2017 = 26, 2016 = 18 2015 = 17)**

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



Left to right: Pat Wolters, Raeann Reid, Vickie Killeen, Shirley Smith, Michael Bell, Judy Beauford, Dave Kinneberg, Rita Aliperto, Debbie Bass, Bee Evans, Donna Bellis, Darla Cluster, Janel Dahms, Kathy Lewis, Rae Raiford, Janice Walker, Pam Umstead (not pictured: Jim Wilhite & Shari Worsham)

**SILVER PIN - 250 – 499 Hours of Service**

**(2022 = 5, 2021=6, 2020= 7, 2019-7, 2018 = 4, 2017 = 4 2016 = 5, 2015 = 6)**

**Left to Right: Chris Seifert, Jackie Connelly, Anne Brown & Jackie Skinner**

**(not pictured: Rachel Garrison)**

**GOLD PIN – 500+ Hours of Volunteer Service**

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

**No One**



**Rachel Garrison is the 2022 Volunteer of the Year!**



Left: Rachel was unable to accept her award in person. Receiving it on her behalf from President Dave Kinneberg was Rachel's stand-in, Vice-President Patti Schlessiger! Right: Fortunately, Rachel attended the Executive meeting the following week and received her award for Volunteer of the Year and Five Years of service.

**Master Gardeners Reaching Milestone Years of Service as of 2022**



**Class of 2007**  
**Joan Leach has 15 years of service**

**Class of 2012**  
**Carl Luckenbach (not pictured) has 10 years of service**



**Class of 2017**  
**Patti Schlessiger, Shirley Smith, Judy Beauford, Linda Fawcett, & Dave Kinneberg have 5 years of service. Not pictured: Bob Huff, Deborah Lea, Christine Snyder, Bernard Warren & Jim Wilhite**  
**Above: Rachel Garrison**



## Texas Mountain Laurel – a “must have” for Hill Country landscapes

Texas Mountain Laurel is a classic Hill Country tree or shrub with showy and fragrant purple blooms in spring.



Cindy Anderson  
 Master Gardener-  
 Native Plant  
 Society of Texas

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 Texas mountain laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*), at six local nurseries as their N.I.C.E. Plant of the Season.

### TEXAS MOUNTAIN LAUREL

The Texas mountain laurel (also known as *mescal bean*) is a classic Hill Country icon, very popular as a native evergreen ornamental tree within its range – which extends from central Texas west to New Mexico and south into Mexico. Like many woody plants native to rocky soils, **Continued on page 7**

it is rather slow growing. However, its beauty and fragrance more than make up for that shortfall. In most springs, the mountain laurel bursts forth with showy and fragrant purple blooms that remind many of their favorite grape drink as a child. The blooms attract many insect pollinators and butterflies.

Texas mountain laurel normally grows up to 12 feet tall and 6-8 feet wide. It may be grown as a medium to large shrub or trained to a single or multi-trunked tree. It is most stunning as a multi-trunked tree. It thrives in full sun and poor soil and is extremely drought tolerant. Good drainage is a must. The hills of our local landscapes and parks are dotted with perfectly beautiful mountain laurels which have flourished, unaided, in the natural caliche/limestone soils and unpredictable rainfall of Central Texas. Its lustrous, leathery leaves provide year-long beauty, and it is extremely deer resistant.

It should be noted that both the seeds and flowers of mountain laurel are quite poisonous. Despite their toxicity, the brilliant, lacquer-red seeds were highly valued by indigenous people for ornamental and ceremonial use.

Tender new growth on young mountain laurels is sometimes eaten by a worm specific to this tree – the Genista caterpillar, which is the immature stage of a moth. While this one-inch worm can strip leaves off a Texas mountain laurel in no time, the foliage almost always grows back and the plant suffers no permanent damage. If bothersome, young trees can be protected from “the worm” by frequent monitoring, spraying with jet blasts of water, or removing by hand. For further control, it can be sprayed with a caterpillar-specific product containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt.) This problem seems to go away within a few years, mostly affecting only the youngest of mountain laurels.

