

March 2018  
Volume 16, Issue 3

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**HCMG will meet on  
March 7, 2018**

**Location:  
UGRA Auditorium  
125 Lehmann Dr.  
Kerrville**

**1:00 - Meeting  
2:00 - Program  
"Gardening Made Simple,"  
David Will  
(details on page 2)**



**TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION**

*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"*



*Jackie Skinner*

## President's Message

Valentine's Day, America's annual observance of hearts and flowers, has spotlighted my ineptitude in the art of sending and reading messages in plant-speak. We all know there exists a language of flowers, but beyond red roses designating passion and yellow ones friendship, I pretty much don't get it. Curious about the silent chatty chat emanating from my backyard perennials, I set my fingers to walking over several shelves of garden books, locating two small volumes on this subject. Their pages illuminated all sorts of symbolism.

But because much of it was created by England's Victorians (for Lilies of the Valley, Gardenias, Peonies, Lilacs, etc.), rendering it useless under our difficult Hill Country conditions, my garden doesn't have a lot to say. Herbs are the exception; the Greeks and Romans were apparently horti-lingual and were kind enough to pass on the word(s).

After wading through the alphabets of my flower phone books, I ferreted out several that sometimes survive in our own "back 40's." And, as in every language, there are nuances to be considered. When the stems are up, such as when you're bending over or sweeping up leaves, their traditional messages become the opposite (i.e. "Roses are red, violets are blue, dirty feet stink and so do you.") When Duane Robinson wears a posy over his heart, he's saying, "I LOVE the way Jackie Connelly organizes my specialist classes. If, instead, it's pinned in his hair, he's saying, "I'm exercising CAUTION as I approach Linda Proffitt about serving three days-worth of meals at my next specialist class." In bouquets, if ribbons are tied to the left, the message refers to the giver; to the right, the receiver. So if Terrie Clark gives Jerry a cluster of rosemary and lavender tied with a ribbon on the left, she's saying, "I remember how you flirted with that cute student at last year's HCMG trainee graduation." If the ribbon is on the right, she's saying, "I remember how you flirted with that cute student at last year's HCMG trainee graduation." Understandably, circular bouquets may be difficult to read.

Amaryllis	Pride	Lily	Purity
Carnations (Red)	Alas for my poor heart	Marigold	Grief
Carnations (Striped)	Refusal	Pansy	Thoughts
Chrysanthemums (Red)	I love	Poppy	Extravagance
Chrysanthemums (Yellow)	Slighted Love	Rose (Red)	Passion
Chrysanthemum (White)	Truth	Rose (Yellow)	Friendship
Columbine	Folly	Rose (Pink)	Romance
Daffodil	Regard	Rose (White)	Grief
Iris	Message	Rosemary	Remembrance
Lavender	Distrust	Tulip	Love

Elizabeth Barrett Browning once wrote,

"...Young maids may wonder if the flowers or meanings be the sweeter."  
Just be sure to know what you're saying before you send off that flower-gram.

### **HCMG 2018, Calendar of Events** 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. We try to limit the listed events to those that would earn our members CEUs. Please verify the event with the provider.*

**March 6, NPSOT Boerne**, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Cathy Downs, Hill Country Master Naturalist and Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist will present "Milkweeds are Tricky Business." Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. Visitors welcome.

**March 7, Hill Country Master Gardeners**, 1:00 p.m. business meeting, 2:00 p.m., David Will, landscape contractor, president and founder of the Lindheimer chapter of NPSOT and founder of the Hill Country chapter of NPSOT will present "Gardening Made Simple," including how to garden without tilling the soil and without the need for harsh pesticides and how to grow tastier food. Upper Guadalupe River Authority Auditorium. HCMGs, interns and trainees.

**March 13, NPSOT Kerrville**, 1:30 p.m. Anne Brown, Hill Country Master Gardener, will present propagation of native plants. Riverside Nature Center. Visitors welcome.

