

July 2023

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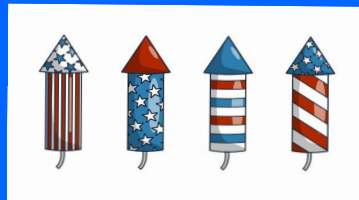
July 5, 2023

HCYEC

12:00 Potluck Lunch

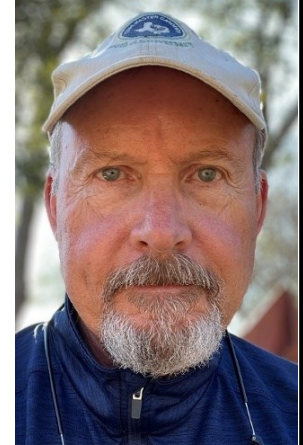
Meeting 1:00 pm

CEU 2:00 pm
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“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



After fifteen years in Texas Hill Country, I’ve decided there are three types of damage deer will inflict on you and your garden:

1. Food: When deer get hungry, they eat almost anything including plants that are supposedly “deer resistant.” This makes perfect sense; if I were starving, I would do the same. And the animals don’t have to be starving to “taste and toss.” Again, I totally understand; there have been a few occasions in my life where I regretted trying something new. Bottom line: don’t plant roses – unless you have a tall fence around your entire yard. Individual plant barriers are not a good idea. They may save a particular plant, but its mere presence will lure deer into your garden where they will find ways to create havoc. And don’t be surprised to find one or two of your vincas pulled out.

2. Sex: I was at first surprised that deer would attack my blue agaves. They shred the agaves with their antlers. Deer have also destroyed several trunks of a Mexican buckeye. Why? Hormones. Of course, this usually happens during the rut – a time when actions aren’t rational. Hormone-driven males are testing themselves or vanquishing a potential competitor. Or scratching the velvet on their new antlers. I can relate. Weren’t we all once teenagers?

3. Pure Evil: There have been times when deer seemed to enjoy picking on me. For example, I had a native lantana at the end of my driveway that was identical to my neighbor’s not more than twenty feet away. Deer routinely ate my lantana until it finally died but didn’t touch my neighbor’s. At first, I thought this had to do with the political signs on our lawn. However, I don’t think deer can remember from one election cycle to the next. My current theory is that deer somehow know how much I care about my plants (probably because they see me at work in my yard) and just plain enjoy torturing me.

Unfortunately, my HOA prohibits deer-proof fences. Even worse, some neighbors ignore the HOA rule on feeding deer. Thank goodness HCMG has provided a strategy to cope. Instead of obsessing

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Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG

I am notorious for procrastinating the repotting of plants after I have purchased them from a nursery. I buy them and put them in a container for watering, with every intention of transplanting them into a larger pot in order to grow out the roots. This year was no exception. I purchased some sweet basil plants. I then ignored them for a few weeks and they became leggy. I thought, oh well, I'll just plant them and move on. Later in the day I had a thought, how do you propagate sweet basil? A quick search on YouTube and apparently it is an easy and simple process. So here is what I did.



Snipped off stems

I sniped off some longer branches, 3 to 4 inches in length. Then I removed the lower leaves, leaving only the top few leaves. The leaves that were removed found their way into that evening's salad. Next, I filled a recycled plastic water bottle with water and place the long stems into the water. The water bottle was then placed on a table outside my back door. This allowed the plants to catch the early morning sun, and be shaded during the afternoon. I left them there for 3 weeks, once again procrastinating. Within a few days, I started to see small roots forming at the base of the stems. After 3 weeks I pulled the new basil plants out of the recycled plastic water bottles and prepared to plant them into 4" pots in order to grow out their roots. I was surprised to find roots growing along the stems and not just at the bottom of each stem. I got 10 new basil plants, replanted into 4" pots that will eventually be planted in the garden, most likely at the base of my tomato plants. I've noticed that the original plants are getting leggy once again. It might be



Leggy Plants



Recycled plastic water bottle



Leggy Again



Ready to replant



New plants

time to propagate another group of sweet basil.

