

March 2020

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HCMG will meet on
March 4, 2020
Agrilife Office Classroom

1:00 Business Meeting
2:00 Program:

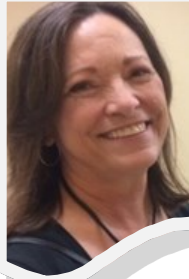
Tomatoes



HCMGs
Judy Beauford
and Shirley Smith, coordinators
of Cultivar Farms



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President's Message

Rachel Garrison

"I think that no matter how old or infirm I may become, I will always plant a large garden in the spring. Who can resist the feelings of hope and joy that one gets from participating in nature's rebirth?"

- Edward Giobbi, American artist and cookbook author

We turn another page on the 2020 calendar, and it's March, the eve of a gardener's favorite season! Not much for a gardener to do in January and February other than peruse seed catalogues looking for interesting new seeds to try, all the while contemplating old favorites. There is only so much dreaming and planning a gardener can do as he longs to do some spring clean-up and get his hands in the soil. Spring is near!

Our family lived very near Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, home of the famous weather predicting groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil. All the hoopla of Groundhog Day was fun to watch, but we knew that no matter what Phil predicted, Spring was a long way off. We lived in the mountains where the last frost date in the spring is May 15th. An anxious, risk-taking gardener might try his luck and plant near the 1st of May, but one never knew if that effort would be in vain. The calendar says the first day of spring is March 19, but that certainly wasn't the experience of our time in the mountains of western Pennsylvania.

In the Texas Hill Country, it's a different story. In March, we may enjoy spring weather one day and winter the next. Sometimes we have both seasons in one day! We can still get frosts in March, especially early March. One must keep his eye on the temperature predictions and have covers at the ready or be prepared to move potted plants indoors for the night when foul weather returns.

March for gardeners is much like a hungry bear waking up from his long winter nap. We are anxious to get outside in the sunshine and tend the soil and our plants. March is an especially busy month for Hill Country Master Gardeners. Besides cleaning up and prepping our personal gardens, we have training classes for our students and the greenhouses are full of plants to care for and pamper until they are sold at our Blooms & Barrels fundraiser in April. After some slower, inactive winter months, many of our special projects are active again and HCMG members are super busy.

HCMG 2019 Continuing Education Opportunities prepared by Raean Reid

This list is for those wishing to attend educational offerings in addition to those offered by Hill Country Master Gardeners.

March 3, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m., NPSOT Boerne. George Cates, Native American Seed, will present "Perspectives on Native Seeds," including the legal right of ownership of native plants: 1) who has the right to own the genes of our native species?; 2) at what point is a plant sufficiently altered through selection or breeding that it should no longer be considered "native"? Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. Visitors welcome.

March 4, 1:00 p.m. business meeting, 2:00 p.m. CE program, Hill Country Master Gardeners. HCMGs Judy Beauford and Shirley Smith, coordinators of our Cultivar Farms HCMG project in Boerne, will share their experiences growing tomatoes from seeds and transplants through harvest. Kerr County TAMU AgriLife Extension Office. HCMGs, interns, trainees.

March 5, noon–1:00pm, TAMU AgriLife. Webinar, Dr. Vanessa Corriher Olson, Associate Professor and Extension Specialist, Soil and Crop Sciences, will present "Pasture Weed Management," best management strategies for tackling herbaceous and woody weed species in pastures and hay meadows. Contact Pete Flores pflores@ag.tamu.edu.

March 7, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Cibolo Nature Center. Mike Mendez, master beekeeper and beekeeper for Jester King Brewery and Community First Village, will present an introduction to beekeeping. \$15 members, \$20 non-members. Register at Cibolo.org. Herff Farm Teaching Garden.

March 10, 1:00 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 1:30 p.m., NPSOT Kerrville. Marilyn McBroom Knight, Hill Country Master Naturalist, will present "Tiny Wildflowers." Riverside Nature Center. Visitors welcome.

March 11, Rose Garden Club of Medina. Doris Howdeshell, board member and past chair, Keep Utopia Beautiful, will discuss the five projects. Utopia Senior Center. Contact Carol Hagemeyer at 830.285.0035 for details and lunch order. Leaving Medina Community Center at 11:15 a.m. to carpool to Utopia.

March 14, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Riverside Nature Center Assn. Karen Rockoff, certified arborist and master horticulturist, will

talk about tree diseases, ball moss and animal damage. Riverside Nature Center.

