

**March 2022**

**Volume 20, Issue 3**

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**HCMG**  
**March 2, 2022**

Kerr County  
 Youth Event Center  
 Kerrville

1:00 Meeting  
 2:00 Program

“Native Grasses Explained,  
 Becoming Native to Your  
 Place”

**George Cates**  
 See page 2 for Bio

“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*



Roberta and I have a large rubber plant in the entry to our home. I tell visitors the plant is as old as I am, having been given to my mom in the hospital when I was born. I don’t think that’s really true although I’ve been around the plant for as long as I can remember. My mom probably bought it when the family moved into a new house when I was in fourth grade. She had a “green thumb” and the plant grew rapidly; I had to chop it back from the ceiling a couple of times. When I was in college, my parents left us (the plant and me) to move to another state and I took it when I relocated to student housing on the university campus. My brother still remembers the pain of hauling the plant up the elevator to my room. The rubber tree survived my MS program in Utah and a long-distance trip to my first job in Massachusetts. Three years later, another cross-country trip to Utah and, three years later, back again to Massachusetts.

The plant thrived in our living room in New England for twenty-three years. Two daughters were born, grew up and left home. When I took a job in Texas, Roberta and I and the rubber plant relocated to Kerrville. The moving company said it would never survive the trip. But it did. And today the rubber plant has never looked better. Given my age, the plant is sixty years old (even older if my mom actually got it when she was in the hospital).

It was a “goner” a couple of times. Too much water by caretakers when we traveled. No sun or water in the back of a moving van. We repotted the plant several times and found putrid soil and sparse roots. Somehow the rubber tree always struggled back to good health.

I have a special connection with this plant. It has been a part of my life for so long that it is part of me. Roberta keeps it going – the right amount of water and whatever else is needed. I wouldn’t trust it to anyone else.

One of the reasons I enrolled in Master Gardeners was to learn how to propagate plants. COVID cut short the 2020 curriculum and my class missed the propagation session. Fortunately, Donna Bellis and her team put together a special session for those of us who missed this important lesson. I will be there. And everything I learn will be put into propagating a certain rubber plant.

## Meet the Hill Country Master Gardener Class of 2022



**Front row left to right:** Mary Mechler, Kay Nelson, Lynn Rice, Jodi Tippens, Tex Lang, Al Rice, Rae Raiford, Tish Hulett, Pat Corbin, Brian DeFord

**Middle row left to right:** Becky Leal, Julie Lewis, Cattina Gonzalez, Shannon Stuteville, Angelica Vela, Lisa Cantini, Debbie Castillo, Barbara Castillo, Donna Hugly, Lisa Goff, Sandy Corbin

**Back row left to right:** Phil Roberson, Kathy Enke, Cindy Shackelford, Kaysi Craig, Sheridan Stringer, Molly Richardson, Diane McRae, Aimee Tennant, Michael Bell



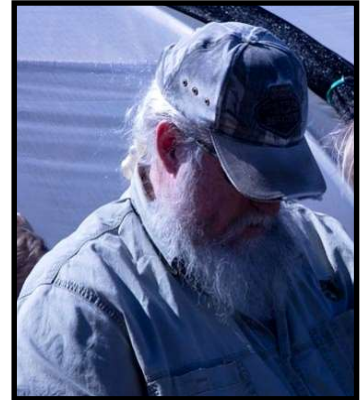
**George Cates** began interning for Native American Seed in 2002 and was hired full time after graduating Austin College in 2006 with a B.A. in Environmental Studies. For the past 19 years, he has led many NAS prairie restorations, managed seed production on the Farm in Junction, TX, and managed harvest operations across the many ecoregions of Texas. George currently manages NAS consulting and land management, farming and production, harvesting, and seed processing operations. He even chips in when the phones are busy. His new endeavors include greenhouse production of rare hand collections and hard to propagate native species to add more diversity to NAS offerings. He has a remarkable capacity for looking at problems as “challenges” and the willingness to learn that is a priceless asset. He loves to teach and share what he has learned through his experiences, especially to his son Fisher and the next generation of land stewards.

## Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG



**New Varieties**



This year I decided to try some new tomato varieties after receiving the catalog from Baker Creek. The two tomato varieties I chose were Black Beauty and Black Strawberry. They sent a free complimentary package of Thorburn's Terra-Cotta. It will be interesting to see how these fare in the sun and heat of our Hill Country growing season.



**Starting Mix**

It's been a few years since I have started plants from seed so I checked out some videos on the internet. I have some growing trays with clear plastic domes from the last time I started seeds. I also have a few heated grow mats. I thought maybe a new grow light was in order so off to Amazon I went. I found an LED grow light that clamped to the edge of the counter with flexible arms so I can maneuver the light exactly where I want it. All in all, I'm pleased with the set up.

