

June 2019

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HCMG will meet on
June 5, 2019
at

1:00 - Business Meeting
2:00 - CEU Program

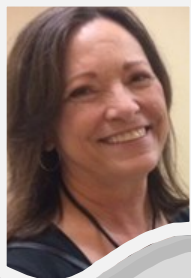
"Invasive, Exotic or
Introduced Natives"

Stephan Zoeller,
Kendall County AgriLife
Extension Agent
(Bio on page 2)



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President's Message

Rachel Garrison

"I'm glad I don't have to make a living farming. Too much hard work. Too many variables you don't have control over, like, is it going to rain? All I can say is, God bless the real farmers out there."

Fuzzy Zoeller, golfer

I'm sitting at my computer today browsing "garden to do" lists. It's raining, again, so I can't get outside to actually do any of the things I've found listed. As I learned at the May 7th Rain Water Harvesting and Turf Grass presentation by John Smith of Texas AgriLife, May is the rainiest month in Boerne. The average May rainfall is 4 inches. It is only May 9th today and we're already received 4.5 inches of rain at my house this month. Rainy days are good for garden research and planning, not to mention, rest. The weather is unpredictable so gardeners have to be flexible. By the time you read this, we may actually be hoping for some rain. But, today I wish it would go away and come back another day....perhaps in August!

In our area of Texas, water management is certainly something to consider. Our May 1st CEU was an informative lecture and tour of the EduScape gardens at the Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) office in Kerrville. Hill Country Master Gardeners assisted in the planning and design of this project. The beautiful landscape project addresses drought prone environmental issues with water catchment, permeable surfaces, and drought tolerant plants. The landscaping also addresses the predicament of too much water. Plants are used to hold soil in place. Rock beds are used to channel water away from the building. In the Hill Country it seems we are prone to a feast or famine experience with water. We either have way too much rain in a very short period of time or we have no rain for long periods of time. We have to deal with both situations. If you haven't toured the EduScape gardens, I urge you to do so. It is well marked for educational purposes. You are sure to come away with some ideas to replicate on a project you are working on with HCMG or on your personal property.

But, back to my "to do" list. Thankfully, the shrubs were pruned before the rain started. Annuals, perennials, and vegetable plants were in the ground. We spread mulch liberally where needed. Gardening tasks are never ending, but I can be a lazy gardener from time to time. I'm so glad I'm a gardener who enjoys growing a few herbs, tomatoes and flowers, and not a farmer. Now, we just need some sunshine!

HCMG 2019 Continuing Education Opportunities prepared by Racann Reid

Attendance at events other than Master Gardener meetings is optional. This list is for those wishing to attend other educational offerings; not all events are eligible to fulfill continuing education credits toward annual recertification.

Be sure to call and confirm event.

June 5, 1:00 p.m. business meeting, 2:00 p.m. CE program, Hill Country Master Gardeners. Stephan Zoeller, Kendall County AgriLife Extension Agent, will present "Invasive, Exotic or Introduced Natives". Hill Country Youth Event Center. HCMGs, interns. Mr. Zoeller has a Bachelors and Masters degrees from Tarleton State University. He has worked with AgriLife in many hill country counties. Five generations of Zoellers have called Kendall County their home. His presentation will include a blend of academic knowledge and locally sourced information.

June 8, 10:00-11:00 a.m., Gardening 101. HCMG Kim Courtright will present "Seed Saving." Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library. Free and open to the public.

June 18, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Riverside Nature Center will present the NEd Talk, "Bee People." RNC will post additional details on its website. River Side Nature Center. Free and open to the public.

June 25, 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., Upper Guadalupe River Authority. Znobla Wooten, Native American Seed, will discuss the use of native plants and wildflowers and help you choose the perfect flowers for your landscape.

UGRA Room 100. Free and open to the public.

June 25, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m., NPSOT Fredericksburg. Jessica Beckham, Ph.D., will discuss Texas bumble bees – their lifecycle, their adaptation as the perfect pollinator and her research regarding their population status in Texas. Her interest is in finding ways that humans and bumble bees can peacefully coexist in an increasingly urbanized world. Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

Hunt Garden Club. Summer hiatus.

