

May 2019

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HCMG will meet on
May 1, 2019

at

Upper Guadalupe River
Authority (UGRA)
125 Lehmann Drive
Kerrville

1:00 - Business Meeting
2:00 - UGRA EduScape
Project

Tara Bushnoe,
UGRA's Natural Resources
Coordinator



**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, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity".

President's Message

"The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The next best time is now."
– Chinese proverb

When I was a little girl, people always told me that I looked like my father. I guess it was because I had dark eyes and hair like his. As I grew to adulthood, I realized that there were things about my father that I "caught" rather than inherited. One of the things I caught was my love of trees. My father grew up in northern Ohio, home to lush forests and lots of fruit trees. Although I was raised in south and central Texas, my father, like Johnny Appleseed, planted trees each time we moved.

Many years ago, my husband and I moved to Spring, Texas, just north of Houston. Besides our two-story house, our small corner lot had an incredible number of very tall pine trees, about 20. It wasn't long before we had first hand knowledge of the devastation caused by the pine bark beetle. A few years later, during a thunderstorm, we had lightning strike a huge pine tree near the front of our home. The strike blew a large section of bark off of the tree, but worse than that, it arced off the tree and caused a great deal of damage to our house. We have also lived in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Ohio. In Pennsylvania we saw many acres of hardwood trees defoliated by the gypsy moth. It was almost unbelievable to realize the damage caused by a moth. But, in Pennsylvania and Ohio, we enjoyed all of the beautiful fall colors given by the maples and oaks. Those beautiful trees turned red, burgundy, and golden giving spectacular displays each autumn. Of course, we also had mountains of leaves to rake to the curb for the city to come by with trucks to vacuum them up for disposal. Many people burned their leaves. I can almost smell the burning leaves as I think about them. The Connecticut fall wasn't as beautiful to me, as the sugar maples, ashes, birches, and hickories seem to provide more yellow and gold colors with much less of the red tones.

Besides living in various states, we have also had the pleasure of visiting many places. Years ago I saw the result of a forest fire in New Mexico that had burned many acres of trees. **(continued on page 4)**



Rachel Garrison

HCMG 2019 Continuing Education Opportunities prepared by Racann 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.

May 1, 1:00 p.m. business meeting, 2:00 p.m., Hill Country Master Gardeners. Tara Bushnoe, Upper Guadalupe River Authority's Natural Resources Coordinator, and HCMG committee members will explain the UGRA EduScape project. Tour of the EduScape will follow. UGRA Auditorium. HCMGs, interns.

May 3, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Kerr County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cow Pokes & Land Folks Conference annual field day: agriculture and wildlife tax valuation, oak wilt and ball moss, pesticide laws and regulations, use of sheep and goats in weed and brush management, UGRA landowner programs (meet the local game warden, eminent domain and property law and plant identification). Early bird registration \$30, or \$45 at the door. For more information, contact KCSWCD at 830.896.4911. Not all of the conference qualifies as CEUs for HCMGs. Hill Country Youth Event Center.

May 7, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. AgriLife will present the Healthy Lawns Healthy Waters Turf Program. Free soil sample analysis to everyone attending. Learn how to properly fertilize your lawn, improve irrigation efficiency, turf selection for local growing conditions, and how to capture rainwater and use it for landscape irrigation. Free. Preregister at hlhw.tamu.edu/workshops/2019/may-7-boerne/. Boerne Library.

May 7, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m., NPSOT Boerne. Dr. Jimmy Black, President of the San Antonio Cactus & Xerophyte Society, will present "Cacti Native to the Texas Hill Country." Cibolo Nature Center Aud. Visitors welcome.

May 8, Rose Garden Club of Medina. Installation of officers. Members only.