March 14, 9:00 a.m.-noon, Cibolo Nature Center. Dick Park, Old Daley Ranch owner and birder, will share his experiences attracting birds to his ranch, including habitat enhancement with native plants. \$25 members; \$35 non-members. Register at Cibolo.org. Meet at Cibolo Nature Center parking lot at 9:00 to carpool to the ranch.

March 14, 10:00 a.m., HCMG presents Gardening 101, Home Grown Tomatoes. Free. Butt-Holdsworth Library.

Tuesday, March 17, 1:00–2:00 p.m., Riverside Nature Center Assn. Eldon Sheffer will present "Celebrating Green," a holistic overview of the evolution of plants emphasizing the myriad interconnections. Riverside Nature Center.

March 17, 10:00 a.m., Hunt Garden Club. Malia Coleman, of Young Living Essential Oils will present "The Craft of Compounding Essential Oils and Their Benefits." Hunt United Methodist Church. Visitors Welcome.

March 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Fredericksburg Community Ed/ FBG NPSOT. Mary Frushour, HCMN and NPSOT member, will present "Create Your Own Pollinator Garden." \$20. To register, contact Rachel at 830.997.7182 or rachelm@fisd.org. FBG Middle School Library.

March 20-21, TAMU Horticulture Extension, Dinner and Conference. \$100 to \$210. Excellent program details and to register <https://taste360.tamu.edu/agenda>. Texas A&M University Campus

March 21 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., San Antonio Water System, Cleve Powell, native plant propagator, will present "Native Milkweed Propagation," including a lecture and hands-on preparation of seeds. \$20. [San Antonio Botanical Garden](#)

March 21, 7:45 a.m.–4:00 p.m., NPSOT Boerne, Native Landscape Certification Program Level 1, Introduction to Native Landscapes. \$45. Details and registration at <https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp>. Cibolo Nature Center. **go to page 10**



Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace

A lot has happened, since the last months Newsletter. On February 2, 2020, Punxsutawney Phil, the Prognosticating, Weather Forecasting, Wood Rat from Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, excited his burrow and saw his shadow, thus six more weeks of winter. Next, on February 7, 2020, in Fredericksburg Texas, was the “Plantastic Program”. This is a gardening program started by Beth McMahon CEA-Horticulture with the Gillespie County Extension Office. The program introduces vegetable and herb gardening to folks in the surrounding area. This year was the 3rd year, and it seems to be getting bigger and better each year. Beth brings in great speakers and gives local Master Gardeners a chance to put on demonstrations and interact with participants. It’s a lot of work, but it’s also a lot of fun. Thank you Beth for the opportunity. I have volunteered to be a mentor this year for the Master Gardeners’ Internship Program and look forward to interacting with the new students. I was shanghaied into “volunteering” as a fallback option in case an emergency happens, and a scheduled speaker is unable to make it. I’m OK with that but remember, I know who instigated it and voted, and I have a very long memory.



Germination Test

Last month I was demonstrating how I go about conducting germination tests on tomato seeds. At the time, the seeds had not had enough time in the moist paper towels to germinate yet. As you can see, most all the seeds have germinated. I am pleased with these results. If you are careful, you could transplant these seeds into soil and grow them out. It’s still a bit early for tomatoes, remember we still have 6 more weeks of winter, I will wait a few weeks to start some new seeds.

I have already planted some Swiss chard and one rescued cabbage from the “Plantastic Program”. Nobody wanted it so I showed mercy and gave it a home. Both cabbage and Swiss chard should be fine

planted now, both will tolerate the cool weather. At the “Plantastic Program” I learned of a new twist for growing garlic that I am trying this year. This should be interesting.



Rescued Cabbage



Swiss Chard



New Sign on the fence at the Hill Country Youth Event Center

Photo Credit: Jackie Connelly

In preparation for the upcoming master gardener training class, the Education Committee hosted a Facilitator training. Special thanks to Education Committee Chair, Donna Bellis, and Lydia Jones for this training. Also, thanks to Debra Bass, Janice Walker and Nina Wagner who developed new study guides and a test to match the new training books.

Facilitators learning to set up the laptop to the video projector.

Clockwise:
Jerry Clark,
Lydia Jones,
Deb Bass,
Nina
Wagner,
Diane
McMahon,
Jan Grimes,
Imelda
Horne, &
Terrie Clark

Photo Credit:
Pat Wolters





Meet the Hill Country Master Gardener Class of 2020

Back Row from left: Jennifer Benitez, Lola Auger, Deborah Hoover, Rita Aliperto, Kalie Burton, Jeanette Masek-Peterson, Jane Hunter, Cindy Burton, Tirza Loguin, & Kim Rhoades

Front row from left: Tav Heistand, Dave Kinneberg, Dietmar Schott, Al Perry, Phil Goodrich, Russell Wooten, Kevin Peterson, & Jo Rhoades. Student not included in group photo, Marge Muniz.

