

June 2023

Volume 21 Issue 6

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Wednesday

June 7, 2023

HCYEC

Meeting 1:00 pm
 CEU 2:00 pm

“How to increase your success with gardening and have more joy in the process.”

Paula Stone

Bio on page 4

“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



When I leave office (seven months and counting), I hope the president’s job is easier than the one I inherited. While HCMG has a solid foundation, improvements are always possible, and I believe we can avoid a few situations that were difficult for me by “tweaking” our bylaws and our policies/procedures.

Regarding the bylaws, there are three areas that, in my opinion, need attention:

Article XII – TMGA noted at a director’s meeting last year that unless the distribution of assets is clearly specified, it is possible that they will revert to the government in the event of dissolution. Why take the risk? Let’s decide where we want our considerable funds to go should this unfortunate event occur.

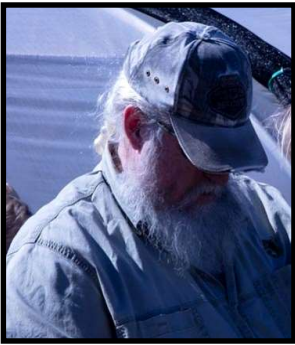
Article VII – Why not eliminate “standing” committees that don’t currently exist, e.g., the propagation committee? Let’s simplify our organization and drop these committees from the bylaws. Temporary committees can be formed as needed.

Article III – Most importantly for me, what happens if a member doesn’t pay their dues by the end of December? Let’s clearly define the consequences and options for resolution. Why lose valued members because of what could be a simple oversight?

I, as president, am forming a temporary committee to review our bylaws and I ask for your comments and participation. Changes recommended by this committee, no matter how insignificant, must be approved by 60% of our members.

Regarding procedures, job descriptions should be updated periodically, and, in my opinion, we are due. Suggested changes must be reviewed and approved by the executive committee. Thanks to all our chairpersons for helping with this important task.

Continued on page 4



Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG

This month I am going through how I deal with transplants that are purchased or seedlings that are grown. At this time, I am focused on growing out the roots. I bought some Celebrity Tomatoes plants for my mother-in-law at a local nursery. I told her to get her pots ready on her porch and that I would transplant these into the six inch pots and grow the roots out before we plant them into her big pots. I learned this my first year in the Master Gardeners internship program by helping to get plants ready for the annual plant sale that we have each year. I had always had issues with planting transplants straight into the garden when I purchased six packs at the local nursery. By transplanting seedling into larger pots and growing the roots system out, my transplants started doing a lot better.



New Plants



Trim Leaves

First step, water the new plants and trim off any dried or wilted leaves. With tomatoes, I like to trim off a few of the lower leaves so I can plant them deeper. If you've noticed the small hairs on the stem of tomatoes, these are root hairs. Each root hair can become part of the root structure for that tomato, if it comes in contact with soil. The more roots the better off the plant will be.

Second step, prepare the pots. By using coffee filters in the bottom of the pots, this allows water to flow through. Slowing down the rate at which the water flows, allows time for water to absorb into the soil mix. Next, I add soil mix to the pot.



Coffee Filters



Soil in Pot

Third step, place the transplant into the pot and work the soil mix around the plant. I place the roots of the tomato at the bottom of the pot getting as much of the stem into the soil mix zone as possible. This will allow for the root hairs to do their thing, becoming roots for the tomato.

After the plants have been transplants into the six inch pots, I like to place these pots into a shallow plastic container. This will allow any water that flows through and out of the pots to be absorb back up into the soil mix as needed. Be careful not to let the soil mix become water logged.



Plastic Container



Blooms and Barrels 2011

This picture popped up on Jackie Connelly's Facebook page.

Can you identify these master gardeners?

Jackie says "we keep telling people we literally had our plant sale in the parking lot and this is proof!"



"If you see a caterpillar like this in your garden please don't pluck it off your plants. By protecting it you'll be rewarded with a Monarch butterfly."

By Jackie Skinner, MG

Monarch Caterpillar on Antelope-Horns Milkweed

Pam Umstead, MG spoke to the Ingram Garden Club about the *Glory Community Garden*, then took them on a field trip to see it.



President's message continued from page 1

One area where I would like to see substantial changes is in the application process for new students. In my understanding, there is much we can learn from the master naturalists. For example, the naturalists require that all application requirements (payment, background checks, etc.) be met before actual selection begins. This would reduce confusion for prospective students as well as members of the education committee.

