

March 2019

Volume 17, Issue 3

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HCMG will meet on  
March 13, 2019

Location:  
Kerr County  
Youth Event Center

1:00 - Meeting  
2:00 - Program

**"52 Species of Butterflies  
and the Native Plants  
they prefer while in the  
Hill Country"**  
Merry Linglinalis



**TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion,



*Rachel Garrison*

## President's Message

**"The lesson I have thoroughly learnt, and wish to pass on to others, is to know the enduring happiness that the love of a garden gives."**

**Gertrude Jekyll, British horticulturist**

2019 is marching on and many of us have been hibernating for the past few months. It's now time to get back outdoors in our gardens. Hill Country Master Gardeners have many special projects that give us a variety of ways to share our gardening knowledge with others. During the

course of this year, I'd like to highlight some of our special projects and the opportunities they provide, as we promote gardening in the communities we serve. One of our newest projects is Cultivar Farms in Kendall County. Judy Beauford and Shirley Smith are the coordinators for the project. Continue reading as Judy provides details of this worthwhile project.

Our garden is sponsored by HC Mission for Health and serves HC Family Services in Boerne. We distribute most of our produce through the food pantry at HCFS.

The garden's first crop was planted by someone else early in 2015. By late summer it had been all but abandoned. Shirley and I found out about it through the YMCA and took over its care that fall. The garden has grown from a few baskets of okra and tomatoes taken in to the health clinic to a considerable yield each season. Last year we harvested just over 1200 pounds of standard garden produce from asparagus to zucchini.

Our garden feeds both body and soul with the addition of wonderful roses, flowerbeds, and happy volunteer wild flowers, too pretty to pull up each spring. We share the fun of gardening with visitors from the health clinic, VBS and Girl Scout groups; adult groups who come to volunteer help like Rotary, Bible classes, and other church groups; and people who stop by just to chat or ask a question. In the spring and fall we hold planting days when members of the community help us put in crops. Toward the end of summer, we use some of our crop to have a watermelon party for our garden friends and neighbors.

Each fall we enter our produce in the Kendall County Fair. We win many blue ribbons every year and have one 'Best of Division' in Gardening and in Agriculture.

We are usually found working in the garden on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and every third Saturday of the month. We try to limit our work to times when the temperature is between 55 and 85 degrees. We are blessed in Texas with lots of days in that range, early in the morning in the summer and in the afternoon in the winter, usually between 9 and 11 am gets it. But sometimes okra needs pickin' no matter the weather. That's half the fun.

**HCMG 2019 Continuing Education Opportunities prepared by Raeann Reid**

*Attendance at events other than Master Gardener meetings is optional. We list events for those wishing to attend other educational offerings, not all events are eligible to fulfill CEUs credits toward annual recertification. Please verify the event with the provider.*

**March 5**, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m., NPSOT Boerne. David Langford, Vice President Emeritus of the Texas Wildlife Association, will present "The Legacy of Bamberger Ranch Preserve." Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. Visitors welcome.

**March 9**, 10:00-11:00 a.m., Gardening 101. HCMG Kim Courtright, will present "Transplanting Your Starts" and "Watering/Fertilizing." Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library.

**March 12**, 1:00 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 1:30 p.m., NPSOT Kerrville. Cheryl Hamilton, Alamo Area Master Naturalist and co-founder in 2010 of the Balcones Chapter of the Invaders of Texas Program, will present "Invasive Plants: Stop the Spread, Spread the Word, Just Do It!" Riverside Nature Center. Visitors welcome.

**March 13**, 2:00 p.m., Rose Garden Club of Medina. Jennifer Walker, Medina's Pioneer Woman and Rose Garden Club Member, will present "Preserving Food from Your Garden: Canning, Dehydration, Fermentation." Medina Community Center. Visitors welcome.

**March 13**, 1:00 p.m. business meeting, 2:00 p.m., Hill Country Master Gardeners, Merry Linglins, author, photographer, Bandera County Historian and member of the Bandera Canyonlands Alliance, will present a program on 52 species of butterflies and the native plants they prefer while in the Hill Country. Hill Country Youth Event Center. HCMGs, interns, trainees.

**March 16**, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Cibolo Nature Center. Compost Queens will present a Bokashi composting workshop. Bokashi is the ancient Japanese fermentation process for all solid food waste. Go to the calendar at cibolo.org for link to register. \$15, Herff Farm

**March 19**, 10:00 a.m., Hunt Garden Club. Paul and Delores Sellin, Ingram residents and experienced birders, will present "Gardening to Attract and Feed Birds." Hunt United Methodist Church. Visitors Welcome.