May 10, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Uvalde AgriLife will present the Vegetable and Wheat Spring Field Day, including hydroponics, high tunnels, tomato grafting, organic tests, soil health, crop development and production information on melon, watermelon, artichoke, peppers, onions, tomatoes and winter wheat. Free. Must RSVP by May 3 to Liza Silva at 830.278.9151 ext. 232 or lsilva@ag.tamu.edu. Uvalde County AgriLife Research Center.

May 10, 12:00-1:00 p.m. Gillespie County AgriLife, Beth McMahon and Shea Nebgen, GC AgriLife agents, will present "Grow It Cook It: Heat Beating Sweet Potatoes." Recipes and tastings included. Cost \$15, or \$25 for this program and

"Trendy Cauliflower" on September 6. Call GC Extension Office at 830.997.3452 to register. Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension Office.

May 11, 10:00-11:00 a.m., Gardening 101. HCMG Kim Courtright, will present "Harvesting and Composting." Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library. Free and open to the public.

May 14, NPSOT Kerrville. Field trip. Members only.

May 21, Hunt Garden Club. Installation of officers. Members only.

May 23, 1:00 p.m., Riverside Nature Center and UGRA, Pam Umstead, HCMG and member of the UGRA EduScape design team, will present a program on pervious hardscapes and the benefits of xeriscaping. Space is limited. RSVP to RNC at 830.257.4837 or mckerrville@gmail.com. UGRA classroom.

May 28, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m., NPSOT Fredericksburg. Shannon Brown, permaculture designer, holistic management practitioner and low impact development construction inspector, will present "Rainscaping – the Next Generation of Water-Wise Landscaping." Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

Addresses for Events Listed Above

Boerne Library, 451 N Main St, Bldg. #100, Boerne
Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library, 505 Water Street, KRVL
Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Rd, Boerne
Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Ext, 95 Frederick Rd, FBG
Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Highway 27, KRVL
Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam St, FBG
Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St, KRVL
Upper Guadalupe River Authority, 125 Lehmann Dr, KRVL
Uvalde TAMU AgriLife Research Center, 1619 Garner Field Rd, Uvalde





Hill Country Veggies

May 2019

By Allen Mace

The mesquite trees have leafed out, now is the time to put in the spring garden. It looks as though the

temperature is going to jump up into the high 80's or 90's soon. This might be one of those years when we go from winter to summer without passing spring. Time will tell.



Summer Squash

Summer squash is one of the easiest vegetables to grow. It needs space to grow out so don't crowd them. Most recommend that they be grown 3 or 4 plants in hills. Commercial growers plant them in rows. The recommendation to plant in hill would be simulate planting in raised bed with good soil drainage. As my grandmother once told me, "they don't like their feet wet". There are two types of squash, summer squash and winter squash. Summer squash will start producing fruit in about 60 to 70 days. We plant them in the spring and harvest throughout the summer. These would be your yellow squash and zucchinis. Winter squash can take as much as 180 days before their ready for harvest. These would be your butternut, acorn and spaghetti squash. Pumpkins will also be



Three Sisters

in this category. All squash like space to spread out. Growing them in hills may come from the native peoples growing squash, corn and beans together in mounds known as The Three Sisters. Squash is grown under the corn and beans use the

corn as structure to climb up. The squash provide protection from small critters that don't like walking through the squash vines. Early settlers probably observed the success of the native people and implemented their own version this technique. Native people would bury fish in the mounds, this would provide fertilizer for the plants. Beans add nitrogen to the soil and helps to feed the other plants they are planted with. It is not uncommon to find beans planted throughout my garden for this same reason You can buy seedlings at the nursery, but planting seeds is very easy. I like to place two or three seeds together and then thin then out later. I water early in the day and don't like the leaves to be wet when the sun goes down. Wet leaves at night will develop mildew very easily. There are squash bugs and vine borers that will attack squash plants. When the end of the squash vine dies, that's the vine borer. If you cut the dead part off, you might find the borer, kill it. If you notice leaves being chewed on, use a spray or dust to control them. Chemical or organic, that's your choice.

Like I said before, squash is easy to grow, and squash is good to eat. I like mine diced and sautéed in butter with just a pinch of salt.