Photo Credit: Mark Shultz



Marge Muniz

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

March 3, a.m.	Earth-Kind Landscaping and Herbs	Caryl Hartman, Advanced Trained MG
March 3, p.m.	Entomology	Molly Keck, Bexar County AgriLife Entomologist
March 5, a.m.	Native Plants of the Hill Country	Chris Anderson, HC Master Naturalist & NPSOT FBG past president, Social Hall of the Gillespie County Historical Society Building, FBG
March 5, p.m.	FBG Project Tours FBG, Pioneer Museum, Lipe Memorial Garden, United Methodist Church Biblical Garden	
March 10, a.m.	Weed I.D. and Chemical Safety	Beth McMahon, AgriLife Horticulture Agent
March 10, p.m.	Vermiculture	HCMG Patty Zohlen
March 12, a.m.	Vegetable Gardening in the Hill Country	HCMGs Lydia Jones, Pat Wolters, Donna Bellis, Allen Mace and Connie Townsend, Horticulture Agent Beth McMahon
March 12, p.m.	Vegetable Learning Stations	
March 17, a.m.	Propagation	HCMGs Duane Robinson and propagation team
March 17, p.m.	Propagation continued	
March 19, a.m.	Water Conservation	HCMG Anne Brown
March 19, p.m.	Hands on Drip Irrigation, UGRA EduScape	Tom Frenzell
March 24, a.m.	Fruit Trees – Everything You Want to Know	Beth McMahon, CEA-Horticulture
March 24, p.m.	Research Desk Responsibilities	HCMGs Melayne Arnold and Jackie Connelly
March 26, a.m.	Introduction to Landscaping in the Hill Country	Dennis Hale,
March 26, p.m.	Ornamental Native and Turf Grasses	retired TAMU AgriLife Extension Agent
March 31, a.m.	Garden Safety/Insects	HCMG Fernando Gonzalez and Volunteer Opportunities
March 31, p.m.	Medina Garden Nursery tour	limited space, so trainees only

**HCMG Monthly Business Meeting
February 5, 2020,
Kerrville County Extension Office**

Call to Order-Rachel Garrison called the meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance- Pam Umstead led the Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation-Patty Zohlen led the invocation

Verification of Quorum-Patti Schlessiger verified the quorum

Approval of Feb 5, 2020—Minutes of January 8 meeting were approved as presented

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report-

Jackie Connelly presented the report and asked if there were any questions. She reported that the charter agreements are filed and good for one year.

Standing Committee Reports

Demo Garden – Jackie Skinner reported. No compost will be laid this year. Currently focused on planning for March planting. Requesting individuals to adopt three turf sections needing help.

Education – Donna Bellis reported enrollment of 15 students for class commencing Feb 18, 2020, with a pot luck lunch. Copy of class schedule is on home page of website and in VMS. She announced a facilitator class Feb 12 with Lydia Jones presenting. The new TMG intern books are in Master Gardeners may audit the classes but must sit in back QUIETLY with cell phones turned off.

Greenhouse – Janell Dahms reported results of two pot parties. The greenhouse now has 1200 plants, and room for 200-500 more. The February watering schedule is on the Greenhouse calendar in VMS. March slots will

open soon. Training is required if you've not already been trained

Jr. Master Gardening – Kim Courtright reported putting the Kerr 4-H garden to bed due to dwindling participation by students. The Tom Daniel School Science Fair is March 12, 2020 from 9:30-12:15 is on VMS and looking for 4-5 MGs to assist her. Lunch provided

Membership – Liz Althaus will have new membership cards at March meeting but can send cards to those who send her stamped self-addressed envelopes. Members who need to turn in their background checks by February 18th have been notified.

Mentors – Debbie Bacon-Mentors have been assigned to all 15 students and training class for mentors was held.

Public Programs – Ray Tiemann reminded us that the Fruit and Nut Tree Symposium is approaching Feb 29 from 1:00-5:00 Cost is \$25.00

Publicity – Tina Woods- has been busy sending articles to newspapers and placing PSA with local stations in the seven counties. She is requesting copies of articles published in papers outside of Kerrville be sent to her. Advertisements will change to B&B on Feb 12. The B&B volunteer opportunities are on the VMS calendar and HCMG can sign up now.