**March 23**, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., NPSOT Spring Symposium. For details and to register: <https://npsot.org/wp/event/spring-symposium/>. \$50 for NPSOT or LBJWC members; \$60 for non-members. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Auditorium.

**March 26**, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m., NPSOT Fredericksburg. Steve Nelle, with the Texas Agricultural Land Trust, will present "What is Genuine Land Stewardship?" Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

HCMG Training, 9:00 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. Hill Country Youth Event Center (except where noted). Trainees, interns and members. Class details on VMS. HCMGs and interns sign up on VMS to ensure enough seating.

March 5, a.m., HCMG Brenda Fest, Plant Biology  
March 5, p.m. Erin Wieser, Texas A&M Forest Service, Trees – Selection, Maintenance and Disease Management

March 7, all day. HCMG TMG Vegetable Specialists; a.m. Vegetable Gardening in the Hill Country; p.m. Foodscapes

March 12, all day, HCMG Deb Bacon, the propagation team, and TMG Specialists, Propagation

March 14, a.m. Anne Brown, MG Specialist, Water Conservation

March 14, p.m. Carol Hagemeyer, MG Specialist, Firewise Landscaping

March 19, a.m. Projects Tour, Fredericksburg. Meet at Gillespie County Extension Office to carpool to projects.

March 19, p.m. Beth McMahon, Gillespie County Horticulture Agent, Weed I.D. and Chemical Safety, Gillespie County Extension Office.

March 21, all day. Dr. Larry Stein, TAMU AgriLife, Trees – Selecting and Planting

March 26, a.m. Molly Keck, TAMU AgriLife, Entomology

March 26, p.m. HCMG Patty Zohlen, Vermiculture, field trip to worm farm

March 28, all day. Dennis Hale, TAMU AgriLife (retired) a.m. Introduction to Landscaping

Principles in the Hill Country

See page 9 for addresses



## Hill Country Veggies

March 2019

By Allen Mace

This fall I bought two French Sorrel plants. I cut them in half and potted them. All four plants are alive and

doing well. They went through the winter with no problems. Three of the four are quite large now and I'm thinking of dividing them again. So, what is Sorrel? Sorrel is an herbaceous



Sorrel is a good source of potassium and vitamins A, B, C, D, E and K. It is easy to propagate, all you do is just cut it in half. I start cleaning up the plant by picking off the dead leaves and stems. Next, I pull it out of the pot. Then I cut down the center of the plant and its tap root.



**French Sorrel**

perennial. It's not well known in this country, but is used in Europe quite a bit, particularly in French cuisine. It produces spinach shaped leaves and the French Sorrel has a lemony flavor. Sorrel works well in soups and sauces. You can dice it up to garnish meats as well. I like to chop it up and add it raw in salads. It's can also be sauteed and eaten like spinach. Sorrel is a very versatile green. There are several different varieties of Sorrel. It is considered an invasive species in this country. You might be familiar with its U.S. cousin, dock weed. When I was in High School in Oklahoma, my friend's grandmother would pick it out of her garden and serve it up for dinner, most just pull it up and toss it into the compost pile.

Next, transplant it into a pot with soil then water the plants. When looking for a permanent home in your garden, it likes a sunny location with well drained soil.

Remember, it's a perennial and should provide a tasty addition to your diet for years to come.



**Divided**



**Potted**

Another lesser known plant that I like is Lambs Quarter. Its one of the most nutritious eatables that usually lands in the compost pile as well, but that's for another the day.



## 560 Newly Potted Plants = A Great Beginning That Will Grow!



Gaura and Texas Lantana, two natives, were given new, larger pots by Patty Zohlen and Raeann Reid.



Trailing Purple Lantana and Copper Canyon Daisies were in the capable hands of Tommie Airhart, Debbie Lea and Susan Roberts.



Bernadell Larson transplanted two flats of Turk's Cap into fresh, rich potting soil.



Donna Bellis and Gayle Anderson are all smiles at their potting station.

**Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen**





Kathy Lewis and Tom Collins mixed up a rich brew of potting soil and fertilizer while Dennis Davidson kept the potters supplied with filled pots.

## Master Gardeners spend the morning getting plants potted in preparation for Blooms and Barrels Sale.

Photo Credit:  
Vickie Killeen



560 plants need 560 pots of soil. Lifting, mixing, filling, and distributing pots kept Melayne Arnold, Kathy Lewis, Tom Collins, Janell Dahms and Sandy Lewis moving all morning.