Hill Country Master Gardeners Welcome “New Sprouts”



HCMG's Class of 2019 graduates are (seated from left): Mindy Skaggs, Sandra Yarbrough, Bee Evans, Darla Cluster, Peggy Ryan, Trudy Boardman, Linda Kaiser and Laurie Kilpatrick. (Standing from left) Paula Stone, Jeanne Hoverson, Bob Moore, Cruzita Hernandez, Susan Millis, Tina Woods, Cindy Poynter, Mimi Bouslog, Luci Nicley, Ray Tiemann, Jim Wilson, Mark Schultz, Donna Nutt and Karen Fuller. The graduates are residents of nine Hill Country communities: Bandera, Boerne, Center Point, Farmer's Branch, Fredericksburg, Ingram, Kerrville, Mountain Home and Pipe Creek. Not pictured: Shannon Barker.

*** Many thanks to Jackie Connelly who put the right names to all the smiling faces!**

PHOTO CREDIT: Vickie Killeen

See more graduation pictures on pages 12-13

President's message continued from page 1

It was a horrible sight to behold. In Florida, I've been fascinated by the sight of huge Banyan trees with their aerial roots. I have seen beautiful Bald Cypress trees with their knobby, above-ground "knees," that thrive along the San Antonio River walk. Perhaps my most memorable experience involving trees was our visit to northern California a couple of years ago. We spent several days among the Giant Redwoods and Giant Sequoias. If you have never seen them, add the trip to your bucket list. The sight of these giant trees will leave you breathless. General Sherman, the most giant of the sequoias, weighs 2.7 million pounds, stands 275 feet tall and is more than 100 feet wide. It has the title of the largest living organism on the planet. We don't have Giant Redwoods or Banyan trees in the Texas hill country. But, we do have a variety of beautiful oaks, as well as peach and pecan trees that yield delicious produce. Trees unique to our area are a valuable asset. If you love trees, and I know you do, remember that HCMG is hosting an Advanced Master Gardener – Tree Care training class June 12-14. If you would like to know more about trees and want to share that knowledge with others, sign-up for the training. We can use more members with advanced training in tree care. Only 4 applicants will be accepted from HCMG to take the class for certification. If you are unable to take the class and be certified, volunteer to help with the class. You'll be glad you did.

Students Visit Medina Garden Nursery



Photo Credit:
Ray Tiemann

Job Well Done! Volunteers Prepare our Demo Garden for Spring Visitors



1

1. Anne Goette & Frank Dunlap add bright spots of spring color to the cleaned beds with help from Anne's 3-year-old grandson, Kye.



2

2. Kerry Brittain and Caryl Hartman are ready to spread the mulch & compost mixture atop cleaned beds.



3

3. Cindy Anderson weeds Spanish Lavender, "Aggie" Maroon Poppies and dormant Pride of Barbados while Kerry Brittain distributes tools for some heavy lifting.

4. HCMG student Mark Schultz clears cold damage from budding Hill Country Penstemon.
5. Wil Rolfe prepares to tackle a winter's worth of weeds.
6. Brian Strickland, Tom Collins and Frank Dunlap form a hard-working team.

**Photo Credit:
Vickie Killeen**



4



5



6

Meet the 2019 Interns



Trudy Boardman is with her mentor, Linda Proffitt on graduation day. Trudy has been gardening in the Texas Hill Country for the past 15 years. She lives in Fredericksburg. She worked part time at plant nurseries and enjoyed her work with bromeliads in Florida. She also has experience in Beekeeping. Trudy wants to expand her knowledge of gardening and share her experiences with like minded people. She enjoys presenting to small groups. When asked "why do you want to become a Master Gardener"? She answered: "to learn more in the field of gardening that relates to Central Texas and become an ambassador for good gardening practices."