Unfinished Business-none

Thank you
Patti Schlessiger for
serving as secretary

**Continued on
page 7**



New Business

Storage shed - Rachel remarked that there had been \$1500 on a prior budget but was removed. Pointed out need for new storage shed as Roy had offered space behind youth building for short term. Shed needs to have space, a floor, needs to be lockable, without windows. Safety was a concern and initiated a discussion of supplying electricity for lighting. Suggested cost of \$2,000 should include delivery and installation. Shelves could be added through voluntary labor, possibly Rachel's husband. Kim motioned and Melayne seconded. Motion was approved

Location for March meeting- several suggestions were made for March meeting location: Extension office classroom, UGRA-\$50.00, or Kerrville Library - \$30.00. It was decided that the March meeting will be held at the Extension office classroom.

Discussion of location for April meeting including graduation and potluck: Calgary Temple-donation appreciated, Union Church – free, 1st Presbyterian, HCYEC show barn. Executive Committee will make a decision and announce location. Discussion continued regarding future availability of HCYEC expected to become an increasing problem.



Rachel Garrison and Donna Nutt

Election of Secretary- Donna Nutt received her MG certificate from Rachel Garrison and was voted in as Secretary for 2020.

Announcements

- ◆ Blooms and Barrels Sale – April 11, 2020
- ◆ Feb 13, 2020 Dinner Tonight Fredericksburg, 6:00 PM-8: PM
- ◆ Feb 19,2020 Dinner Tonight Kerrville, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM
- ◆ Feb 29, 2020 Fruit and Nut Tree Symposium, 1:00 PM-5:00 PM
- ◆ March 23, March Across Texas, Kerrville teams and Fredericksburg Teams
- ◆ Spa Day – April 9
- ◆ Move Day – Apr 10
- ◆ Gillespie County Groundbreaking 2-14-2020@1:30
- ◆ State Conference, May 12-14

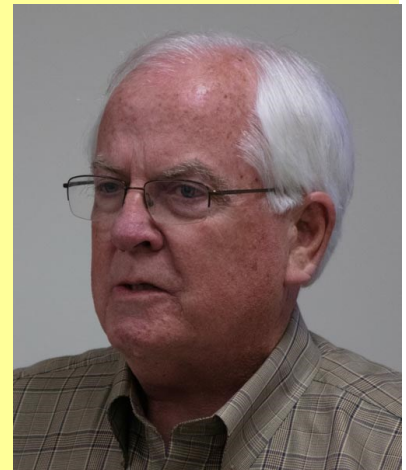
Next meeting March 4, Kerr County AgriLife Extension office classroom at 1 pm

Project of the Month-

Bob Huff introduced Jim Wilhite who gave an entertaining and informative presentation on the Dr. John Lipe Memorial Garden at the extension office in Fredericksburg

Adjournment

/s/ Donna Nutt,
Secretary



Jim Wilhite

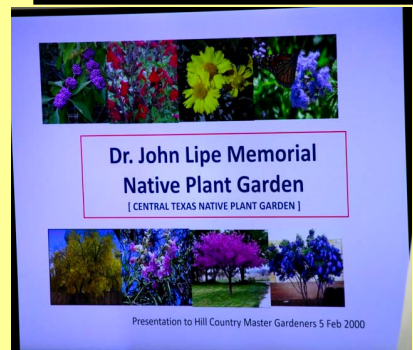


Photo Credit:
Mark Shultz

Let the potting begin.....first steps taken in preparation for Blooms & Barrels

Photo Credit: Mark Shultz



Left to right: Tom Collins, Donna McCanlies, Jan Sewell, Allen Mace, Linda Kaiser, mystery woman, Debra Foley, Donna Bellis, Bob Moore, Debbie Bacon & Janell Dahms

Clockwise: Susan Roberts

Imelda Horne

Jackie Connelly

Darla Cluster and Mimi Bouslog

Photo Credit:
Mark Shultz



Plantastic Vegetable Gardening Seminar



Presenters at the Plantastic Program in Fredericksburg from left: Allen Mace, MG (Tomatoes) Connie Townsend, MG (Extreme Hot and Cold Vegetables), Raeann Reid, MG (registration), Pat Wolters, MG (Vegetables 101), Lydia Jones, MG (Herbs), Beth McMahon, CEA-Horticulture (Beans and Harvesting), and Pat McCormack, MG (Drip Irrigation). Guest Speaker, not pictured, Dr. Joe Masabni of Texas A&M University (organic gardening, cover crops and weed management). Sixty participants spent the day

learning about growing vegetables.