Fernando Gonzalez, Patti Schlessiger, Jackie Connelly and Debbie Bacon are having too much fun!



Below  
Dianne  
McMahon and  
Jackie  
Connelly show  
off their plants



With such a great volunteer turnout, some potters had to set up shop in the garage. Jackie Connelly, Fernando Gonzalez, Melayne Arnold and Debbie Bacon enjoyed a laugh while planting Indigo Spires and Ruby Grass.



Imelda Horne, Pat Wolters and Sandy Martin kept busy potting Texas Betony and Copper Canyon Daisies.

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



## Planning Begins for Blooms and Barrels



1. After the meeting wrap-up Rachel Garrison, Caryl Hartman, Pam Umstead and Patty Zohlen take time to look at newly potted *Salvia greggii*. 792 plants are currently under the care of the Greenhouse Committee and its volunteers.



2. Attending the February 1 planning meeting are (clockwise from left): Anne Brown, Patty Zohlen, Donna Bellis, Bernadell Larson, Caroll Edwards, Rachel Garrison, Linda Proffitt, Pam Umstead, and Chairman Jackie Connelly. Not pictured: Caryl Hartman, Debbie Bacon, Dee Dunton, Jerry Christensen and Vickie Killeen. Chef extraordinaire Linda Proffitt (Hospitality chairman) provided homemade Pecan Sandies to ensure that the meeting ran on high energy!

**PHOTO CREDIT: Vickie Killeen**

## Newly Certified Hill Country Master Gardener

Photo Credit: Jim Latham



From left:  
Rachel Garrison,  
MG President,  
Kathy Lewis,  
Karen Buck,  
Raeann Reid, and  
Linda Proffitt are  
all happy to  
welcome newly  
certified MG,  
Karen Buck.



## Over 50 people attended the Plantastic Workshop in Fredericksburg



1. MG Presenters getting ready to speak: Chris Seifert (Improving Soil and Composting), Connie Townsend (Using Row Covers on your Crops) and Allen (Tomatoes and Container Gardening).
2. Working the registration table is Kim Courtright and Raeann Reid. You might notice MG, Kathy Lewis registering.
3. Kim Courtright demonstrates starting seeds.
4. Lydia Jones and Beth McMahon present on saving seeds from your vegetables in your garden.
5. Allen Mace presenting on container gardening.
6. Pat Wolters presented on vegetable gardening (not pictured).



## “Soil Your Undies” by Pat Wolters

Connie Townsend, MG, told me about a soil test that involved burying a pair of white cotton underwear in your garden to measure the biological activity of your soil. I was intrigued and decided to find out more and this is what I learned: “Soil Your Undies” was a movement (pun intended) that started in Canada to bring awareness of healthy soil to farmers.

Healthy soil is vital to all gardens and agriculture. Soil tests can determine nutrient content, composition and other soil characteristics like pH level. Some nutrient soil tests specifically look for nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, iron, zinc, copper and boron levels. The soil test also identifies the amount of organic matter in the soil – materials that contain carbon. Healthy soil contains organic matter, and as a result, it also houses organisms that eat organic matter – bacteria, earthworms, fungi, etc. The soil test doesn’t measure the biological activities of your soil.

Now this is where the underwear comes in. Turns out these organisms in the soil like cotton underwear. In just two months, cotton underwear buried in healthy soil will be completely eaten, leaving behind little but the waistband. Why is that? You might wonder – well it’s because finished cotton is about 99 % cellulose. Cellulose, in simple terms, is just a polymer made up of a long chain of glucose (sugar) molecules. So a pair of briefs serves as a dinner buffet for the mysterious array of creatures that make their home below our feet.

There’s an old saying about not airing your dirty laundry, but this is one time we’d like to see your soiled laundry.

### *Soil Your Undies Challenge*



1. **Get a pair of white, solid cotton underwear (mens or womens).**

2. **Bury the underwear in your garden up to the waistband (or bury the whole thing, just mark it so you can find it again.)**

3. **Dig up your underwear in 2 months.**

4. **Rinse off the dirt.**



5. **Have someone take a picture of you holding what’s left of your undies.**

6. **Send your picture to me at [Newsletter.editor.hcmg@gmail.com](mailto:Newsletter.editor.hcmg@gmail.com) by June 15, 2019.**

I will post the pictures in the July Newsletter





## HCMG Monthly Business Meeting

**February 13, 2019**

Call to Order: Rachel Garrison called meeting to order.  
Pledge of Allegiance: Dennis Davidson lead (signed) the pledge.

Invocation: Patty Zohlen gave the invocation. Verification of Quorum: Patti Schlessiger verified a quorum was present.