NPSOT Boerne. No public program

NPSOT Kerrville. Summer hiatus.

Rose Garden Club of Medina. Summer hiatus.

Addresses for Events Listed Above

Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library, 505 Water Street, KRVL

Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Highway 27, Kerrville

Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam St, FBG

Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St, KRVL

Upper Guadalupe River Authority, 125 Lehmann Dr, KRVL

Columbine continued from page 4

This easy-to-grow perennial is not only loved by most gardeners, but also by the hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees, as their flowers contain lots of nectar. Columbines produce large, showy blooms of single and bicolor patterns on delicate plants from late spring to early summer. They are called short-lived perennials because even if the mother plant dies, the columbine freely reseeds to replace it if the seed is allowed to mature and drop. This enables them to return year after year. Most of the year, a columbine exists as a rounded, leafy green clump 4-8 inches high. Then in the Spring, it sends up flower stalks 1-2 feet tall, possibly even 3 feet tall if grown in deep shade.

While they may enjoy full sun for a few hours, columbines do not like intense heat. In warmer areas like ours, they should be grown in partial to full shade in well-drained soil with sufficient moisture, and plenty of mulch to help keep the soil moist. In nature they are almost always found in moist canyon seeps such as a shady weeping wall of rock or alongside a stream or waterfall.

Columbines are perfect for brightening dark corners of a Hill Country shade garden. Leaves have three leaflets with three lobes and grow from the base and off the flowering stems. They are pollinated by bees, moths, butterflies, and hummingbirds.



Hill Country Veggies

June 2019

By Allen Mace

Tomatoes, tomatoes, tomatoes, and more tomatoes. OK, here's the scoop. A few months ago, I got an e-mail from Roy

Walston, Kerr County Extension Agent, asking if I would be interested in participating in a tomato trial this summer. Dr. Daniel Leskover, with Texas A&M Research Center in Uvalde Texas, is conducting research on tomatoes this year.

Apparently, there are several different trials going on. I'm working on grafted vs. un-grafted varieties, hopefully to find a few varieties that work well in the Hill Country area. I shared with Roy a few varieties of heirlooms that I have had luck with. A few weeks ago I received 60 plus seedlings of four different varieties, five each grafted and ten un-grafted. I was asked to plant them and keep some sort of journal or notes as to what I do and how these plants fare.



Seedlings

My current garden is quite small, so I had to re-open the old garden which I had abandoned several years ago. The old beds were still intact so it was only a matter of tilling the soil and pulling a bunch of weeds and grass. Houston, we have a problem. I haven't used the tiller for a few years and the darn thing won't start. A quick phone call to a friend who's good with motors and problem solved. In the meantime, I had rented a front tine drive tiller and tried my best. My tiller is a rear tined self-propelled tiller. The difference is night and day. If I had to use the



Old Garden

front tine tiller again, I think I would give up gardening all together. Good news, I got my rear tine tiller back, and Allen's a happy camper.

Got the beds worked up, the next problem is to keep the deer out. One of the reasons I had abandoned the old plot, after 17 to 18 years, was that one deer had finally breached the outer perimeter fence. After all those years, one buck was successful at jumping a six-foot high fence. Once one was able to clear the fence, others were jumping it as well. The posts were tall enough that I was able to add another wire and now the fence is seven feet high. The first night one deer bounced off the top wire, with hair left on the wire as proof, but since then all seems to be working. I'll be nervous all season because I would rather the fence to be at least eight high, but it will have to do for now.

After all the time and effort to get the old garden up and running, I haven't had much time to work the smaller garden by the house. I was able to plant a few squash plants in my modified keyhole garden that I made last year and that will have to do for now.