Bob Moore is with his mentor, Wil Rolfe. Bob lives in Kerrville and has over 25 years of gardening experience. He has vegetable raised beds, dwarf Plumerias, exotic tropicals from Hawaii and his first love is native plants of Texas. He became a certified Master Naturalist in 2003. He is active in NPSOT in Kerrville, Fredericksburg and Boerne. When asked "why do you want to become a Master Gardener"? He answered: "to help others and learn".



Photo
Credit:
Pat
Wolters



Cruzita Hernandez is with her mentor, Pam Umstead. Cruzita was born in Denver CO, and raised in Littlefield, in the Lubbock, Texas area. As a migrant child she worked the fields every summer. She is a retired caregiver. Currently she is building raised beds at her home. Her goal is to grow healthy food not only for her family but to give away to others in need; and to pass along what she learns about organic gardening. She is a tiny lady with a huge heart for helping others!

Meet the 2019 Interns



Karen Fuller is with her mentor, Betsy Scheffe, on graduation day. Karen is a retired Real Estate Appraiser and lives in Boerne. She has over 30 years of gardening experience in vegetables and landscaping. Karen currently volunteers at the Cibolo Nature Center for Elementary Field Trips to the community garden. She enrolled in the Master Gardener program in order to improve her knowledge so that she can be a better volunteer.

Photo Credit:
Pat Wolters

Donna Nutt is with her mentor, Rachel Garrison. Donna lives in Bandera and is a retired accountant. She has been gardening in the Texas Hill Country for the past 2 years since she moved here. She is interested in vegetables and flowers. When asked why she wanted to be a Master Gardener her reply was "to learn better ways to grow food, improve my property's usage for grandkids and dogs. I'm interested in community food gardens for people in apartments to be able to grow their own food as well."



Luci Nic is with her mentor, Debbie Bass. Luci lives in Bandera. She has 15 years of gardening experience in the Texas Hill Country. She gardens organically. In the past few years, Luci has specialized in organic Heirloom tomato production. She has successfully raised hundreds of organic tomatoes, much to the joy of her neighbors and friends. Luci is interested in helping the community at large get involved in gardening. She would like to teach youth and urban gardening.



Blooms and Barrels
Spa Day
2019

Photo Credit: Mark Schultz





Photo Credit: Mark Schultz



2019 Blooms & Barrels

Thunderstorms Can't Stop 485 Eager Gardeners from Shopping!



**Photo
Credit:
Mark
Schultz**



Graduation Day

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



Education Chairman Lydia Jones announces Mimi Bouslog's course completion while Anne Brown and Fernando Gonzales of the Greenhouse Committee hand out graduation geraniums. Students also received succulents and fertilizer provided by the Education Committee.



New graduate Jeanne Hoverson poses with Chairman Lydia Jones.



Having graduated from their 8-week course, our 2019 interns are ready to complete their 50 hours of community service to achieve certification. The class and their mentors were treated to a pot luck luncheon prepared by the Education Committee and other volunteers as well as celebratory graduation desserts.



We can always count on "The Rowdy Bunch in the Back of the Room" to cheer & applaud HCMG's New Sprouts!

Mark Schultz is congratulated by his mentor Anne Brown



Project Coordinators talk with Students

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



(Above) Allen Noah and Pam Umstead told students about volunteer opportunities at Glory Community Garden, a HCMG project that provides gardening plots for Kerrville residents. GCG is a gathering space for neighborhood events, monthly Learn and Grow educational sessions and is a Certified Monarch Waystation.

Before the graduation ceremony, many committee representatives had a chance to talk with students about their projects.

(Below) Fernando Gonzales and Janell Dahms work on the Greenhouse Committee which selects and manages the plants grown for Blooms and Barrels, our annual fundraiser. Volunteers who assist the committee gain practical experience in growing healthy plants that thrive in the Texas Hill Country.



Shirley Smith offered students the opportunity to help at Cultivar Farms, a Boerne demonstration and production vegetable garden that allows HCMG to volunteer in their hometown. The garden's focus is to demonstrate successful gardening principles and motivate healthy food choices. Harvests from the garden are distributed in Boerne.