I found a DIY video on seed starting mix so off the store to get materials, Sphagnum Peat Moss and Vermiculite. I use Peat Moss in my raised beds and pots, mixed with Garden Soil, Compost, Perlite and Fertilizer. For the starting mix, I only used Peat Moss and Vermiculite. This mixture works well for keeping the starting mix loose and the Vermiculite helps with this as well. Truth be known, you could probably eliminate the Vermiculite and do just fine, but I tend to be a bit of a traditionalist and that's OK. The Peat Moss works well at pulling water up from the trays. You don't want to water new seeds from the top as that can dislodge the seeds that are trying to establish new roots, always water from below.



**Seedling Set Up**

I only filled the plastic pots about one-third of the way with the seed starting mix. From a video, I was reminded that tomatoes will send out roots when their stem comes in contact with soil. By only filling one-third of the pot at first, this allows room for adding soil around the stem as the seedling grows. This will increase the roots put out by the seedlings. This made sense to me since I routinely bury tomato transplants as deep as I can when they go into the garden later in the spring. As the seedlings grew, I added soil around the stem until I finally filled the small pots with the starting mix. I started using the grow light once the seedlings broke ground. I turn the grow light on first thing in the morning and turn it off just before bed at night. So far everything seems to be working fine. Next step will be to transfer the seedlings into six-inch pots and get them outside. The seedlings are too small and it's still a bit too cool to put them out for now.

**“Neither Snow, Nor Rain, Nor Heat”**

By Vickie Killeen, MG

Hey, HCMG may have stolen the postman’s motto! No sooner had the ice melted from Winter Storm Landon, than volunteers potted up new plants for our upcoming Blooms & Barrels sale on April 9, 2022. Assembled pots of fertilized soil were prepared by Janice Walker, Sandy Martin, Jackie Connelly and Fernando Gonzales earlier in the day so that potting could be completed by mid afternoon. Plants in both greenhouses benefitted by Fernando and Joe Goette removing the shade cloths allowing more sunlight in. Now all those babies need is to GROW!



Above: Here’s the party crowd! Clockwise from left: Pam Umstead, Debbie Bacon, Linda Fawcett, Janell Dahms and Dee Dunton.



Left: Basking in the warm sunshine, Jan Sewell and Pam Umstead enjoy chatting while potting Bicolor Sage.



Left: Tom Collins takes extra care with some cold damaged Turk’s Cap. While the greenhouses’ heaters protected most of the plants, a little cosmetic damage occurred which will be outgrown by the sale.

Right: To help our plants develop strong root systems, Jeanine Capeheart snips off buds early in the growing season.



## “Neither Snow, Nor Rain, Nor Heat”

By Vickie Killeen, MG

1. President Dave Kinneberg, Anne Goette and Joe Goette take a brief break from potting plants to smile for the camera.

2. Greenhouse chairman Fernando Gonzales is always looking for space to squeeze a few more pots into.

3. Root-bound Maximilian’s Sunflower and Santolina get plenty of growing room thanks to Janice Walker, Sandy Martin and Jeanine Capeheart.



## Pot Party

Photo Credit: Dee Dunton

Left: Bernadell Larson, Judy Beauford and Debbie Bacon

Below: Gayle Anderson, Bernadell Larson, Judy Beauford, Debbie Bacon (hidden) and Imelda Horne



Left to right: Darla Cluster, Donna Bellis under the purple hat, and Deb Bass

# Plantastic Gardening Seminar

March 4th, 2022

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION



**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
MARCH 1ST 2022**

**8:30am - 9:00am Registration**

**9:00am - 10:15am Welcome**

Cover crops for Gardens (Justin Duncan)

**10:30am - 11:45am**

Soil Health in Gardens (Justin Duncan)

**11:45am - 12:30pm Lunch**

**12:30pm - 1:15pm Breakout Session 1**

- Tomatoes (Connie Townsend)
- Basic Gardening 101 (Pat Wolters)
- Vegetable Transplants: Traditional Pots & Soil Blocks (Beth McMahon)

**1:30pm - 2:15pm Breakout Session 2**

- Tomatoes (Connie Townsend)
- Container Gardening (Allen Mace)
- Growing Fruits in the Texas Hill Country (Beth McMahon)

**2:25pm - 3:10pm Breakout Session 3**

- Container Gardening (Allen Mace)
- Gardening 101 (Pat Wolters)
- Growing Fruits in the Texas Hill Country (Beth McMahon)

**3:10pm - 3:30pm Q & A Session**

**\*\*A paper registration copy is available by request \*\***

**DOOR  
PRIZES**

## Location:

38 Business Ct.  
Fredericksburg  
Tx 78624

Please Contact  
the Gillespie  
County  
Extension Office  
for more  
information at  
(830) 997-3452

## Cost:

Pre-Registration  
\$35 lunch included

\$25 no lunch  
included

Day of program:

\$25 no lunch  
included

Please use the  
QR code below  
to register  
online

\*\*A \$2 fee is applied to  
online registration\*\*



**HCMG MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING -**  
February 2, 2022

Hill Country Youth Event Center

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation – Rachel Garrison. Additionally, Rachel shared Psalms 16:6, appropriate to our group.