Planted Seedlings



Yellow Columbine: a NICE plant for your spring shade garden



Cindy Anderson,
HCMG
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 NICE Native Plant Partners program (formerly called Operation NICE!) 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. Formerly known as “Natives Instead of Common Exotics,” the NICE acronym has also been updated. It now stands for “Natives Improve and Conserve Environments.” The program’s goals still remain the same – to introduce people to great native plants that are available locally to use in place of non-native species. “Plants that are not native to a local region may seem suitable, but quite often they offer nothing in the way of food or habitat for key wildlife species,” says Diana Armbrust, President of the Fredericksburg chapter of NPSOT. “Native plants, on the other hand, have grown here for centuries, providing dependable sources of nectar for insects, shelter for birds, and food for wildlife.”

Yellow Columbine

This spring season, the Kerrville and Fredericksburg NPSOT chapters are featuring the Yellow Columbine (*Aquilegia chrysantha*) at five local nurseries as their NICE Plant of the Season. The genus name *Aquilegia* comes from the Latin *aquila* which means “eagle” and refers to the spurred petals that many believe resemble an eagle’s talons.

Yellow Columbine, also known as Golden Columbine or Hinckley’s Columbine, is one of several yellow-flowered columbines in western North America. But there are many other varieties of columbines in the Lower 48 States, as well as in Alaska and Canada – including the Longspur Columbine, the Colorado Blue Columbine, the Colorado White Columbine, and others. There are other species with mostly red flowers, such as the Eastern Red Columbine and Wild Red Columbine. The Eastern Red Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) is frequently found in the Texas nursery trade, alongside the yellow varieties. The true Hinckley’s Columbine (*A. chrysantha* var. *hinckleyana*) is one of many yellow columbines popular in the nursery trade, but it is truly rare in the wild, native only to a single waterfall in far west Texas. Hinckley columbine is currently considered a variety of *Aquilegia chrysantha*.

Columbines hybridize freely between species and varieties, so plants sold as yellow columbine or golden columbine likely contain genetic material from varied sources. The red columbine will frequently hybridize with the yellow. A garden that contains sections of yellow columbines and another section of red will most likely find the colors freely mixed by the second or third season.

While the plants and flowers may look delicate (the leaves look a lot like parsley), they are hardy perennial flowers when kept moist and shaded. Research says they are mostly deer-resistant, though hungry deer will likely devour them if they are hungry enough. Rabbits, however, are said to avoid them.

Continued on page 2

Hill Country Butterfly Counts

With all the good rains we've had, the wildflower and butterfly population are outstanding. This could be one of the better years to join in on one of our counts. Below is a calendar of upcoming local counts and the contact person (compiler for your area) for that count. Each compiler will send you specific information regarding where and when to meet. This is an excellent time to start learning butterflies. With over 175 species in the Hill County, you will have plenty of opportunities to see and learn to identify butterflies.

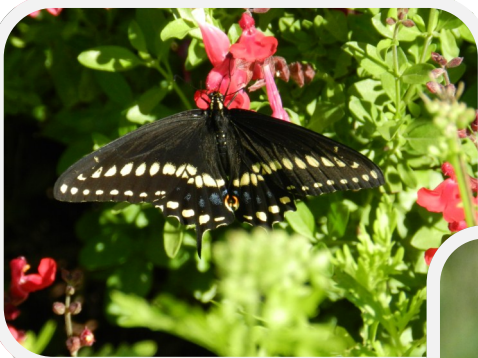
The Love Creek count has been one of the top 2 counts in Texas and ranked in the top 10 in the USA counts as high as #3. Regardless, all counts have their fun places to explore and always a chance of finding a rare butterfly. The compilers need lots of eyes helping to spot butterflies So give it a try and contact a compiler to join in the fun.