Speaking of significant improvements, the moment I swung the cow bell to start the May business meeting, I knew we had a “winner.” The audience took notice and immediately quieted down. Melayne Arnold deserves credit for coming up with this idea and for getting the cow bell. Thank you Melayne for making my job easier.



Over the last 14 years, **Paula Stone** has tried various plants and gardening techniques to deal with the caliche soil, lack of rainfall, excessive heat and occasional ice storm that are common in Gillespie County.

Her presentation will summarize what she has learned. The program will include a discussion of planning, tools, clothing, weeds, garden prep, planting, plants and maintenance. The overview will help gardeners learn what to do and how to do it, increasing confidence and enjoyment.

Groundbreaking at the **Glory Community Garden**



By Pam Umstead, MG

This was a ceremonial groundbreaking for our second building. We were joined by the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, the GCG Steering committee, and many other citizens including gardeners and supporters. This project is being funded by Methodist Health Ministries, who awarded us a grant last December.

Front Row: Left to right: Rev. Allen Noah, Pam Umstead, Jodie Tilmon, Bessie Fifer, Karen Mattox, and Anne Brown. Back row: Chamber Ambassadors.

The need for this second building is 1) to separate storage for gardening supplies from event and education supplies, and 2) to provide a REAL permanent bathroom!

As of today, we are still awaiting permits to get the construction underway. Stephen Butcher is our contractor, and Mickey Thompson is in charge of construction. (Mickey built our first storage building and Pavilion)



Left: Invocation by Pastor David Danielson, with Allen Noah and GCG Steering Committee Building Coordinator Tony Bliss.

Right: Allen Noah presenting the history of the Garden, Tony Bliss, Anne Brown, Dave Kinneberg

Groundbreaking at Glory Community Garden cont'd



Clockwise from top left:
Cookies with the Glory Community Garden Logo

Karen Mattox's creative mud boots

BK Gamble & Jodie Tilmon

Summer Gardening Checklist

By Pat Wolters, MG

- ◆ It's Texas – it's hot, so add mulch, mulch and more mulch to flower beds, trees and shrubs, 2-3 inches deep. Mulch will reduce evaporation and help prevent the growth of weeds. Use any organic mulch like arborist woodchips on perennials or straw for vegetables and herbs. The looser the mulch the deeper it has to be. Straw should be 6 inches but arborist woodchips can be 2-3 inches deep.
- ◆ Plant warm season annuals and perennials such as salvia, zinnia, cosmos, gaura, tickseed, bee balm, butterfly bush, sunflowers, sage, coleus, Mexican heather and vinca.
- ◆ Keep weeding – weeds use up the water the plants you want need.
- ◆ Plan and look for fall vegetables that can be planted during summer for fall harvest (see Agrilife planting guide). Plant sweet potatoes slips, hot peppers, okra and tomatoes (again) for fall harvest.
- ◆ Harvest your current garden produce in the early morning for highest quality. Prune herbs often to encourage vegetative growth and a nice bushy habit. Basil is particularly bad about immediately trying to go to seed. You might have to remove flowers every other day to get it to put more effort into leaves.
- ◆ Pay attention to water needs: Water in the early morning (3-8 am) to minimize fungal problems and reduce evaporation.
- ◆ Check your hanging baskets frequently for watering. If you can, take them down and soak them in a basin or water for several minutes. Sometimes the interior of a container can stay bone dry while the water runs off the sides.
- ◆ Lawns: do not water at all if we have had ½ inch of rainfall that week. When temperatures are over 95 degrees give your lawn ½ inch of water a week. Water at night or early morning. Do not be tempted to water every day, as this causes your lawn to be susceptible to drought stress.
- ◆ Mow turf grasses every 5-7 days. St Augustine should be maintained at 2.5 inches (sun) to 3.5 (shade). Bermuda and Zoysia should be at least 1.5-2 inches. Buffalo grass does not need to be mowed at all. Stop applying fertilizer in order to prevent fungal disease like brown patch.
- ◆ Keep your annual flowers fertilized and deadheaded to encourage flowers.
- ◆ Blackberries: for erect blackberries, prune the whole plant back after the summer harvest is completed. Prune back between 1-3 feet. For late-ripening varieties, do not prune less than 3 feet as this can seriously reduce future yield.
- ◆ If aphids are a problem wash off the aphids with a blast of water and trash damaged plant material. Hopefully you have ladybugs, green lacewing or parasitized aphids that will take care of the problem.
- ◆ Be on the look out for Spider mites. They can be a problem when it gets warm. Heavily infested foliage can be cut off and thrown away if beyond repair. Otherwise, spray with a hose to dislodge pests. Make sure to get the underside of the leaves.
- ◆ Remember, it's Texas, it's hot so be sure to always wear a hat when out gardening, even if you are wearing sunscreen. Cover up with a 100% cotton long sleeve shirt and be sure to drink plenty of water!