The good news? Deer leave this tree alone -- so nothing to worry about there!

### **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, Medina, and Comfort:

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

The Garden Haus, 31 Highway 87 North, Comfort, 830-995-5610

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 our website: [npsot.org/kerrville](http://npsot.org/kerrville), click on the “NICE!” tab, and scroll to the bottom of the page for the list of featured plants.

## Glory Garden Gets Ready for Christmas

Decorating for Christmas, winter crops and several new beds. Pictures and article on the Glory Garden will be in the Hill Country Culture Magazine,

By Pam Umstead, MG



## Talented decorators transformed our meeting room into a festive setting for our Christmas luncheon

Maybe some of these designers would consider teaching a holiday table workshop???

By Vickie Killeen



Demo Garden volunteers Debbie Bacon, Sue Hall, Rita Aliperto, Darla Cluster and Bee Evans planned their table around a Christmas tree centerpiece!



Above: Party favor holiday headbands added to the fun at Diane McRae's Christmas wreath themed table once guests were seated. Her son helped set the table perfectly.



Kathy Lewis, Barbara Banks and Joan Leach, our Fredericksburg team, created a stunning red, silver and white Winter Wonderland theme.



After voting on table decorations, the crowd begins to settle at tables for the last meeting of the year and awards ceremony.



**HCMG Awards Best Decorated Table to Dee Dunton and Patty Zohlen**



Winners of the Best Decorated Table contest at our Christmas Luncheon were designers Patty Zohlen and Dee Dunton. Their “Gardening Santa” theme was beautifully styled in traditional Christmas colors of red, green and gold. The centerpiece featured Santa, his garden gnomes, tools, seed packets, holiday greenery and yaupon berries, as well as a lantern for gardening past sunset.

Photo and article by Vickie Killeen



Pat Wolters, Donna Bellis, Rae Raiford & Imelda Horne pause for a photo while creating their table setting. A beautiful setting of cardinals, roses, ribbons and a carved wooden cupola was created.

**More beautiful decorated tables**

By Vickie Killeen



Far left: Kay Nelson and Lisa (a reindeer in disguise?) Cantini's Christmas tree centers a cheerful red & green table. Lucky guests scooped up their

Left: Grinch green, red & white greeted guests at Jackie Connelly & Vickie Killeen's table where a centerpiece of deer, doves and owls gathered in Yaupon berries.



Above: Sandy Corbin, Judy Beauford and Shirley Smith celebrate Boerne's German heritage by using a Weihnachtspyramide (German Christmas Pyramid) as the centerpiece of their festive table. The pyramid illustrates the Nativity story.



Right: Fiesta Ware provided pops of color on an elegant, silver-themed table designed by Cindy Shackelford.



**Hill Country Master Gardener Potluck and Meeting on December 7, 2022**



Some of the best cooks in the Hill Country contributed to this potluck. Thanks to Kathy Enke for coordinating this wonderful meal.

Below: Marge Muniz adds delicious sweets to the dessert table as Kay Nelson checks out the offerings. Debbie Bacon and Sandy Martin arrange appetizers for hungry Master Gardeners  
**Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen**



**Festive Attire:** Diane McRae, Janell Dahms, Jodi Tippens, Deb Bass & Janice Walker  
 Right: Sandy Lewis, Melayne Arnold, Pam Umstead, Anne Brown, Liz Althaus, Vickie Killeen & Patty Zohlen



## HCMGs donate generously to Local Charity



"The tradition continues, and thanks to the generosity and warm hearts of our members, Hill Country Master Gardeners donated \$1650 to the Hill Country Mission for Health in Boerne. The cash and checks were presented to HCMH executive director Connie Padgett by Master Gardener Michael Bell."



*On behalf of the Texas Master Gardener Program, we thank you for your dedication, your time and energy, your ideas and your inspiration.*

*May you experience the peace and tranquility of the season, knowing that our communities are stronger because of you.*



## Hill Country Master Gardeners Monthly Meeting December 7, 2022

**Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by the group.  
**Invocation** – Patty Zohlen provided a beautiful invocation.

