

July 2022

Volume 20, Issue 7

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**HCMG
 July 6
 HCYEC**

1:00 Business Meeting

2:00 Program

What is Verjus and How is it going to change our Texas Wine Industry?

Cassie Marbach

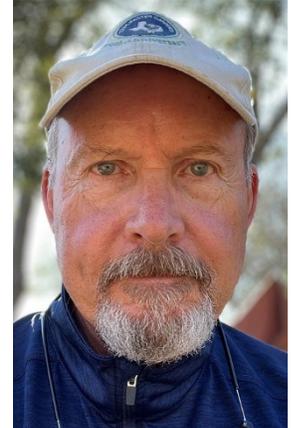
Bio on page 10



"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



In my first president's message, I complimented prior officers on a great job in guiding HCMG through COVID. Unlike many volunteer groups, we weathered the storm in fine fashion. However, I noted there were some clouds on the horizon, namely leadership vacancies. With an abbreviated 2020 class and no class at all in 2021, our pool of prospective leaders had shrunk considerably.

Six months into my term as president, I have not been able to fill a couple of open chairmanships and have heard rumors of more to come. Soon, the next executive team must be selected. Where will we find candidates? Will our interns volunteer? Or, as has happened in the past, will our "stalwarts" step forward? (By "stalwarts," I mean those special individuals who spend many hours each week sustaining HCMG. Thank goodness we have them.)

Here are my suggestions for dealing with this challenge.

- ◆ Find a more persuasive president. I've heard that some past presidents were people you couldn't say "no" to. I'm envious of their power of persuasion but wonder if we could end up with "reluctant" chairpersons. To quote my mentor, "we need people who want to do the job".(Note: my job description states the president must "appoint a chairman of each standing committee and any special committees," something I'm clearly not doing.)
- ◆ Leave a position open until a volunteer appears. In the case of Junior MG's, we have met community needs without having an official chair. (Kudosto Imelda, Kara and Cindy for their work at Tom Daniels Elementary). Fortunately, there are a couple of 2022 interns who are very qualified to work with children and are interested in taking over this committee. (Of course, this proposal does not apply to executive positions.)
- ◆ Eliminate the committee. For example, no one is currently interested in driving the propagation committee forward. Is this committee necessary? Similarly, do we need an official

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Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG

The last few weeks have been unseasonable hot. Compound that with the lack of any measurable rain and you have the recipe for a disastrous growing season.

There are only two green areas at my place right now. One area is around the water trough for my goats. Yes, yes, yes, I forgot to turn the water off and it ran

all night long. It happens. The other green area is my vegetable garden, and I'm very much surprised and pleased.



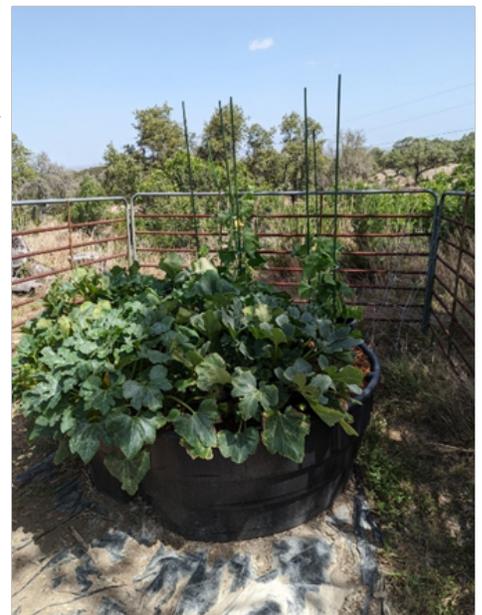
Green area/Goat trough



Wicking Bed/ Sweet potatoes

Last winter I spent a lot of time viewing videos on You Tube. More specifically, videos on Wicking Pots and Wicking Beds. These are methods where you create a water reservoir under the soil that you plant in. By doing so, the water will “wick” up from the reservoir, thus causing the plants to push their roots down deeper towards the moisture. I watered from the top of the bed for the first week or so as the wicking action begun. After a few days the wicking action was in full swing, then all I have to do is keep the water reservoir full. Not all my pots and beds are “Wicking Beds”, but the ones that are, are out performing the ones that are not. Next year, I shall be adding a few more wicking beds. Because of the heat and lack of rain, I am having to water more than I usually do. I try to water early in the morning and then later in the afternoon. The plants are growing well. The bigger the plant, the more water that is needed. Because I have increased the watering, I am fertilizing more often. I really beefed up the soil fertility at the beginning of the growing season when I amended the soil.

All in all, things are growing well. Like I said earlier, I am pleasantly surprised and pleased, thus far this growing season.



Squash Tub



Glory Community Garden Hosts Burgers in the Garden

Photos from Glory
Community Garden Facebook page

Dedicated HCMGs braved the soaring heat to hand out gardening information and answer questions. Dave Kinneberg, Rachel Garrison and Anne Brown also enjoyed the fun and food at our project's Glory Community Garden on June 5th for Burgers in the Garden.



