

July 2021

Volume 19, Issue 7

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HCMG  
July 7, 2021

HCYEC  
In-person ONLY

12:00 Social Hour -  
Brown Bag Lunch  
1:00 Meeting  
2:00 Continuing Ed

**"Mistakes I Wish I  
Hadn't Made."**

by  
**Jackie Skinner, MG**  
(see page 7 for Bio)



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

Anne Brown

Hi everyone,

What a fun time we all had in our first



social hour in ages. I know everyone was enjoying visiting, because I couldn’t start the meeting on time because of all the visiting (Noise) going on. Thanks to all who came. It was wonderful seeing everyone.

Does everyone know what the Executive Committee (EC) does? I have been asked that question so I decided that everyone should be brought up to date. As per the bylaws of the organization, the EC consists of the President, who also serves as Chairman of the committee, the Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Secretary and the immediate past president who serves as a voting ex-officio advisor. The EC meets monthly or as necessary. If a vacancy occurs, the spot will be filled by a majority vote of the EC and of the general membership. The County Extension Agent serves as advisor to this committee.

The EC approves the annual budget before January 31<sup>st</sup>, and obtains final approval of the budget from the general membership the first quarter of the year. It also reviews the organizations bank accounts quarterly. The President has authority to approve expenditures up to \$100. The EC has the authority to approve \$100 to \$1,000. The membership has to approve expenditures above \$1,000. In an emergency the EC can approve expenditures (for example if the greenhouse needs emergency funds for repairs) and obtain membership review at the next meeting.

There are also a lot of little duties that the EC must perform before year end, such as the officer election procedure, the obtaining of the year end charity, etc. I hope this review of the EC committee responsibilities



Anne at “Burgers in the Garden” at Glory Community Garden Photo Credit: Pam Umstead

**Cont’d on page 7**

## TEXAS SUPERSTAR<sup>®</sup> PROMOTIONS FOR 2021

by David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent-Horticulture



### *Salvia rosmarinus* 'Gorizia'; synonym *Rosmarinus officinalis*

Gorizia, Rosemary is a selected variety from the northeastern part of Italy. It makes an excellent culinary herb and as an ornamental completes any Earth-Kind<sup>®</sup> landscape. This selection is fast growing with a vigorous upright growth habit. Its needle-like foliage which is double the size of other varieties has incredible flavor and fragrance. Their robust, straight stems are complemented with profuse sky-blue flowers that are like magnets for bees and other beneficial insects. Plants take well to pruning and are perfect for hedging, screens, and specialty topiaries or simply just left alone. This is the ideal plant for any Texan who likes to garden, cook, use dry herbs and especially barbeque as the woody stems make excellent skewers!

**Exposure:** Full sun is required for optimal growth and to maximize flower potential.

**Size:** 3 to 4 feet in height with a 30-to-36-inch plant spread.

**Plant type:** Recommended to be grown as an annual as it may be cold sensitive in some parts of the state, but often flourishes as an evergreen perennial. Generally hardy to USDA hardiness zone 8 and possibly 7.

**Planting time:** Year-round as smaller plants are typically available in the spring and larger plants establish better going into the heat of summer.

**Soil type:** It is not particular to any soil type or pH

**Growing requirements:** 'Gorizia' Rosemary is a good choice for the edible garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container arrangement; plant it near the center of the pot, bordered by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they often require more frequent watering than they would in the landscape. Plants prefer dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil and will often die in standing water. It is highly tolerant to urban pollution and will even flourish in inner city environments.



Applying and replenishing a layer of mulch around the root zone both in winter and summer will protect it in exposed locations and microclimates.

**Special notes:** The thicker woody stems make the best barbeque skewers. Strip off the leaves to use in the marinade or later for other culinary needs and soak the skewers for about 20 minutes which helps release the aromatics when cooking and minimizes any burning.



## Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG

About this time of year things are starting to heat up, I mean starting to get hot. The squash has been very productive this year. Last year I planted six plants and was giving lots of squash away. This year I only planted three. We still had more than I care to eat. My mother-in-law came up with a very nice squash casserole recipe she found on the internet. Production has fallen off. The large leaves are turning yellow and starting to die. In years past this is when I start to see powdery mildew start developing and that's when I usually start pulling plants.