**March 14, Rose Garden Club of Medina**, 2:00 p.m. Beth Potter Patterson, Education Coordinator for the Texas Lavender Association and owner of Lavender & Old Lace, will present "Lavender in the Bed and in the Garden." Medina Community Center. Visitors welcome.

**March 17, Cibolo Nature Center**, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Organic Gardening 101 – all the basics you need to start growing your own food organically. \$15, register at [www.cibolo.org](http://www.cibolo.org) or 830.249.4616. Herff Farm. Public.

**March 20, Hunt Garden Club**. 10:00 a.m. Lucy Griffith, certified master naturalist and rancher proposes that with daily attention, land restoration and healing are possible. Hunt United Methodist Church. Visitors Welcome.

#### **Addresses for Events Listed Above**

Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library, 505 Water Street, Kerrville  
Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Road, Boerne  
Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension Service, 95 Frederick Road, Fredericksburg  
Herff Farm, 33 Herff Road, Boerne  
Hill Country African Violets and Nursery, 32005 I-10, Boerne

**March 20, Kerr County Cactus & Succulent Society**, 7:00 p.m. Program to be announced, Butt- Holdsworth Memorial Library. Always confirm date time and location. Visitors welcome.

**March 27, NPSOT Fredericksburg**, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Bridget Langdale, who works with the International Dark Sky Organization and the Hill Country Alliance, will present "Dark Skies and Why They Matter," including how light pollution affects plants and a variety of pollinators in a negative way, and why our plants and gardens need hours of dark sky. Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

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

**March 1:** Projects tour, Fredericksburg; Plant Pathology/Kim Cochran, Gillespie County AgriLife Ext. Ofc.

**March 6:** Field trip, Boerne: Herff Farms; Hill Country African Violets and Nursery.

**March 8:** Introduction to Landscaping Principles in the Hill Country/Dennis Hale; Ornamental, Native, and Turf Grasses/Dennis Hale

**March 13:** Plants of the Hill Country/Kathy Lyles/Gillespie County AgriLife Ext. Ofc.; field trip, Kathy Lyles' property.

**March 15:** Vegetable Gardening in the Hill Country/Dr. Jerry Parsons; Organic Gardening/Patty Leander.

**March 20:** Propagation/Duane Robinson; Garden Planting and Maintenance, hands-on lab/Duane Robinson.

**March 22:** Volunteer Opportunities; Research Desk/Patty Zohlen and Jackie Connelly.

**March 27:** Graduation or makeup day.

**March 29:** Graduation, if 27th is a makeup day.

Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 TX-27, Kerrville  
Hunt United Methodist Church, 120 Merritt Road, Hunt  
Medina Community Center, 13857 State Hwy 16N, Medina  
Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam Street, FBG  
Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville  
Upper Guadalupe River Authority Auditorium, 125 Lehmann Drive, Kerrville



## Hill Country Veggies

March 2018

By Allen Mace

It's starting to get warmer and the days are becoming just a little bit longer. These are the signs that winter is almost over and spring is just around the corner. Here in Comfort, our average last freeze date is around the 18th of March. Those of you in Kerrville or Fritz Town, your average last freeze date may be later, say around the 1st of April, or even later. The average last freeze date is just an aiming point for when you can expect the temperature to not fall below freezing, 32 degrees Fahrenheit, again. This is not set in stone. Back in the mid 90's, I had a freeze on April 15th one year. Needless to say, I lost a lot of plants that year and had to start over.

The key to planting vegetables is soil temperature. Your soil temp needs to be in the mid 60's or your transplants are just going to sit there and do nothing. Any seeds that are in the ground, probably won't germinate either. So, what are we to do if we just can't wait to put the vegetable garden in? Well, and that's a deep subject, you can start by cleaning up the garden from your fall and winter plantings. As of this writing, I must confess, that my garden is still a mess. Life happens and sometimes we don't always keep on track, and that's OK. Fast forward into the future a few weeks, and hopefully the garden



**Waiting onions**

should look better. But, I did have the foresight to at least get some tomatoes started in smaller pots. I've been putting them out on nice sunny days and bringing them in at night. When the night's stay above 40 degrees, I've been leaving them out, and out of the reach of the local deer population. I picked up some onions sets a few weeks ago. They can go into the ground any time, unfortunately mine

have not. They are still in a container of moist soil waiting to be planted. Like I said before, life happens and we don't always stay on track. Oh well. There's still plenty of time and all is not lost. The local nurseries are just now starting to get their plants in. There is a nursery south of Boerne (Hill Country African Violets & Nurseries, 320 US IH 10) that should be getting herbs in soon. I always enjoy going through their greenhouses this time of year.