Tom Daniel's First Graders at Glory Community Garden

MG Pam Umstead responded to an inquiry on the Glory Community Garden FB page –

“Could first graders from Tom Daniels Elementary School tour Glory Community Garden?” “Of course, we’d love to have you – how many students will you be bringing?” “Ninety.”

(Gulp!) Well then – let the fun begin! The Garden steering committee jumped into action, and the show was on several days later when 2 school buses drove up. Also joining in were HCMG Vickie Killeen, who served as the official photographer, and HCMG Intern/Glory Gardener Tish Hulett, who showed off her good-looking bed to curious kiddos. Manning their own education stations were community partners Tara Bushnoe and Matthew Wilkinson of UGRA, demonstrating rainwater catchment; Peggy Williams, teaching about soil; and Clifton Fifer with butterfly and insect toys to take home. In addition, George Baroody fascinated the kids with pelts from the critters who come to our gardens, and Trena Cullins of Plant Haus II taught – what else – planting seeds! It was two hours of fun with this group of very well-behaved and engaged children.

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Community education at its best!





**Tom Daniel's
First Graders
at
Glory Community
Garden**

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen





Master Volunteer Entomology Advanced Training

August 30-October 27, 2022 (Virtual)

\$120.00

This course is designed as an Advanced training for Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners.

<https://tamu.estore.flywire.com/products/master-volunteer-entomology-advanced-training>

Over the course of 8 weeks and 30+ instructional hours, you can gain a greater understanding of entomology, integrated pest management, be able to identify common insects, spiders and arthropods in Texas, learn about butterfly gardening and native pollinators and much more. iNaturalist training, invasive insects to watch for in Texas, medical entomology, using dichotomous keys for identification will also be covered.

There will be opportunities for you to learn how to collect insects and other arthropods during course. We will also cover curation: pinning, pointing, spreading wings, preservation, etc. This part of the course is **OPTIONAL**. If you choose to participate in collecting and curation it will be done on your own. I have allotted time for sessions to teach about collecting equipment and methods and curation if you choose to participate. You will be responsible for purchasing your own supplies for collecting and curation.

Wizzie Brown, BCE
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Special Opportunity Garden at the Center for Developmental and Mental Disabilities receives a generous supply of herbs from the Kerrville Plant Haus

Pictured preparing to plant the herbs are Becky Leal and Imelda Horne. Also working at the garden each Tuesday are Donna Bellis, Rae Raiford, and Pat Wolters. They work with 8-10 clients in the garden planting, watering, weeding and last week harvesting (radishes).

President's message continued from page 1

HCMG photographer when cell phones are ubiquitous and are capable of excellent photos?

- ◆ Assign a committee's work to other groups (a subset of #3 above and a common corporate ploy). For example, if advertising for education classes or B&B's is considered the responsibility of those committees, do we need a stand-alone PR group? (Thanks again to Vickie for a super job of generating interest in the 2022 B&B.)
- ◆ Reduce job scope. When asking for help, I often get the response: "I don't want the responsibility." Perhaps the responsibility as defined in our job descriptions is too broad. For example, our secretary is required to record the minutes and attendance "of all meetings." Why not pare this down to "all executive committee and general meetings?"
- ◆ Require co- or vice-chairpersons. Several committees consist of one person: the chair. Having a team simultaneously reduces individual responsibility, provides backup support, and helps train for the future. (It also means more positions to be filled.)
- ◆ Increase the leadership "pool" by expanding our membership (or, conversely, cut back on activities to better fit our existing resource pool – see #3 above). Should we have two classes each year, at different times, to attract a more diverse membership with a wider set of talents and availability?
- ◆ Routinely advertise open positions in eMinders and newsletters. Perhaps people are not volunteering because the need is not obvious.

Hill Country Master Gardeners has survived and thrived for twenty years by facing issues head-on. I'm confident we can deal with the present situation. And after attending this year's MG conference, I don't think we are unique. Finding volunteers to step into positions of responsibility is always difficult.

Please let me know your thoughts (dave.kinneberg@gmail.com). And, even better, let me know if you would like to help.

**Hill Country Master Gardeners
 Monthly Meeting
 June 1, 2022
 HCYEC**

Call to Order (Please Silence Your Cell Phones)

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation – Rachel Garrison provided the invocation.

Verification of Quorum – A quorum was verified by Rita Aliperto.

Welcome/Opening Remarks – Dave Kinneberg welcomed the membership and gave the floor to Justin Klinksiek. Justin proudly introduced Elizabeth Little as the County Extension Office’s Intern. Justin also answered questions about tomorrow’s training.



Elizabeth Little and Justin Klinksiek

Approval of Minutes from May 4,2022, Meeting
 – Anne Brown moved the minutes be approved.

The motion was seconded by Shannon Barker.

Treasurer’s Report – Rachel Garrison explained some line entries on the report. A donation of \$500 was received from 3M thanks to Janell Dahms which will be used for B&B expenses. Rachel announced that future treasurer reports will now be posted in VMS under the Members Only tab.