This year I decided to try and prune the old large yellow leaves and see what happens. I had read an article about thinning out some of the large leaves that over lap each other as a way of opening the plants up for better air flow and as a way to make it easier for pollinators to get into the area to gain access to the flowers. In the past, I have had years where it seemed that most of the fruit would start to grow, then stop growing and just rot. This happens when that flower does not get pollinated. By removing a few of the overlapping leaves the pollinators are able to get inside to the area where the flowers are.

By pruning the old big yellow leaf, this should help the plant put more energy into growing new leaves and flowers. With the older leaves still attached to the vine, the vine would be dividing energy and nutrients between trying to keep the old leaves alive and developing new leaves, flowers and fruit.



**Left: Pruned stem**

**Above: New growth**

## Just Peachy!

By Vickie Killeen, MG

The Harvester peach tree planted in 2013 to honor long-time HCMG Fay Drozd has set fruit. Stop by our garden and take a look. Fay was an active member of HCMG from the time she graduated in 2004 until she moved from the area in 2013. In the early years of the expanding Hill



Country chapter she taught the plant propagation classes.

In addition, she made home visits consulting on landscape problems.

Fay helped to establish the first greenhouse for growing and selling plants at Kerrville's Market Days. With Anne Brown, Fay helped organize the first annual HCMG Plant Sale in 2008, selling 196 plants in the extension office parking lot. Jackie Connelly remembers training on the research desk in 2010 under the watchful eyes of Fay and her pet turtle "Tuck".

A gardener with many talents, she provided educational programs on using plant dyes for fiber arts as well as exhibiting her fiber art creation at Kerr Arts & Cultural Center. Most of all, Fay was an invaluable resource for new master gardeners sharing her extensive knowledge of Central Texas plants and willingness to serve the citizens of the Hill Country.



## Spring in Our Demo Garden

Captions: Jackie Skinner  
Photos Credit: Vickie Killeen

Our Demonstration Garden volunteers had their work cut out for them after the wallop our garden took in Winter Storm Uri. Of course being experienced HCMG, they were up for that challenge! Look at the gorgeous results of their early spring efforts.



**Clockwise:**

- ◆ Old fashioned orange daylilies and mealy blue sage, tended by Darla Cluster and Sue Hall
- ◆ Native grasses and perennials with Hot Lips salvia in foreground, tended by Jackie Skinner and Kerry Brittain
- ◆ Herb garden, tended by Bee Evans
- ◆ Mexican Sunflowers in the butterfly garden tended by Frank Dunlap and Marge Muniz