Thanks, NABA (North American Butterfly Association) Compilers



Tom Collins

Location	Date	Contact
Love Creek	June 6	Rebecca Neill (rebecca.neill@TNC.ORG), Tom Collins (towhee@hctc.net) Love Creek Conservancy, Medina Nursery, 16 Ranches
San Antonio Northwest	June 10	Patty Pasztor (agarita@me.com) or 210-837-0577 Hardberger and Eisenhower Parks, Friedrich Wilderness, Crownridge Canyon Natural Area
San Antonio	June 13	Patty Pasztor (agarita@me.com) or 210-837-0577 Botanical Garden, Mitchell Lake Audubon House
Boerne	June 18	Brenda & Gary Fest (brendafest@gmail.com) or 830-688-1021 CNC, Kendall County Parks
Guadalupe River State Park	June 27	Craig Hensley (Craig.Hensley@tpwd.texas.gov)
Kerrville	July 11	Tom Collins (towhee@hctc.net) RNC, Kerr County Parks and Butterfly Gardens



Above: **Black Swallowtail on Salvia Greggii**
Collin's Ranch

Below:
Great Purple Hairstreak on Antelope Horn Milk Weed



Above
Gulf Fritillary on White Mist
Collin's Ranch

Meet the 2019 Interns



1. Linda Kaiser with her mentor, Patti Schlessiger, at graduation. Linda lives in Center Point. She is a retired computer specialist. Linda has 25 years of experience gardening in the Texas Hill Country. She is interested in gaining knowledge about organic vegetable gardening so she can help others interested in gardening. In answer to the question "What do you think Master Gardeners do?" She answered, "Help their community with gardening problems and help others become interested in gardening".

experience. She retired from accounting/finance work. She enjoys vegetables, flowers and landscape. Her goals for the master gardener program include to learn more horticulture skills and provide education.

3. Mindy Skaggs lives in Mountain Home. She has over 50 years of gardening experience, 24 have been in the Texas Hill Country. Mindy is interested in vegetables, herbs and flowers.



2. Sandra Yarbrough is pictured with her mentor, Edna Platte. Sandra lives in Kerrville and has 60+ years of gardening



4. Paula Stone lives in Fredericksburg. She is pictured with her mentor, Kathy Lewis. Paula learned about the HCMG through her friends in the Native Plant Society of Texas. Paula has over 20 years of overall gardening experience, eight in the Texas Hill Country. She is always interested in learning and has gained much of her gardening experience through self directed reading. She is ready to learn more and volunteer.



Shannon Barker (not pictured) is a semi-retired weather forecaster, gardener and landscaper. She has been gardening in the Texas Hill Country for the past 12 years but has decades of gardening experience. She enjoys vegetables, flowers and landscaping. She is currently working on a butterfly garden. Her goals as a master gardener are to "try and be more efficient and create habitats that support bees/butterflies/pollinators. To be able to encourage friends, neighbors in environmentally friendly landscaping. It's not just cactus though they can be good too".

Meet the 2019 Interns



1. Peggy Ryan with her mentor, Carol Edwards. Peggy lives in Bandera. She retired from legal secretary work. Peggy has 20 years of gardening experience but none in the Texas Hill Country since she just moved here. Most of her gardening experience was in the gulf coast. She is interested in teaching, meeting new people and helping maintain gardens. "Austin has a neat program called the Green Corn Project



2. Mimi Bouslog is with Anne Brown and Fernando Gonzalez at graduation. Mimi lives in Kerrville. She is a retired fashion buyer, coordinator and producer. She has 10 years of gardening experience, 1 in the Hill Country. She want to be a MG to enjoy the outdoors and native gardening. Her goal is to give back to her community.



3. Tina Woods lives in Kerrville. She recently retired as the Executive Director of the Dietert Center in Kerrville. Tina has over 20 years of gardening experience, 10 in the Hill Country. She has known about the master gardener program for many years and is impressed that the master gardeners educate and give back to the community. Now that she is retired she is looking forward to having the time to devote to learning more about successful gardening in the Hill

4. Mark Shultz lives in Kerrville. He is pictured here with his mentor, Anne Brown at graduation. Mark retired as a communications technician. Mark is a photographer and has already jumped in to photograph master gardening events and activities. Mark has over 60 years of gardening experience, 25 in the Hill Country. He enjoys working with vegetable, flowers and landscape and has been composting and organic gardening since 1993. He wants to be a master gardener to learn more and be of service to his community. In answer to why do you want to become a master gardener, he said "I love playing in the dirt and growing things."