Standing Committee Reports

Demonstration Garden – Jackie Skinner reported than the Demo Garden is up and ready for the tour after tomorrow’s training. There are 14 sections/docents leading the tour. She thanked Jackie Connelly for advertising in the eMinder. Ms. Skinner also thanked Brian Strickland for taking care of the St. Augustine turf grass section (currently all the other turf grass sections are under repair). She mentioned that the Demo Garden is still seeking a volunteer(s) to take over the turf sections. This would be working directly with the County Agent maintaining the sections and answering questions from the public. Anyone interested should contact Jackie.

Public Programs – Ray Tiemann spoke about the training he and Justin are conducting on June 2nd. The program consists of Rainwater Harvesting, Firewise, Oak Wilt and Turf Grass training. Lunch follows and ends with a tour of the Demo Garden. In addition, on September 24th, there will be another training class held in Fredericksburg. The topic is Learn Your Landscape & Lawn, facilitated by Steve George who is a Landscape Specialist from Dallas. Training on Earth kind Planting; Right Plants, Right Planting is also on the agenda. There will be a meal provided free of charge for those who attend. After lunch, presenters will speak about trees, turf grass and native plants. There will also be door prizes.

Other Announcements

20th Anniversary Party – Patti Schlessiger would like all HCMGs to mark their calendars to attend our 20th anniversary celebration which will

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be held on Wednesday, September 14th at 11am at the Museum of Western Art under the pavilion. The cost is free. Please RSVP to Patti Schlessiger, Rachel Garrison, or Rita Aliperto by August 31st. Linda Proffitt and the Hospitality Committee will be providing lunch. Patti asked for volunteers to help with the following things:

- Assistance with preparation of food for the event – contact Linda Proffitt.

- Help with making centerpieces& other decorations – contact Patti, Rachel, or Rita.

- Help setting up/tearing down the pavilion the morning of and after the event – contact Patti, Rachel, or Rita.

- Assembling scrapbook albums of recent years of MG pictures, events...etc. (There are numerous scrapbooks already made, we just need to continue the process to current year.) Contact Patti, Rachel, or Rita. If you have pictures of MG activities you wish to contribute, please email them to Rita or put them in Secretary box in the office.

Patti said there would be class pictures for each year, so you are encouraged to let your classmates know to come to the event. Liz Althaus will work on obtaining old membership lists to invite retired Master Gardeners as well.

Please note that the 20th Anniversary Celebration held on Wednesday, September 14th is in lieu of our monthly business meeting.

Therefore, our usual recurring meeting scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month, September 7th, has been rescheduled for September 14th.

Burgers in the Garden – Pam Umstead clarified some incorrect information printed in the Kerrville Daily Times. The Burgers in the Park event will be held Saturday, June 11th at the Glory Community Garden. They will be serving burgers, chips and beverages if anyone is interested. Dave mentioned there will be a HCMG booth set up and we need some volunteers to help.

2022 4-H Clover Camp – Jennifer Smith from the Kerr County Extension Office is

conducting a 4H camp for 5–7-year-olds on Tuesday, July 12th at the Bandera Recreation Hall. Please let Jennifer know if you can help.

UGRA 2022 River Clean Up – will be held on Saturday, July 23rd at 8am to 12pm. Imelda Horne, Rae Raiford and Donna Bellis have already volunteered. Please meet at Flat Rock Park (behind the HCYEC) if you wish to volunteer.

Research Desk – Anne Brown reported that the Interns are doing well. Please send in your questions. Also, if you need a replacement name badge, please let Jackie Connelly know so we can get a larger group discount.

Logo Wear - Melayne Arnold will be placing an order soon, so please leave the completed form and payment in her mailbox in the office.

Final Comments – Dave Kinneberg

2022 Virtual Master Gardener Conference – Dave reported on the highlights he felt were important from the conference. He would also like to talk more about succession planning within our membership in the future. We have 110 active members and need successors in line to take over key responsibilities.

**Respectfully submitted,
 Rita Aliperto, Secretary**

Next Meeting: July 6, 2022 HCYEC



CE Program

“The Benefits of Native Plants for Your Vegetable Gardens”

by
 Becky Leal

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



“Take your kids to a farm so they don’t think food comes from a box”

Willie Nelson

Photo taken by
 Pat Wolters on Real
 Ranch off Lower Turtle
 Creek Road in Kerrville

At the age of twenty, **Cassie Marbach** graduated with her bachelor's from Texas Tech and began pursuing a PhD in Horticulture at Texas A&M University. Two years later, she is half-way through her degree program and doing research for the Texas wine industry with a focus on the economic aspects of growing grapes and selling wine. She has been a teaching assistant for Texas A&M's intro to floral design course for the past two years and hopes to continue in this position for the rest of her PhD. This past year, she earned her Level 3 Sommelier award in wine from WSET and is hoping to continue her wine education after graduation. Her goal after graduating is to become a promoter of Texas wine as a professional sommelier and be a consultant for Texas grape growers and winemakers.