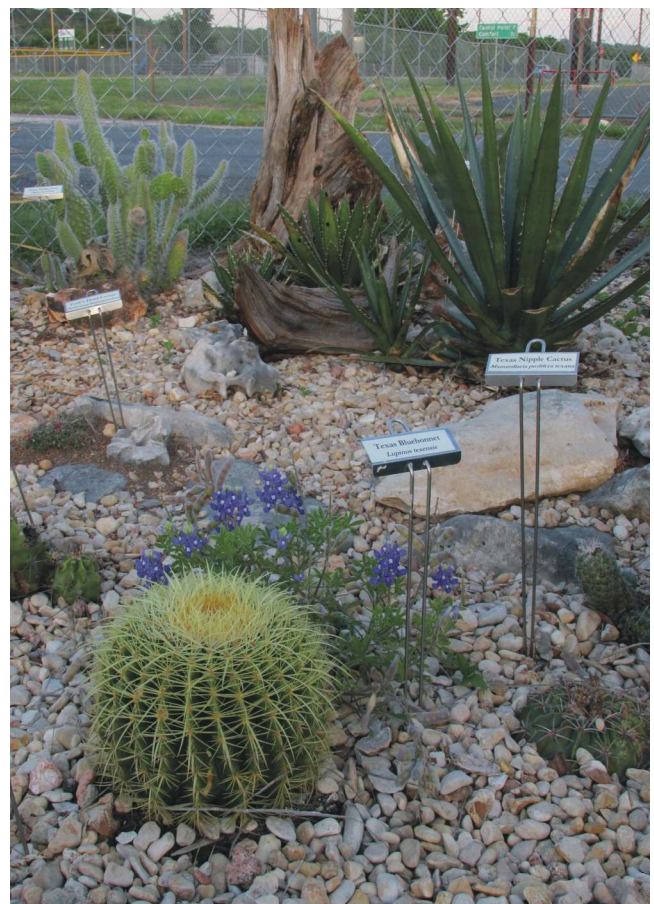
## Spring in Our Demo Garden

### Clockwise:

- ◆ Yellow bird of paradise tree, tended by Lola Auger and Allan Perry.
- ◆ Dry landscape garden, tended by Wil Rolfe and Dave Kinneberg
- ◆ Dry bed garden featuring silver ponyfoot and dwarf zinnias, tended by Rita Aliperto
- ◆ Bunny ears in bloom with neighboring native lantana



**Captions: Jackie Skinner  
Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen**



#### What is a dry creek bed?

Also referred to as an arroyo, wash, gully, or draw, a dry creek bed is a temporary watercourse that is formed over time of excess water flow.

Do you have a slope on your property down which excess water flows, causing erosion on the slope and/or a landscape drainage problem?

Homeowners can address this problem by building dry creek beds. Besides the practical aspect of improving drainage, this feature can also be quite attractive. In fact, some folks with absolutely no drainage problems build them just because they like the way they look.



**Plantastic Committee members plan the fall vegetable program.**

Clockwise starting left: Connie Townsend, MG, Beth McMahon, Horticulture Agent, Raeann Reid, MG, Donna Bellis, MG, Pat Wolters, MG and Allen Mace, MG.

*Save the Date!*  
**August 6, 2021**

**Program at the Gillespie  
County Agrilife Office**

**9-12 noon**

**Fall Back  
to the Garden**

**Topics included:**

- ◆ **Overview of Fall gardening**
- ◆ **Cole Crops**
- ◆ **Fall Salad Garden**
- ◆ **Alliums**

**CE Program for July Meeting**

**Jackie Skinner said,** “My bio could read as follows: Certificate in Landscape Technology from Cal Poly, Pomona, California; Certificate in Landscape Design from George Washington University, D.C.; and advanced horticultural courses at UCLA, Los Angeles, California.



Designed an ornamental vegetable garden for the National Horticulture Society in Alexandria, Virginia.

Served a two-year term as HCMG President; has served at Demonstration Committee Chair for three years. Currently serving as Horticultural Reporter for the Kerrville Garden Club.”

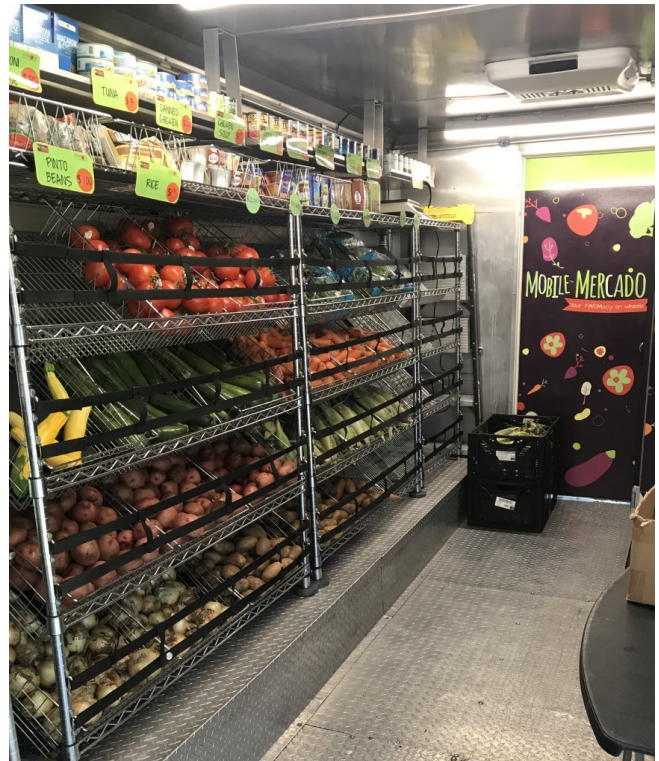
*President’s message continued from page 1*