Verification of Quorum – Rita Aliperto

Welcome – Dave Kinneberg welcomed all to the meeting and asked if anyone had guests that wanted to introduce themselves or to be introduced. Pam Umstead introduced a visitor, a friend from Pennsylvania. Debbie Lea and Janice Walker introduced guests that will be students in the upcoming 2022 HCMG class. Debbie and Janice will be mentoring them.

Approval of Minutes from January 5, 2022, monthly meeting (in the last newsletter). Marge Muniz moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Melayne Arnold.

Approval of January financial statement – Rachel Garrison spoke on entries on the report which was provided to the membership.

Announcements

Plant Sale – Janell Dahms reiterated the 3 most important dates to our group: April 7 (spa day), April 8 (move day) and April 9 (sale day). The events are listed in VMS for members to sign up. She is encouraging everyone sign up for the sale. Janell’s team of volunteers have reached the point where 110 plants have been researched, reviewed and info sheets created. The sheets will have descriptions, pictures of the plants with close-ups of the leaves and flowers. It will also have the new logo. She passed around samples of what the

info sheets will look like. Additionally, she would like members to start saving/obtaining boxes for the plant sale that will be easy to manage and hold around four 1-gallon pots.

Greenhouse – Fernando Gonzalez reported that the greenhouse committee has been very busy. He expressed a sincere thank you to those who came to the recent “pot party”. Currently, there are 1,230 plants in the greenhouse. He noted that Darla Cluster had donated 28 Cenizo plants that she propagated at her home. The “pot party” scheduled for Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup> will be rescheduled for Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> due to the forecasted inclement weather. There will be approximately 270 plants to pot, plus those donated by Darla. Fernando estimated that another 500-700 plants will still be purchased. Jackie Connelly or Dave Kinneberg will be adding the plant list to the HCMG website. Members are encouraged to share the website link with the public.

Education – Donna Bellis exclaimed the 2022 HCMG class is just 2 weeks away! There are 31 registered students for class and 5 on the waiting list. Because of the weather, the Facilitator class scheduled for February 3<sup>rd</sup> has been cancelled. Instead of receiving training, each Facilitator will be accompanied by an experienced person. The class of 2020 will have the opportunity to attend a Propagation class arranged just for them. They should check the e-Minders for the details. They are also invited to attend the Landscaping class along with the 2022 students.

Glory Community Garden – Pam Umstead was excited to speak about a new collaboration project that will benefit the Glory Community Garden (GCG). She explained that Jeremy Walther from the Pint and Plow Brewing Company has been brewing a seasonal beer called Apple Glory Brown Ale for about a month or so. The apples are from the Apple Store in Medina. The “Glory” in the name refers to the GCG. The ale should be ready

*Continued on page 9*



***Minutes continued from page 8***

sometime in February. The way it works is, you buy a glass of Apple Glory Brown Ale at Pint and Plow, Mr. Walther will donate the proceeds from the glass to the GCG. Pam requested that everyone spread the word.

Thank You – Angela Fiedler from the Kerr County Extension Office sent HCMG a thank-you note, commending all the HCMGs for all that we do for the community. Dave read it to the group.

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – This is coming up quickly, so if anyone has any suggestions, they should contact Dave Kinneberg.

**Announcements from the Floor-**

Melayne Arnold reported that she is the new Logo Wear Committee Chairperson and to let her know if you wish to order anything. There are forms in the office to fill out. She will be placing the order in mid-March.

Patty Zohlen finished revising the HCMG Member Handbook and has sent it out to the membership. She asked that if you haven't received one, to please let her know.

Adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rita Aliperto,  
Secretary HCMG

**I hope ice storms don't become our  
February tradition.**

**Photo by Vickie Killeen, MG**



**Dave Kinneberg presenting geranium to raffle  
winner, Barbara Banks  
Photo by Patti Schlessiger, MG**



**Hill Country Master Gardeners 2022**

**Executive Committee**

Dave Kinneberg  
*President*

Patti Schlessiger  
*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 & Website**

*Newsletter Editor*  
 Pat Wolters

*Associate Newsletter Editor*  
 Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to  
 Judy Beauford for proofreading

*Photographer*  
 Mark Shultz

**Submissions to**

**Pat Wolters, Editor**

Patwolters2865  
 @hotmail.com

or

Newsletter.editor.hcmg  
 @gmail.com

**NEW BEER RELEASE FROM PINT & PLOW!!**

*Part of our Community Collaboration series - partnering with local efforts making Kerrville a better place - Apple Glory Brown Ale!*

*This dark ale has a malty base of caramel and fig, a creamy head and an effortless finish. A mix of Gala and Honeycrisp apples from @orchardslovecreek adds the most subtle essence of fresh pressed apples. 5.0% ABV.*

*Portion of sales from these fancy goblets goes to **Glory Community Garden**, supporting their efforts to connect food security and craft agriculture in the Doyle Neighborhood in Kerrville.*



**TGIF at Pint & Plow – 332 Clay Street, Kerrville**  
 HCMG Dee Dunton, Patty Zohlen, Pam Umstead and Jackie Connelly meet for lunch and to sample Apple Glory Brown Ale. Purchase of the souvenir goblets benefits Glory Community Gardens.