I like growing basil with tomatoes. They go well together, especially when you add some mozzarella cheese spritzed with balsamic vinegar.

Kendall County AgriLife Extension Office Backyard Fruit Program Series

June 14, 2023 Fruit Tree Selection

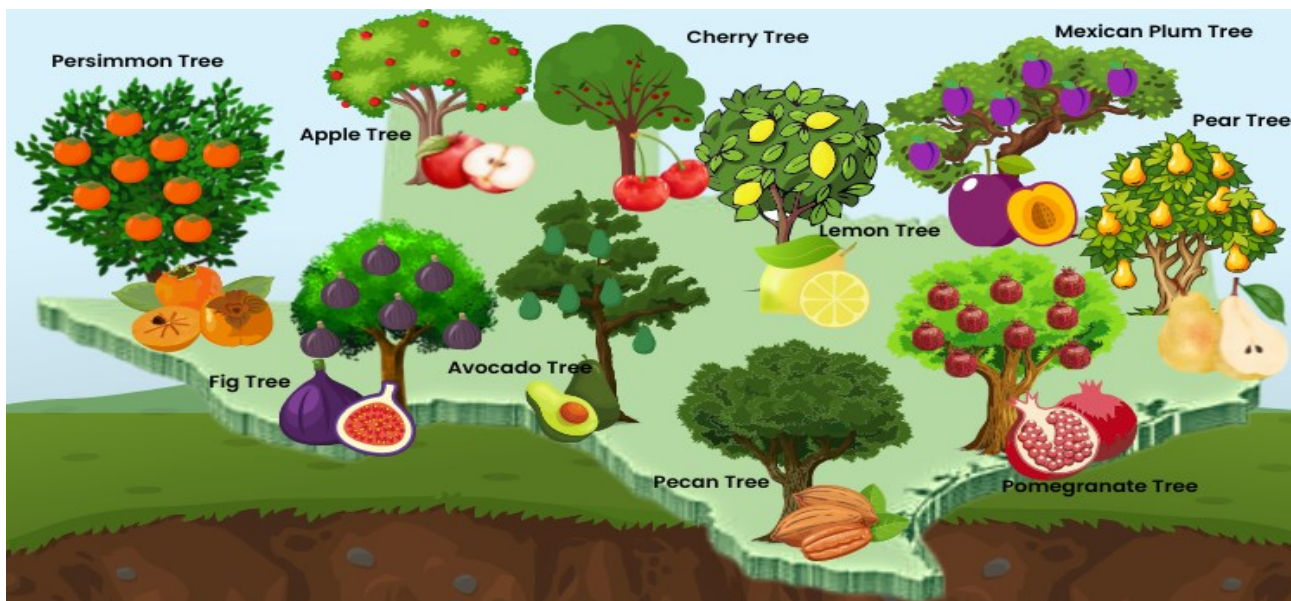
August 9, 2023 Growing Backyard Grapes

September 13, 2023 Growing Berries in the Hill Country

November 8, 2023 Planting Fruit Trees

Speakers include Beth McMahon, Gillespie County Horticulture Extension Agent, Steven Zoeller, Kendall County Agriculture Agent and Brianna Hoge, Extension Viticulture Specialist, Hill Country

- ◆ Each programs will begin at 10:30 am and finish between 11:30-12:00 pm
- ◆ Cost is ten dollars per program
- ◆ Programs are located at the Kendall County EMS Station meeting room, located at 1175 North Main Street in Boerne, Texas
- ◆ Call the Kendall County Extension Office at 830-331-8242 to pre-register
- ◆ Payment is due at the door
- ◆ No pesticide applicator CEUS will be given



Gillespie County Turf Trials

By Beth McMahon,
CEA-Horticulture

Master Gardeners: Raeann Reid, Barbara Banks and Kathy Lewis helped Beth McMahon install a turf trial at the Gillespie County AgriLife office. The turf trial includes the following grasses: “**Sundancer**” buffalo grass, seeded and as plugs, “**Sahara**” Bermuda grass as seed, “**UC Verde**” buffalo grass as plugs, “**Citrablue**” St. Augustine carpet grass as plugs, and “**Timeless 2 Way**” as seed.