Just wanted to give a shout out to Beth McMahon. She did a great job with the **Plantastic Vegetable Gardening** program that she held the first week of February in Fredericksburg. I met many new people, some new to the Hill Country. It was lots of fun, and hopefully she'll be able to continue the program into the future.



**Tomatoes**



## HILL COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER CLASS OF 2018

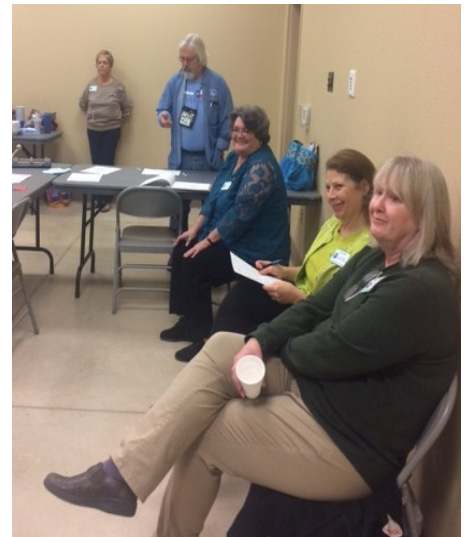


Front row from left: Claire Nelms, Anne Goette, Janet Welty, Karen Buck, Kathy Harris, & Jonathan Johnson

Middle row: Susan Roberts, Betsy Scheffe, Jeanette Masek, & Fernando Gonzales

Back row: Joseph Goette, Dennis Davidson, Christine Davis, Donna Bellis, & Janell Dahms

Members of the Education Committee attending orientation  
From Left: Carol Edwards, Duane Robinson, Jackie Connelly,  
Lydia Jones and Debra Foley





Kerrville Mayor Bonnie White greets HCGM  
Ronda McIlvain before the program.



The calm before the storm! With preparations  
completed, Anne Brown and Jackie Connelly relax  
before the rush of registration.

## Green Stormwater Infrastructure Seminar Attracts a Full House

UGRA, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, HCGM and the City of Kerrville sponsor a public educational program at the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Auditorium in Kerrville on January 31, 2018.

PHOTO CREDIT: Vickie Killeen



Jackie Connelly and Melayne Arnold help  
out at the HCGM booth.



HCGM helped where there was a need to ensure  
that the seminar was successful. Melayne Arnold,  
Raeann Reid, Debra Foley, Meg Scott-Johnson and  
Lydia Jones pitch in to set up the luncheon provided  
by the City of Kerrville.

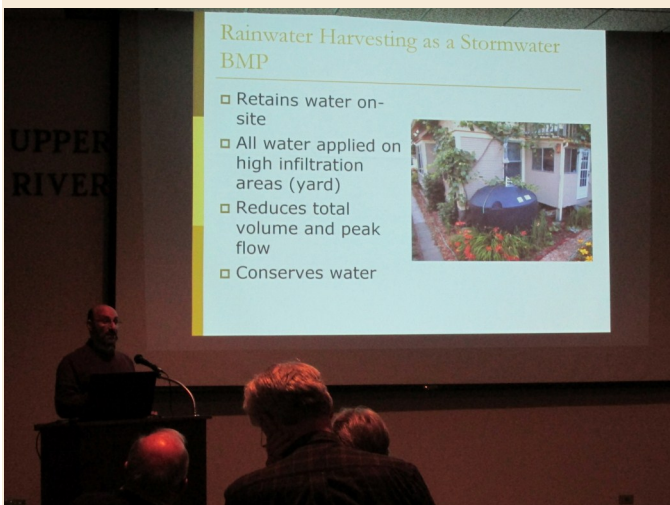


## Green Stormwater Infrastructure Seminar continued



Left: County Agent Roy Walston chats with UGRA General Manager Ray Buck, HCMG Frank Dunlap and UGRA Natural Resources Technician Travis Linscomb before the start of the program.