### **Holiday Luncheon: ENJOY THE FEAST!!**

**Welcome/Opening Remarks** – Dave Kinneberg recognized special guests Lindsey Forster and Kim Keese to the luncheon. The Exhibit Center folks also enjoyed the potluck food. Dave thanked Linda Proffitt for her work on putting this luncheon together. He thanked Kathy Enke for stepping up in Linda's absence in taking on the potluck portion of the event and for volunteering to chair the Hospitality Committee going forward. Dave thanked Jackie Connelly for all the work she did toward the success of the event. He commended the table decorators and everyone for the food preparation.

**Verification of Quorum** – Rita Aliperto indicated that a quorum had been met.

**Approval of Minutes from November 2, 2022 Meeting.** Patti Schlessiger moved the November minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Tish Hulett.

**November Treasurer Report** has been posted on the website. Dave asked if there were any questions on the report in Rachel's absence and said he would do his best to explain them.

**New Members!** The following people have completed the requirements to become Master Gardeners and were recognized with a certificate and name badge: Kathy Enke, Tex Lang, Pat Corbin and Sandy Corbin.

**Award Presentations**– Jackie Connelly announced the following MGs are being recognized for their years of contributions. Joan Leach (15 years); Carl Luckenbach (10 years); Judy Beauford, Linda Fawcett, Rachel Garrison, Bob Huff, Debra Lea, Patti Schlessiger, Shirley Smith, Christine Snyder, Bernard Warren and Jim Wilhite (5 years).

The Presidential Awards for volunteer hours were presented. In the Bronze category (100 to 249 hours) the following MGs were awarded: Rita Aliperto, Debbie Bass, Judy Beauford, Michael Bell, Donna Bellis, Darla Cluster, Janell Dahms, Bee Evans, Vickie Killeen, Dave Kinneberg, Kathy Lewis, Rae Raiford, Raeann Reid,

Shirley Smith, Pam Umstead, Janice Walker, Jim Wilhite, Pat Wolters and Shari Worsham. In the Silver category (250 to 499 hours), Anne Brown, Rachel Garrison, Chris Seifert, Jackie Skinner and Jackie Connelly were awarded. There were no Gold awards (500+ hours) this year, but some came very close.

The final award was the Hill Country Master Gardener Volunteer of the Year. Dave read the criteria as outlined in the HCMG Policies and Procedures Manual as follows: *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 our membership and the communities we serve. The member should attend meetings, participate in committees, and volunteer activities, and introduce innovative ideas. This member should demonstrate a positive attitude and offer encouragement to other members.* There were several MGs nominated but one person stood out. The Volunteer of the Year award was given to Rachel Garrison. Rachel served as President for 2 years, she is the current Treasurer, serves on the Education Committee as a Facilitator, Chair of the Mentor Committee, Executive Committee member serving on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, served in information booths at the Glory Community Garden and Riverside Nature Center. Rachel was instrumental in getting the trellis built at the Demonstration Garden and tables built in the greenhouses as well as repairs to the greenhouses. Congratulations, Rachel! Patti Schlessiger accepted the award on Rachel's behalf.

**Other Comments/Questions/Announcements?** Patty Zohlen has an 8 or 9 foot Norfolk Pine tree she would like to give away.

The votes were counted and the winner of the table decorating contest was table 4, led by Patty Zohlen and Dee Dunton. They won a \$30 gift certificate for their group.

**Next Meeting: January 4, 2023, at the Dietert Center, 451 Guadalupe Street, Suite J (yoga room) in Kerrville.**

### **Adjournment**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Rita Aliperto, Secretary**

**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

When did December become peak rose season???

Three master gardeners were amazed to find blooms on their neglected roses.



Clockwise from top left:

Vicki Killeen's "Grandma's Yellow" or "Nacogdoches" from the Antique Rose Emporium in Brenham  
 Patty Zohlen's "Belinda's Dream"  
 Close up of "Belinda's Dream"  
 Pam Umstead's "Red Knockout" rose  
 Close up of "Grandma's Yellow"