The Master Gardeners shown here were a great help with the turning over the soil and planting the seed and plugs. Beth plans to send updates as the trial progresses.

President's message continued from page 1

like a modern-day Ahab, I take advantage of the information our experts provide on how to design a garden with natural barriers and native plants to minimize damage. More importantly, I know other members face the same challenges and that I am not the only person deer come after. In other words, I have a “support group.” And I know it’s working; I’m now willing to grant the possibility that deer may not be intrinsically evil after all.



The Judy Beauford and Shirley Smith Garden at Cultivar Farms



Wednesday, June 14, 2023, marked a new day for Cultivar Farms. Thanks to the generosity and hard work of the Young Men's Service League of Boerne, the garden now has a sign! As part of the Ultimate Gift grant provided by YMSL to the garden in October, in addition to the massive makeover, the decision was made to spend the last of the funds on a new sign. After some consideration, it was decided to use this opportunity to recognize the contributions and leadership of our long-time project leaders, Judy Beauford and Shirley Smith. So, we renamed Cultivar Farms to....The Judy Beauford and Shirley Smith Garden at Cultivar Farms. With representatives of Hill Country Mission for Health, Hill Country Family Services, and Young Men's Service League attending, the grand unveiling took place at the entrance to the garden. Judy and Shirley were so surprised!

Judy and Shirley are currently on a Leave of Absence from HCMG, but we eagerly look forward to their return to their garden.

Submitted by Michael Bell, MG

What Makes Tomato Leaves Twist and Curl?

By Pat Wolters, MG

I'm convinced that everyone wants to grow tomatoes, even those gardeners who don't eat tomatoes want to grow them for bragging rights. The research desk started getting the above question as soon as the lines opened. Of course, there is no simple answer.

According to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension publication, there are 5 primary reasons that tomato leaves twist or curl:

- * **Wind Damage**
- * **Herbicide drift**
- * **Herbicide residue**
- * **Broad mite**
- * **Tomato viruses**



Wind Damage: high winds, blowing dust and low humidity can damage leaves. Hot weather can also cause a symptom called physiological leaf roll. Mild leaf roll will not lower yields or quality. Row covers will help protect the plants from wind and dust.

Herbicide drift: Herbicides are widely used in Texas by both commercial growers (i.e. cotton, cereal and grain crops) and home gardeners or their neighbors. Weed killers for lawns and landscapes can drift onto sensitive tomatoes and other vegetables. Tomatoes are very sensitive to these herbicides even when applied at extremely low rates.

Herbicide residue: Vegetables can be damaged by herbicides left in mulch or compost made with hay or manure from fields that's been sprayed with Grazon, GrazonNext, or Grazon Next HL. The active ingredient in these products, aminopyralid, can persist for 18 months on treated hay. If you buy hay for mulch be sure to ask if it has been treated with aminopyralid. A printable version of the instructions can be found at www.aminopyralidstewardshipinstructions.com

Broad mite damage: Broad mites affect many plant families. Broad mites avoid light and feed on young leaves and flowers. As they feed, they inject toxins that twist and distort the leaves. The mites are too small to be seen but you might see the white, oval shaped eggs that have ridges or bumps. If you can see the eggs, you have a severe infestation and should pull the plants.