Right: Featured Speaker Fouad H. Jaber, PhD, PE, Associate Professor & Extension Specialist with Biological & Agricultural Engineering, Texas A&M AgriLife at Dallas Research & Extension Center visits with Kerr County Extension Agent Roy Walston and UGRA Natural Resources Coordinator Tara Bushnoe.



Attendees learn how rainwater harvesting has a positive impact on storm water runoff.



Few seats were empty with 75 people registered for the program.



Chris Seifert lead break out sessions on raised bed gardening and composting.

Photo Credit:  
Pat Wolters



Kim Courtright and Raeanne Reid at the registration table.

## Plantastic

Vegetable Gardening Mini-Seminar

February 2, 2018

Gillespie County Farm Bureau Center

45 people attended this informative workshop provided by Master Gardener vegetable specialists and Beth McMahon, horticulture agent.



Above: Beth McMahon, Gillespie County Horticulture agent, spoke on general principles of gardening and growing potatoes.



Above: Allen Mace demonstrated growing tomatoes, onions and garlic in the Hill Country. Not pictured, Lydia Jones covered foodscaping and herbs.

Below: Question & Answer session with Allen Mace, Lydia Jones, Chris Seifert and Beth McMahon





More than 800 Plants Potted by 31 Volunteers in 2 Mornings!  
A great start towards an outstanding Blooms and Barrels sale. Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



Sixteen volunteers potted more than 400 new plants on a cold January morning. Greenhouse #1, "Old Faithful", sheltered the potters and the plants from blustery weather. Front, from left: Dee Dunton, Janice Walker, Anne Brown and Sandy Martin. Back row, from left: Tom Collins, Sandy Lewis, Terrie Clark, Jerry Clark, Jeanine Capeheart, John Walker, Debbie Bacon, Nancy Person, Shawn Richard, Raeann Reid, Pat Wolters and Rachel Garrison.



Friday morning volunteers finished potting plants and moved many of them into our newly furnished Greenhouse #2. From left: Anne Brown, Tom Collins, Jackie Connelly, Judy Beauford, John Walker, Caroll Edwards, Sandy Lewis (hiding in the plumbago), Janice Walker, Caryl Hartman, Bernadell Larsen, Sandy Martin, Debbie Bacon, Patty Zohlen and Edna Platt.



## Pot Parties

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



Left: The first step in getting our plants into pots that they will call home for 3 months is preparing pots. Greenhouse Committee member Janice Walker, assisted by her generous-with-his-time husband, John, places coffee filters into the bottom of the pot. The filters help hold the soil in place until the root systems fill out.

Right: Immature rock rose (*Pavonia lasiometela*) will flourish after being carefully potted by Bernadell Larson, Sandy Martin, Judy Beauford and Patty Zohlen.



Right: Greenhouse Committee member Anne Brown (third from right) demonstrates the HCMG technique for potting geraniums for Nancy Person, Jeanine Capeheart and Sandy Martin. Once potted, the blooms and buds are snipped off to encourage rapid root development. Debudding continues until 3 weeks before the sale in addition to routine fertilizing.

Below: Jerry Clark mixes up the HCMG "secret recipe" for rich soil by the barrelful, while Rachel Garrison scoops the mixture into pots to get transplanting started.



Below: Shawn Richard, Raeann Reid, Terrie Clark and Debbie Bacon make a happy foursome while helping to pot 60 multicolored Fantasia Geraniums on a blustery January morning.



**MINUTES FOR HCMG BUSINESS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 7, 2018  
HILL COUNTRY YOUTH EVENTS CENTER**

Our meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Jackie Skinner, at the conclusion of our quarterly potluck lunch. The pledge of allegiance was led by member Bob Huff, followed by an invocation by Patty Zohlen. Jackie Connelly, acting for Secretary Patti Schlessiger, confirmed attendance by at least 71 members/students, granting us our quorum.