**Hill Country Master Gardeners
Monthly Meeting
May 3, 2023
HCYEC**

Call to Order (Please Silence Your Cell Phones)

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the membership.

Invocation – Ray Tiemann delivered the invocation.

Welcome/Opening Remarks – Dave Kinneberg welcomed everyone to the meeting and said what an honor it was to be president of HCMG. He explained that the position will be open next year and went over some of the presidential duties including presiding over this meeting monthly, the Executive Committee meeting and writing an article for the monthly newsletter. The position is a great opportunity for someone who might be interested.

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

Approval of Minutes from April 5, 2023 Meeting. Melayne Arnold initiated a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Sandy Lewis.

Treasurer's Report – Rachel Garrison explained line items on the treasurer's report. The receipts for the B&B sale equated to net earnings of \$12,131.08. There were no questions on the numbers. Rachel explained the procedure for submitting check requests for reimbursement.

Business Items

Nominating Committee – Dave Kinneberg has requested two members volunteer for the nominating committee.

Standing Committee Reports

B&B – Jackie Connelly provided the group

with some data on the plant sale. There were approximately 2,066 plants for sale; about 325 visitors; and 1,303 hours logged among the volunteers who helped make it happen. Jackie asked for a show of hands by the area they volunteered. She extended a sincere thank you to all who participated, and the volunteers gave themselves a collective pat on the back for their efforts.

Research Desk/Greenhouse – Anne Brown extended a huge thank you to all volunteers who helped, including Sandy Lewis and to next year's GH Committee Chairpersons, Kay Nelson and Lisa Cantini. Anne also reported that 19 of 24 interns have been trained on the Research Desk. Sign up in VMS once every two weeks. She also thanked the trainers for all they did to get the interns properly trained.

Demonstration Garden – Jackie Skinner is currently seeking volunteers to fill two positions in the Demo Garden: Shed Monitor and Plant Marker Monitor. The shed monitor position will work independently of the rest of the group. They will inventory, organize and track everything in the DG shed, keep it clean and make sure the tools are kept clean. The plant marker position also works independently and makes sure each plant has a legible marker. Anyone interested should contact Jackie Skinner. Jackie brought in Cow Pen Daisies and is asking for a donation to offset the costs of installation of the new sections of the DG.

Logo Wear – Melayne Arnold brought in the newly acquired logo wear. Anyone interested in purchasing something can pick up an order form in the office. If you provide your own shirt, there is a \$10 cost for the embroidery.

Education – Donna Bellis said there will be an Education Committee meeting on May 18th at 10am in the AgriLife classroom. She went on to thank the Education Committee members, Facilitators, Hospitality, Membership, Executive Committee, Instructors, Jackie Connelly, Anne Brown, Mentors, Mentor Chair, Schedule Coordinator, Propagation group and students.

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Minutes continued

Donna is also looking for volunteers for the Special Opportunity Garden. They will be working Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 am.

Other Announcements

Mercy Gate – Frank Dunlap described the new project he’s involved with called Mercy Gate Ministries. The organization houses women who have been abused and/or trafficked. The project will involve creating a landscape that the tenants will maintain, water and care for. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Frank.

Library Projects – Patty Zohlen spoke about a project at the Butt-Holdsworth Library involving two raised beds that had been abandoned. The Native Plant Society will be involved, and librarians will do watering and maintenance. The library also hosts Gardening 101 on the second Saturday of each month. Speakers are needed as well as new ideas. Anyone interested in volunteering for either project should contact Patty.

Glory Community Garden – Pam Umstead spoke about Music in the Garden held at the GCG on Sunday, May 21st from 5:30 to 7 pm. Admission is free; food and drinks (Pint & Plow) are free, and the Time Bandits will play.