are clearer to everyone. If you didn’t go to the Glory Community Garden celebration on the 12<sup>th</sup>, you missed a wonderful event. HCMG has been involved in this community garden since its inception in 2013, and it has grown into a thriving garden with 30 plots. Our role is to help the owners be able to grow their own gardens successfully. The event was very successful, and included great burgers, but also the San Antonio Food Bank put on cooking demonstrations on healthy meals, the Pets Alive group was there to offer free microchips to all pets that were brought, the Buffalo Shoulders were there to present the colors, and Rev. Alan Noah was presented a Certificate of Appreciation for his work in getting the garden established and growing. Alan is also a Master Gardener and will be leaving us soon. He had to retire at age 72, so he and his wife are moving north. Best of luck to them.

**I hope to see everyone on July 7 at 12:00 for the social hour, 1:00 meeting and 2:00 for CEU.**



Over 100 dogs & cats were chipped!  
KerrvillePetsAlive! did an awesome job



SA Food Bank Mobile Mercado

## Glory Community Garden

### "Burgers in the Garden"

June 12, 2021

Photo and Captions: Pam Umstead, MG



Kids love the fire truck



Burgers on the Grill



# Glory Community Garden

Photo and Captions: Pam Umstead, MG



**Above:**  
Buffalo soldiers  
presenting the colors  
at the “Burgers in  
the Park” event

**Right:**  
Proclamation  
presented to  
Rev. Allen Noah  
for his dedication to  
God and the  
Community by  
Pam Umstead



**HCMG Monthly meeting  
June 2, 2021  
HCEYC – Large Classroom**

A networking Brown Bag Lunch at noon was well attended. One additional volunteer hour was granted.

**Call to Order-** The meeting was called to order at 1 pm by Anne Brown and she asked everyone to please silence their cell phones.

**Pledge of Allegiance -** All stood and recited the Pledge of Alliance

**Invocation –** A Garden Prayer was read by Patty Zohlen

**Verification of Quorum –** There were 55 members in attendance which met the quorum requirements.

**Approval of April 7, 2021, minutes as published in the newsletter –** A motion was made by Imelda Horne to approve the minutes, seconded by Debbie Bacon. Motion Carried

**Executive Committee Reports**

**Treasurer’s Report –** Anne Brown stated the Treasurer’s Report is now available at the sign in desk and asked if there were any questions. None being asked, a motion was made by Brian Strickland to approve the report, seconded by Dee Dunton. Motion Carried.

**Committee Reports**

**B&B Committee –** Chairman Janell Dahms said the committee had met and plans are underway for the April 11, 2022 Blooms and Barrels Plant Sale. Plant ID forms are going to be revamped. Janell explained the new volunteer project being created and what this would entail. Janell explained there is a need for the original plant description/research, fact checker, then production of the new forms. The new forms will list a description of growing conditions of the plant. All research could be done at home and a standardized spreadsheet will be filled out and sent back into the committee chair. Jackie Skinner said she has a spread sheet of the information for the plants in the demo garden and will forward them to the committee chair to forward to the researchers. Also, the City of Austin

Grow Green Landscaping book is a good resource and is available in a pdf form.

**Research Desk -** Anne Brown explained that we have a urgent need for volunteers. Since we did not have Interns this year, the research desk has been understaffed. She is requesting help on Tuesdays and Thursdays mornings and afternoons. There is no need to stay for the 4 hour shift, unless the volunteer wants to do so. A volunteer sign up sheet was passed around. Jackie Connelly explained that the research could be done at home and suggested that volunteers could use the Outlook Email Account to answer the questions and that the Horticulture Inquiry Forms are available at the Member Zone of our website. Anne Brown mentioned that we are in need of a Research Desk Chairman and training is available.

**New Business**

**Junior Master Gardener and 4H Garden–** Anne Brown stated that the 4H Agent, Jennifer Smith, asked for several volunteers to work with a group of 4H members in the existing garden behind the extension office. The garden was built with the help of our JMG Coordinator a couple years ago. Ms. Smith would like help once a quarter instructing the group on simple plant care. The 4H group will work to maintain the garden. Contact Anne Brown if you would like to help.