Tomato viruses: Hundreds of viruses can cause leaf curling and stunting in tomatoes. Viruses in the geminivirus group are most often the culprit for virus-based leaf twisting in tomatoes. To reduce the spread of this virus, manage whitefly populations (they transmit the virus). A simple solution made from liquid dish soap and water will kill adult whiteflies without harming plants. Add 1 TB dis soap to 1 gallon on water. Pour into a plastic spray bottle and spray on infested plants (my suggestion-not AgriLife).

In summary: the key to solving the problem is good detective work.



Beautiful Mutants

by Amy McCullough

We've all heard the saying "Two heads are better than one." If you've ever come across a fasciated flower head, which looks like the blossom equivalent of conjoined twins, you might very well agree. If not categorically "better," these fused-looking flowers and stems are certainly eye-catching and sure to incite curiosity. So, what is fasciation? Put simply, it's what happens when open-ended plant cells choose the road less traveled.

Plants have special cells (called meristematic cells) that can develop into any type of plant part, including leaves, stems or flowers, depending on their location in a growing plant. In the case of fasciation, these cells develop as flattened rather than cylindrical growths (hence the name, which derives from "fascia," Latin for "bandage" or "ribbon"). This can cause broadened stems or, if the fasciation begins in the central whorl of a flower, a spread out, side-by-side development of carpels, stamens, petals and sepals, giving flowers a two-headed look.

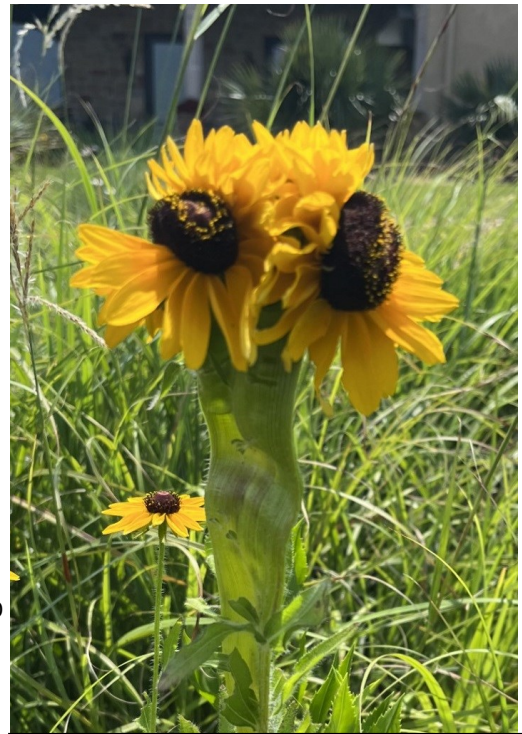
Dr. Orland E. White, former director of the University of Virginia's arboretum, likens fasciation — also known as cristation — to cancer in that it refers to "unregulated and disorganized tissue growth." But, unlike cancer, fasciation is often considered desirable. Like the plant equivalents of X-Men, these genetic mutants are often looked at as "super-plants." In fact, fasciated blossoms and stems are beloved and intentionally cultivated for the very virtue of their weirdness. It's a trait that has been bred into plants by florists or horticulturists looking to maximize blooms in mallows, foxgloves and celosia, for instance, while the wide, at fasciated stems of willows, ferns or Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*) add an unusual look to flower arrangements.

Grafting or cutting is the usual means of propagating fasciated plants, according to Dr. Gerald Klingaman, professor emeritus of horticulture at the University of Arkansas. Klingaman says abnormal growth may be caused by a "permanent change in the genome ... possibly triggered by a phytoplasma infection at some point in the distant past," what he calls a "case of natural genetic engineering." Other explanations include trauma prompted by insects, disease, physical damage, crowding, extreme temperatures, radiation or chemicals. Seattle-area master gardener Wendy Lagozzino says, "Everything from weeds to trees will produce this unusual growth given the right circumstances."