Photo Credit:
Pat Wolters

Sat, March 21, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., NPSOT Austin, Native Landscape Certification Program Level 1, Introduction to Native Landscapes. \$45. Details and registration at <https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp>. Lakewood Club House.

March 22, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Headwaters at Incarnate Word. Patty Leslie Pasztor, Ethnobotanist, will lead a nature sanctuary native plant walk. Limited to 12. Details and registration at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sanctuary-native-plant-walk-with-patty-leslie-pasztor-tickets-87763638405>. Free. Christus Heritage Hall at the Village at Incarnate Word.

March 23, 6:15 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m., Hill Country Master Naturalists. Program TBA. GBNARC Auditorium. Visitors welcome.

March 24, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m., NPSOT Fredericksburg. Alan Smith, PhD, NPSOT FBG and plant ecologist, will present “Orchids? Native to Texas?” Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

March 26, 1:00-2:30 p.m., San Antonio Zoo. Bob Waterman, Director of Horticulture, will lead a tour of the zoo grounds. Free. Contact Pam Umstead at pam@umstx.net by March 16 to allow time to arrange car pools. San Antonio Zoo.

March 28-8:00 a.m.-5:00pm, NPSOT San Antonio. NLCP Level 1 Class: Introduction to Native Landscapes. \$45. Details and registration at <https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp>. San Antonio Botanical Garden.

March 28, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Highland Lakes Master Gardeners. Lawn and Garden Show: 9:15 a.m., “Spring and

Summer Vegetables“ Willard Horn, 10:30 a.m., “Drought Tolerant Plants” Robert and Sheryl Yantis, 11:45 a.m. “Free Plants You Didn’t Know You Had,” Amy Parke, 1:00 ;p.m., “War on Weeds” Suzy Buchanan. <http://www.burnetcountyhighlandlakesmastergardener.org/2020-lawn--garden-show.html>. For more information, Roxanne Dunegan 512.756.3059. Burnet Community Center.

Addresses for Events

- Burnet Community Center, 401 E Jackson St, Burnet
- Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library, 505 Water Street, KRVL
- Cibola Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Rd, Boerne
- Christus Heritage Hall at the Village at Incarnate Word, 4707 Broadway Street, Alamo Heights, San Antonio
- FBG Middle School, 110 W. Travis St., FBG
- Gillespie County Historical Society Building, 312 W San Antonio St, FBG
- Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center (GBNARC) auditorium, 125 Lehmann Drive, KRVL
- Herff Farm, 33 Herff Road, Boerne
- Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Highway 27, KRVL
- Hunt United Methodist Church, 120 Merritt Road, Hunt
- Kerr County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 3655 Highway 27, KRVL
- Lakewood Clubhouse, 7317 Lakewood Drive, 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
- San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio
- San Antonio Zoo, Brackenridge Park, 903 N St Mary's St, San Antonio
- Texas A&M University Campus, 556 John Kimbrough Ave. College Station

Orientation for HCMG class of 2020.

Mentors, Executive Committee and Education Committee members provided a pot luck lunch

Photo Credit Pat Wolters



**Hill Country Master
Gardeners 2020
Executive
Committee**

Rachel Garrison
President

Debra Bacon
Vice President

Donna Nutt
Secretary

Jackie Connelly
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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Special thanks to
Judy Beauford for
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**Velda Workman
Memorial Fund**



We celebrate the life of Velda Workman by placing *In Memory Of Plaques* on the three new potting benches in the Greenhouse 2 area. Velda was in the Class of 2010. She quickly made friends with all of her classmates and upon graduation, quickly made friends with the rest of the HCMG family, volunteering on several of our projects. She researched the plants in the demo garden for the website, worked in the information booths at the Kerr and Gillespie Country fairs and helped customers at our Blooms and Barrels sales thru the years. She enjoyed our rain barrel making events, harvesting and packaging seeds for our Free Seed giveaways and enjoyed working with others at the Bandera County projects.

Velda passed away in April of 2016 and the family asked friends and family to donate to her beloved Hill Country Master Gardeners in lieu of flowers. We know she is now enjoying tending that beautiful garden in the beyond. The new benches, built by Janell Dahms and Dick Matz, a welcome feature to our potting area, were paid for by the donation. Thank you to everyone who contributed – we all miss her sweet smile.

By Jackie Connelly, MG



Cowboy Breakfast Fundraiser
Glory Community Garden
(corner of W. Davis and Webster)

Saturday, March 7
Breakfast at 9:00 am
Chili 12:00 - 2:00 pm

by donation
music, kids activities
come and go event