Jackie Connelly, acting for our Treasurer Bernadell Larsen, distributed the monthly Treasurer's Report as well as HCMG's 2018 budget. A motion to approve these reports was made by Duane Robinson and seconded by Jan Grimes.

A motion to accept the December business meeting minutes was made by Anne Brown, followed by a second by Debra Foley. Both motions were affirmed by members.

Anne Brown reported that the door to our new greenhouse was installed and the benches in place. Plants are now being housed there, even though one electrical issue remains to be resolved. She also asked for help from members and students to keep our plants watered between now and their sale at Blooms & Barrels on April 14th. Sadly for us, she also announced the resignation of her and Sandy Lewis as Co-Chairmen of the Greenhouse Committee, after our 2019 Blooms & Barrel sale. She asked members to consider training for the job so their replacements would be ready to take over after their resignation.

Judy Beauford and Shirley Smith announced their plans to conduct a tour of Cultivar Farms sometime after Blooms & Barrels. An announcement of time and place for a carpool field trip, plus a signup spot on VMS will be established and announced on an e-minder message.

Appreciation was expressed for Linda Proffitt's orchestration of our December meeting and Christmas lunch, and also to Rachel Garrison for her organization of our HCMG's annual charitable gift. Rachel read a thank you note from Hill Country Cares Ministries. Jackie Connelly was also applauded for her extensive work to assure all member milestones, recognition and achievement awards were made.

New members, transferred from other counties were introduced: Shari Worsham from Tarrant County, Nancy Adkins, Ginny Frederick, Linda Horton, and Beth Nevois of Bexar County. The meeting was also attended by students Anne and Joe Goette, Chris Davis, Janet Welty, Claire Nelms,

Fernando Gonzales, and Betsy Scheffe.

It was pointed out that membership count is up to 105 members from 92 in January 2017. Liz Althaus was pleased to note that all background check forms due this year have been submitted to A&M for processing.

Mentor Carl Luckenbach presented certification to Stan Zwinggi. A photo will appear in our next newsletter, compliments of photographer Jim Latham.

Lydia Jones announced the 2018 student training class is successfully underway. HCMG has joined the Gillespie County Chamber of Commerce to more thoroughly promote our chapter through new channels now open to us. This year's class is 15 students.

Attending Special Project Coordinators were applauded for their onsite efforts. Posting signage acknowledging HCMG contributions were offered to coordinators. Any of them who still need a sign were asked to contact President Jackie Skinner who is currently acting as Special Projects Chairman.

Duane Robinson reported on election of new TMG officers, and disclosed that as of 2019, student manuals will take digital form. It isn't known whether printed volumes will still be available. Pam Umstead encouraged members to attend the annual conference in March with a description of the fun, information, and new acquaintances to be made there.

Duane also announced our hosting of a Greenhouse Specialist class to be held at the Hill Country Youth Events Center on May 23 – 25th. Because of the enthusiastic response from Texas Master Gardeners, he will raise the limit of attendees to 50, almost half of whom have already enrolled.

Jackie Connelly, Coordinator of 2018 Blooms and Barrels, explained the event to new members and students. She invited participation of everyone, sitting April 13 (all day) and 14 (8:30 – 2:00) as key dates for us to be available to lend a hand. Caryl Hartman spoke of a sale table at B&B offering customers our gently used and new garden tools. Members were encouraged to clear out their storage area and make donations. Where and when these donations will be collected are yet to be determined. An announcement will be made via e-minder.

Linda Proffitt asked for help and donation of small herb plants for her information table at the Hill Country Memorial Hospital Wellness Council event on March 8, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. The Native Plant Society is awarding annual grants for the creation of Monarch Habitat Gardens. The Hill Country Arts

***Continued on page 11***





## Pot Parties

Left: Caryl Hartman toughed out chilly morning temps to ensure that this little flame acanthus (*Anisacanthus wrightii*) got off to a great start.