*Continued on page 11*



**Left: President Anne Brown  
Right: Janell Dahms**

**Scholarship Program -**

Chairman Carl Luckenbach informed us that there were four scholarship applications for the two scholarships available. The scholarship committee reviewed the applications and selected the two most qualified.

**Carl Luckenbach**



**Glory Community Garden:** Committee Member Pam Umstead (left) announced the garden is open to the public again. A “**Burgers in the Garden**” event is planned for Saturday, June 12 from 11am to 1pm. She invited all HCMGs to come by and see our on-going project. There are lots of fun events being planned for that day and will include the dedication of the flag pole by *The Buffalo Soldiers*.

**Ronald McDonald House Donation** - Anne Brown showed us the box of aluminum tabs brought in by Linda Proffitt. Linda’s granddaughter and her friends collected a big box full of pop top tabs. The RMH is a non-profit family and children’s charity dedicated to supporting families with sick children in their time of need. Anne has a connection to the Corpus Christi group and will take the tabs to them. If you would like to participate, simply pull off the aluminum tab of your beverage and bring to a meeting or leave them in the office.

**Adjournment**

Next meeting July 7, 2021  
HCYEC

Respectfully submitted:  
Jackie Connelly, Treasurer  
for Donna Nutt, Secretary



**Thanks for  
the Rain!**



**Brian Strickland talking with Laura Bobbitt from Cibola Nature Center**

**Hill Country Master  
Gardeners 2021  
Executive  
Committee**

Anne Brown  
*President*

Patti Schlessiger  
*Vice President*

*Secretary*  
Donna Nutt

Jackie Connelly  
*Treasurer*

Rachel Garrison  
*Ex-officio Advisor*

*C.E.A. Advisor*  
Angela Fiedler

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

**Newsletter & Website**

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Judy Beauford for  
proofreading

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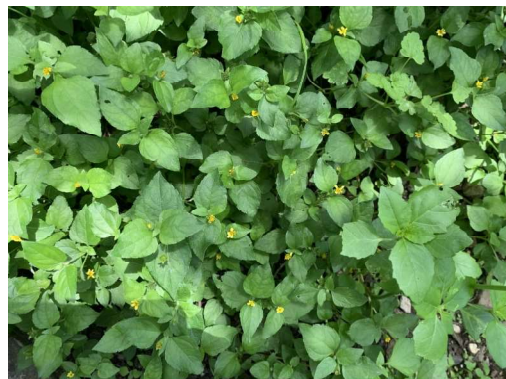
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## Inland Seoats and Straggler Daisy

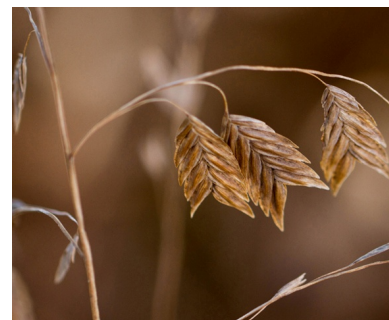
By Pat Wolters, MG

I have a small area beside the path to the chicken yard that is semi-shaded by a tree. This has been a problem area mostly inhabited by weeds that I would occasionally weed eat. A couple of years ago, I threw out some Inland

Seoats seeds, *Chasmanthium latifolium*, that I obtained from the HCMGs. You can see in the picture (below) that they have nicely spread over the space. Inland Seoats are a very popular low-maintenance, native shade grass, notable for its large, graceful seed heads. It sends up blue-green basal leaves in earliest spring, it can be 2 feet tall and a vivid green by May, with green seed heads swaying in the breeze. By mid-summer, the seeds will have turned an attractive ivory and will turn brown in a few months before dropping off. February, is a good time to cut it back to the basal rosette. It reseeds easily and can expand aggressively within a couple of years.



Information from Lady Bird  
Johnson Wildflower  
Information Center



Also in this area is *Calyptocarpus vialis* or you might know it by the name **Straggler Daisy or Horseherb**. (pictured at top of page). Depending on your point of view, Straggler Daisy is a pest or a welcome, shade-tolerant groundcover that tolerates moderate foot traffic. It grows 3-5 inches tall and is both heat and draught tolerant. It will thrive in just about any light, water or soil situation—my kind of plant!