Final Comments

Upcoming CEU’s – Dave Kinneberg would like your ideas for panelists, potluck for the July meeting and a possible October field trip.

Pam Umstead won the door prize.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Aliperto, Secretary
Next Meeting: June 7, 2023 HCYEC



Molly Richardson from class of 2022 receives her HCMG certification and official name badge from President Dave Kinneberg.

Special Opportunity Garden work day: (left to right) Jeannie Osborne, Jean Sutton, Tamara Ruby, Barbara Green, Ray Raiford and Sonja Wilke



**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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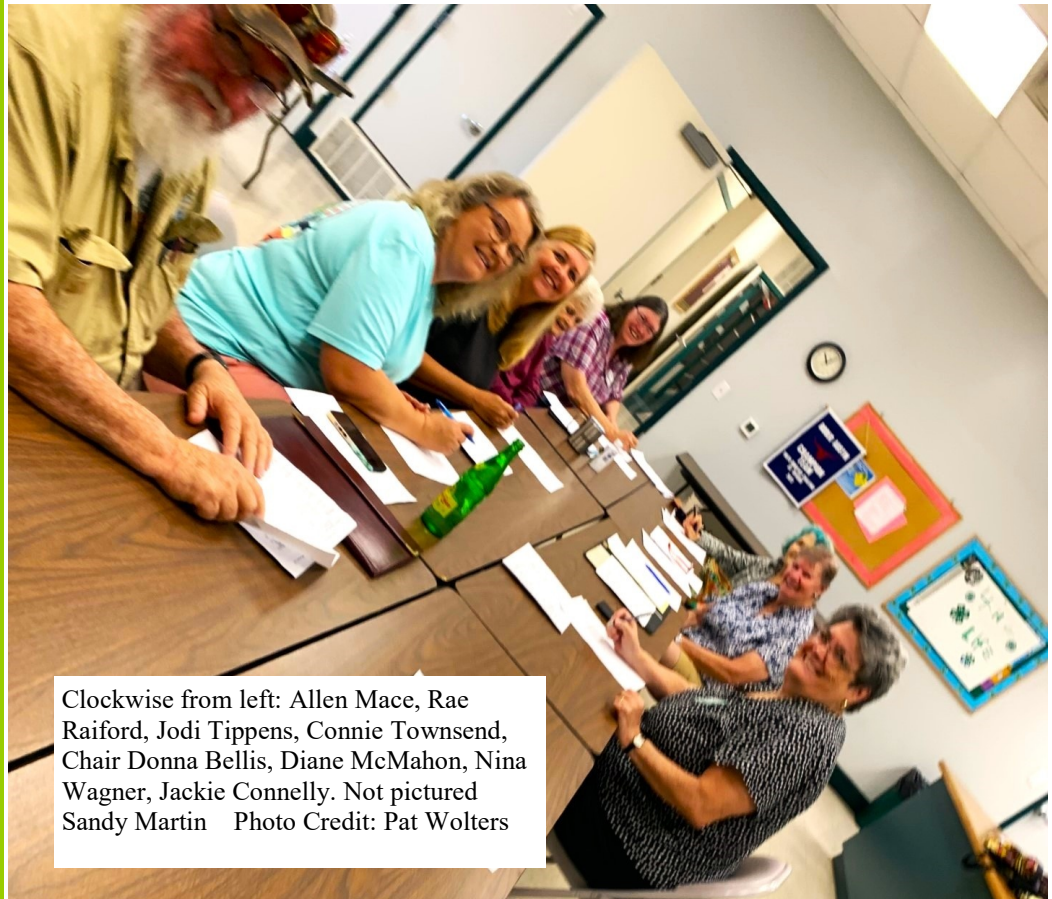
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EDUCATION COMMITTEE PLANNING MEETING

By Jackie Connelly, MG



Education Committee begins planning for 2024 – it is summer so not all members were present.

A successful master gardener program relies heavily on volunteer commitment and good leaders. We not only offer a comprehensive training program, but also give our trainees/ interns the opportunity to join in our many projects/activities and get to know other like-minded volunteers.

Over 230 hours were logged to the Education Committee last year. The classes take a lot of preparation and coordination to be successful. And yes, we have a whole committee dedicated to making that happen.