Right: Taking a break from mixing soil, Tom Collins proudly shows us his Annual Great Texas Mosquito Chase commemorative shirt.

**Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen**



Left: Pat Wolters and Jeanine Capeheart chat while potting Mexican Bush Sage (*Salvia leucantha*). These late summer-early fall bloomers always sell out at the Blooms & Barrels. They are well suited to Hill Country conditions and are not a preferred menu item of white tail deer.

Right: Vickie Killeen briefly pauses her picture taking to pose with Nancy Person.



## MINUTES Continued from page 10

Foundation is requesting a display booth speaker to discuss the building of a terrarium garden.

The Kerr County Farmer's Market has asked us to post an information table and possibly provide speakers occasionally for their weekly Wednesday assemblage. Times and dates are our option. If provided timely notice, they will publicize our speakers to encourage attendance.

Two new projects are underway: St. Mary's Elementary School – a children's learning garden – headed up by Stan Zwinggi; and Our Lady of the Hills High School – needing a vegetable gardening advisor for high school gardeners – volunteer needed. If interested, contact Chris Seifert.

Pam Umstead described the tremendous turnout at UGRA's "Green Stormwater Infrastructure" seminar held on January 31st. She thanked the HCMG volunteers who helped to make the program run smoothly. The Kerr County Extension Office

and HCMG worked in concert with UGRA to host this event.

Three positions are currently open to members: Special Project Chairman, Information Booth Supply Manager, Interim Demonstration Garden Chairman (through this year; a chairman has volunteered to take the job after this year). Co-workers for all sections of the demonstration garden maintenance are being sought. Also, trainees for Greenhouse Chairmanship are needed.

The March CEU Program will be open to the public. Speaker David Will has chosen "Gardening Made Simple" as his topic. The March business meeting and CEU program will be held at the UGRA Conference Room, 125 Lehman Drive. Meeting at 1:00 p.m., CEU program at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Skinner

## Newly Certified Master Gardener

Carl Luckenbach, mentor,  
Presents the  
Master Gardener  
Certificate to  
Stan Zwinggi

Photo Credit: Jim Latham



## More News from the Greenhouse

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen

Left: Anne Brown, Tom Collins, Sandy Lewis and John Walker (Janice Walker's very helpful husband) maneuver three recently delivered large tables into the new greenhouse. Woo-hoo! More space for our crowded plants.



Right: It's here! The Greenhouse Committee proudly shows off the 2017 greenhouse's newly installed 4-foot-wide door. From left: Sandy Lewis, Janice Walker and Anne Brown bring in the first of the 2018 Blooms and Barrels starter plants.





1



## Interns and Mentors

1. Janet Welty & Debbie Bacon
2. Betsy Scheffe & Linda Proffitt
3. Donna Bellis & Pat Wolters
4. Claire Nelms & Dusty Gilliam
5. Shawn Richards & Chris Davis
6. Anne Brown & Fernando Gonzales
7. Janell Dahms & Melayne Arnold
8. Jeanette Masek & Jackie Skinner
9. Raeann Reid & Dennis Davidson

2



8



9



3



7



Photo Credit: Pat Wolters



4



6



5



**Hill Country Master  
Gardeners 2018****Executive  
Committee**

Jackie Skinner  
*President*

Wil Rolfe  
*Vice President*

Patti Schlessiger  
*Secretary*

Bernadell Larson  
*Treasurer*

Debra Rosario  
*Ex-officio Advisor*

Roy Walston  
*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

*Event Page Editor*  
Raeann Reid

*Webmaster*  
Debra Rosario

**Submissions to**

Newsletter.editor.hcmg@  
gmail.com

# Lot's going on at the Glory Community Garden

*Submitted by Pam Umstead*

## Cowboy Breakfast Fundraiser

**Glory Community Garden  
Kerrville**

Saturday, March 3

Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Chili at noon until...  
corner of W. Davis and Webster  
*come and go event*

Come see the new pavilion  
and water catchment system.

**Kids Activities**