While all sorts of plants exhibit the trait, Susan Mahr, coordinator for the University of Wisconsin-Extension's master gardener program, notes that fasciation is most noticeable in stems and inflorescence, or the flowering parts of a plant. Wildflower Center staff has seen the phenomenon in numerous native Central Texas plants, especially those in the families Asteraceae — particularly *Gaillardia* spp. and purple and giant cone flowers (*Echinacea* and *Rudbeckia* spp., respectively) — and Fabaceae, which includes Texas mountain laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*). Cacti are also likely to exhibit fasciation, a trait which Mahr says is particularly coveted because the alterations can become "so dramatic that the resulting cactus plant loses almost all resemblance to the original species."

The Center's native plant database coordinator, Joe Marcus, says we get "lots of pictures and questions" about fasciation; Texans have spotted the phenomenon in everything from Texas bluebonnets (*Lupinus texensis*) and black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*) to various species of Lantana and Dasyllirion.

Regardless of where you live, keep an eye out for these unique plants and prepare to be both fascinated and enamored. After all, differences are what make life interesting — and beautiful.



Pam Umstead found this "Fasciated" black eyed Susan in her yard. She submitted the article from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

2023-2024 Gardening 101 Schedule of Programs

Date	Topic	Master Gardener Presenter
September 9, 2023	How to Grow and Prepare Your Own Salsa	Connie Townsend 830-329-5536 townsendc906@gmail.com
October 14, 2023	NPSOT program	
November 11, 2023	Container Vegetable Gardens	Donna Bellis 830-634-3436 centerpt1@gmail.com
December (no program)		
January 13, 2024	Texas Superstar Plants	Rae Raiford 830-377-7332 rraiford@hctc.net
February 10, 2024	NPSOT Program	
March 9, 2024	Plant Propagation	Debbie Lea 210-844-1604 dlea58@yahoo.com
April 13, 2024	NPSOT Program	
May 11, 2024	Heat Tolerant Vegetables For your garden	Donna Bellis 830-634-3436 centerpt1@gmail.com
June 2024	NPSOT program	
July 13, 2024	Mystery of Monarchs History and Life of the Monarch Butterfly	Tom Collins 830-634-3236 towhee@hctc.net
August 2024	NPSOT Program	

Patty Zohlen, MG has completed the schedule of programs for the Gardening 101 Series at Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library for the 2023-2024 series.

Independence Day Celebration

We will celebrate the Fourth of July (on July 5, a day late) with a potluck lunch and a panel discussion.

Our four expert panelists will be Anne Brown, Allen Mace, Cindy Anderson, and Jackie Skinner and their areas of expertise include trees, fire-wise landscaping, varmints, container gardeners, vegetables, native plants, and landscape design. (And, of course, additional experts will be sitting in the audience.) Each panelist will spend a few minutes discussing a particular challenge encountered this year before the floor is opened to comments/concerns from the audience.

If possible, send suggestions for discussion topics to Dave Kinneberg (dave.kinneberg@gmail.com) prior to the meeting. Otherwise come prepared to stand up and “ask the experts.” And bring something tasty to share.

**Hill Country Master Gardeners
Monthly Meeting
June 7, 2023
HCYEC**

Call to Order (Please Silence Your Cell Phones)

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the membership.

Invocation – Pam Umstead delivered the invocation.

Welcome/Opening Remarks – Dave Kinneberg welcomed the membership and welcomed summer! He asked for any other guests and Judy Childers identified herself as a transfer from Tarrant County. Dave thanked Janice Walker for filling in for Melayne Arnold in running the computer presentation for the meeting.

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

Approval of Minutes from May 3, 2023 Meeting – A motion was made by Brian Strickland and seconded by Marge Muniz to approve the May minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Rachel Garrison explained line items on the Treasurer's report. The report is also posted on the website.

Business Items

By-law Review Committee – Dave explained that the Executive Committee is in the process of reviewing and amending the by-laws. He asked for other volunteers to be on a committee to help update. Please see Dave for details.

Nominating Committee – Rae Raiford spoke about the responsibilities of being VP. Dave thanked the Nominating Committee for working toward a slate of officers to nominate. The committee consists of Barbara Castillo, Donna Bellis and Rita Aliperto, Chair.