Treasurer's Report – Bernadell Larson/Approval of Treasurer's Report-Bernadell Larson reported on balances of accounts. Melayne Arnold moved to accept, Dee Dunton 2nd, all approved.

Approval of December 2018 Minutes-Dee Dunton motioned to accept, Melayne Arnold 2nd, all approved.

**Old Business:** None

### **New Business**

Approval of annual (2019) budget-Melayne Arnold moved to accept, Jackie Skinner 2nd, all approved.

### **Announcements**

- In-House Program Chair, Edna Platte, was present and recognized. Webmaster, Stan Zwinggi was not present.
- Handbook – Patty Zohlen explained where the handbook could be found online.
- 2018 Christmas project – Patty Zohlen reported that \$1,452 in gift cards, towels and cash were collected and presented to the Crisis Council. She read a thank you note from them.
- Public Programs Chair needed-Rachel requested someone step up and fill this much needed position. Kim Courtright emphasized the importance of this position.
- Master Gardener Training – Lydia Jones reported there are 23 students for this years classes. Jackie Connelly mentioned the need for 4 more mentors.
- New Certification – Karen Buck was presented with her certificate and membership card. Several Master Gardeners, who had been a support to her, stood with her for her acceptance.
- Transfer member - Keeley Porter was introduced to the membership.
- Blooms & Barrels – Jackie Connelly announced Spa Day will be Thursday, April 11th, Move In Day will be Friday, April 12th and Sale Day will be Saturday, April 13th. Help is needed from everyone. Jackie said instead of having free programs presented by HCMGs, there will be education stations at the plant tables.
- Pot Party- Anne Brown asked for all who can help to come to the greenhouses on Friday, February 15th at 1:00 p.m.
- B & B Garden Shed – Caryl Hartman asked for gently used gardening books, pots, tools, etc. to sell at the Garden Shed.

- Logo wear – Debbie Bacon was taking orders for tee shirts, visors, and gardening bags.
- Information booth at Riverside Nature Spring Native Plant Sale – April 20-Frank Dunlap asked for volunteers to help man the booth. There will be 2 shifts and sign-up is on VMS.
- New Special Project (Please add to your 2019 handbook) – Frank Dunlap announced Jackie Skinner will be assisting in selection and layout of plants.
- More volunteers are needed. Tom Daniels Elementary School, March 7 – Kim Courtright asked for volunteers to help. It will run from 8:30 to 11:30, and lunch will be provided.
- Survey coming – watch eMinder-Jackie Connelly said input is needed for the website.
- Background Check Forms, Name Badges & Membership Cards-Jackie Connelly announced there is a table in the foyer if you need to address one of the above mentioned.
- Duane Robinson, Advanced Training Coordinator, said to watch for save the dates

March CEU Program - Mary Langlinais,  
Butterflies & Native Plants

### **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Schlessiger  
Secretary

### **Addresses for Events Listed on page 2**

Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library, 505 Water Street,  
KRVL  
Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Rd,  
Boerne  
Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension Service, 95  
Frederick Road, FBG  
Herff Farm, 33 Herff Road, Boerne  
Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Hwy 27, KRVL  
Hunt United Methodist Church, 120 Merritt Rd, Hunt  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse  
Ave, Austin  
Medina Community Center, 13857 State Hwy 16N,  
Medina  
Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam St,  
FBG  
Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St,  
KRVL

**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**

*Newsletter Editor*  
Pat Walters

*Associate Newsletter Editor*  
Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to  
Judy Beauford for  
proofreading

*Event Page Editor*  
Raeann Reid

*Webmaster*  
Stan Zwinggi

**Submissions to**

Newsletter.editor.hcmg  
@gmail.com

**Hill Country Master Gardeners purchased 72 plants,  
making the monthly meeting sale a complete sell-out.**



Greenhouse  
Committee  
member  
Fernando  
Gonzales, right,  
visits with  
Michael Weberpal  
while he browses  
the colorful  
geraniums  
offered to  
members.

**Photo  
Credit:  
Vickie Killeen**

**Education Committee prepares for the  
2019 Master Gardener Class**



Clockwise:  
Patty Zohlen, Janice  
Walker, Debra  
Bass, Donna Bellis.  
Beth McMahon,  
Nina Wager, Diane  
McMahon, Debbie  
Bacon and Mike  
Weberpal.

Right  
Tommie Airhart and Jackie  
Connelly assign Master  
Gardener Mentors to each of  
the students in the 2019  
Master Gardener Class.

Photo Credit: Pat Walters