Photo Credit: Mark Shultz

Greenhouse area is cleaned thanks to a group of dedicated master gardeners!

Special thanks to Greenhouse Committee members: Janell Dahms (who brought her husband and her tractor), Fernando Gonzalez, Mark Shultz, Jim Wilson and Joe Goette.

Thanks to Roy Walston for taking the trailer with all the debris.

Stay tuned—they are not finished!



**HCMG Monthly Business Meeting
May 1, 2019
UGRA**

Call to Order (Please silence your cell phone.)
Rachel Garrison called the meeting to order.
Pledge of Allegiance-Debbie Bacon led the pledge.

Invocation-Patty Zohlen gave the invocation.

Verification of Quorum – Patti Schlessiger confirmed a quorum was present.

Approval of April 3, 2019 Minutes-Anne Brown moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Melayne Arnold.

Executive Committee Reports

- Treasurer's Report – Bernadell Larson presented the expenses and income of each account and gave balances. The report was approved.
Copies of reports available at meeting
- President's Report: 2019 TMGA Conference-Rachel reported more than 500 members attended the conference. Organizations shared their ideas and procedures, and she brought home new ideas. The speakers were good, and we all had fun. Next year the conference will be held in Waco, May 12th-14th, 2020. Two big take-a ways are:
1) There will be a new training manual, bound and in color, and more expensive (\$80.00) &
(2) A new logo has been created, and all members will need to transition to it within the next two years. It is not available as of yet.

Standing Committee Reports

- Blooms & Barrels – Jackie Connelly thanked everyone, by name for their part in making the sale a success. The sale brought in \$16,890.75. The Shed made \$817.00 and Rain Barrels brought in \$700.00.

- Demo Garden-Rachel reported for Jackie Skinner a new picnic table has been donated and will be worked into the Demo Garden area. Four interns have volunteered to take over an area of the garden, but more are needed for other areas.
- Education – Lydia Jones reported 24 students graduated. She ask for volunteers to serve on the education committee.
- Green House-No report
- Horticultural Inquiry/Research Desk – Melayne Arnold reported new interns have begun to schedule on VMS.

Unfinished Business

Photo Release-Please sign a Photo Release form, if you have not yet done so, otherwise step out of photos being taken.

New Business Announcements

- Rainwater harvesting & turf management training, Boerne Library, May 7, 1-5 pm. First 75 to sign up will be able to attend.
- Tree Care Advanced Training Class, June 12-14-Three from our group have signed up, and we are allowed four. Cost is \$185.00, and deadline is May 24th.
- Vegetable Competition – July 3, 2019-Details will follow.
- Beth McMahon, Gillespie County Ag Agent has tomato plants available, but you will need to report to her on the progress of your tomatoes.

Next meeting – June 5, 2019 at Hill Country Youth Events Center

Adjournment

May CEU Program - EduScape Project & tours

June CEU Program - Stephen Zoeller, "Invasive, Exotic, or Introduced Native?"

Respectfully Submitted,
Patti Schlessiger, Secretary

Hill Country Master Gardeners 201p

Executive Committee

Rachel Garrison
President

Debra Bacon
Vice President

Patti Schlessiger
Secretary

Bernadell Larson
Treasurer

Jackie Skinner
Ex-officio Advisor

Roy Walston
C.E.A. Advisor

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

Newsletter & Website

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Hill Country Master Gardeners attend Texas Master Gardener Annual Conference in Victoria



Front row from left: Shirley Smith, Duane Robinson, Kathy Lewis
Back row from left: Judy Beauford, Rachel Garrison, Pam Umstead, Debra Rosario, Debbie Bass and Joyce Studer Not pictured: Tommi Airhart.

Healthy Lawns & Healthy Waters Program

HCMG
attended the
program and
also provided a
poster display.

This program
was hosted by
Texas A&M
AgriLife
Service on
May 7, 2019 in
Boerne.



From left is Debbie Bacon, Reagan Hejl, (Texas A&M research associate), Rachel Garrison, John Smith, (Texas A&M program specialist), Chris Snyder, and Shannon Ciano.