TMGA Secretary Position – Dave said this position is open at the state level and if anyone is interested, they should see him.

Standing Committee Reports

Membership – Barbara Castillo explained the background check procedure. She will follow up with those MGs who are due. Background checks from other agencies are no longer eligible. She reminded members that dues and the volunteer agreement is due no later than December 31, 2023. Dave interjected that so far, there have been no hiccups with using the new background check system.

Education – Donna Bellis said the Education Committee is up and running, beginning meetings the first Thursday of each month at 1:30pm. She is looking forward to joining with the Hospitality Committee in this endeavor to help with the class of 2024. Dave thanked Kathy Enke for chairing the committee previously.

Public Programs – Ray Tiemann spoke about the Hill Country Homesteading seminar in Fredericksburg on August 4th. Registration can be done using either the QR code on the card he provided or by a paper form. Ray is leaving the Public Programs Chair position so he can begin training in the Advanced Training program for Entomology. Anyone interested in assuming the Public Programs chair position should see Dave and/or Ray. Dave is already in the process of booking Ray as a speaker for a HCMG CE in the future.

Demonstration Garden – Dave said that Jackie Skinner wasn't at the meeting but felt he should mention how fabulous the Demo Garden looks...so many butterflies! Marge Muniz brought a clipping from a False Sea Holly for those interested could take a bloom from the plant home and scatter.

Other Announcements

Library Event – Dave mentioned the gardening events at the Butt-Holdsworth Library including this Saturday with Becky Leal. See eMinder or the library website for more information.

Schreiner University – is currently hiring for two positions, both in the agriculture field. This will offer great resources for HCMG.

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Minutes continued from page 9

Bridge Church Commons – Meta Pugh described the newly approved project she is leading. The project consists of a prayer garden using biblical-referenced plants, native plants, a water feature and much more. The work begins tomorrow to excavate pea rock and tree roots from the premises. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Meta.

Annual River Cleanup– HCMG will have a booth at the UGRA River Cleanup at Flat Rock Park on Saturday, July 22nd.

Final Comments

Dave Kinneberg mentioned that at the next meeting (July 5th), we will have a potluck luncheon and a panel discussion in lieu of CE. The speakers have not been lined up yet. Members should bring their horticultural questions to the meeting.

The door prizes consisting of a metal decorative boot and three plants were donated by Dusty Gilliam and Ray Tiemann. The prizes were won by Suzy Floyd, Debbie Castillo, Bernadell Larson and Rae Raiford.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Aliperto,
 Secretary

Next Meeting: July 5, 2023 HCYEC

Garden French manicure! 😊



Submitted
 by
 Pam
 Umstead



Tansy

Tanacetum vulgare

By Pat Wolters, MG

I was given a 4 inch pot of an herb, Tansy, when I completed the vegetable specialist training 5 years ago. I didn't know what it was but that was one of a million things I didn't know so I gave it no thought. I put it in a pot on my porch and forgot about it. I know it's right by my water hose –how can I forget it? Well this fern-like plant has lived through arctic ice, drought, and heat!

Family Asteraceae (Sunflower or daisy)

Location: Sun or partial shade

Planting: Seed or stem cuttings

Height: 3 to 4 feet

Spread: 3 to 6 feet

Bloom/fruit: Yellow button-like flowers in summer. Long-lasting on the plant and after drying, tansy flowers are popular in arrangements and wreaths.

Growth habits/culture: Can become invasive, very sprawling if not kept trimmed or planted in a pot. Drought tolerant. Evergreen foliage has a camphor fragrance.

No medicinal or culinary uses.

Herbs for Texas, Howard Garrett with Odena Brnnam

Hill Country Master Gardeners 2023 Executive Committee

Dave Kinneberg
President

Rae Raiford
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

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The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.



Photo taken at Buchanan Lake by Pat Wolters