HCMG Monthly Business Meeting April 3, 2019

Call to Order : Rachel Garrison called the meeting to order.
Pledge of Allegiance-Carol Hagemeyer led us in the pledge.
Invocation-Patty Zohlen read a poem prayer.
Verification of Quorum – Patti Schlessiger verified a quorum was present.
Approval of March 13, 2019 Minutes-
Approved as read.

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report – Bernadell Larson reported the first quarter budget comparison to actual expenses will be emailed to the Committee Chairs within the next week. If a Chair has any questions, they can contact Bernadell. Approved as presented.

Standing Committee Reports

Blooms & Barrels – Jackie Connelly and Anne Brown reminded members of the very busy week ahead. Spa Day will be April 11th from 9:00 a.m. until finished; Moving Day is Friday, April 12th, from 9:00 a.m. until done, bring snipers & stool to sit on; Blooms & Barrels Sale is Saturday, be there by 8:30 a.m., sale will end at 2:00 p.m. Members can buy 5 plants before sale. Geraniums, Verbenas and Trees cannot be bought prior to sale.

Demo Garden – Jackie Skinner reported the garden is growing like mad and looking beautiful. Two volunteers are still needed to cover for vacant posts. Jackie has acquired a large picnic table and benches. Help (2 or 3 men) will be needed to move them into garden.

Education – Lydia Jones-Graduation, Research Desk Training and potluck luncheon will be Thursday, April 18th.

Jackie Skinner-Volunteer Opportunity Event will also be at the same time for students to learn more about each project and see which ones they are interested in joining.

Green House-Anne Brown reported there are 2071 plants to be sold at the Blooms & Barrels Sale.

Horticultural Inquiry/Research Desk –

MelayneArnold reported after April 18th the research desk will be open for mentees/ mentors to train either 8:00-12:00 a.m. or 1:00 -5:00 p.m., on Tuesday and Thursdays.

Logo Wear – Debbie Bacon handed out all logo orders.

Projects – Bob Huff reported the Rainbow Senior Garden had been reinstated in Boerne. Keely Porter will be the Liaison for the committee, at the Kronkosky Center.

Unfinished Business Photo Release-Jackie Connelly has forms.

New Business

AgriLife Extension will be hosting a Forum on April 9th at the HCYEC. If members would like to volunteer they need to let Jackie Connelly know.

Announcements: Congratulations to Brian Strickland -Tarrant Co award-Rachel recognized Brian for the award he had received from Tarrant County Master Gardeners.

Beth McMahon, Gillespie County Ag Agent announced the Gillespie County Forum would be held tomorrow evening.

Rainwater harvesting & turf management training, Boerne library, May 7, 1-5 pm

Next meeting – May 1, 2019 at UGRA, 125 Lehmann Dr, Kerrville, Program: Educscope Project tours—Pam Umstead

Adjournment—April CEU Program – Beth McMahon, Edible Flowers

Respectfully
submitted,
Patti
Schlessiger,
Secretary

**Ta-Da!
Ready for
Visitors at the
Demo Garden!**

Photo Credit:
Vickie Killeen



**Hill Country Master
Gardeners 2019
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

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2019 Blooms and Barrels



We are so proud of their accomplishment!

The Greenhouse Committee poses with the more than 2000 plants that they selected, grew and tended for our annual fundraiser with the help of many volunteers. This dedicated team practically lived in the greenhouses & pot yard for 4 months feeding the plants, keeping them warm, treating their bug bites, monitoring sick ones, moving them to fresh air, and maintaining the greenhouse equipment.

From left: Fernando Gonzales, Janell Dahms, Anne Brown (co-founder, with Faye Drozd, of the annual plant sale in 2008), Janice Walker, and 7-year Chairman Sandy Lewis.



Helpful Hint:

Don't plant your Aggie Poppies on a wind-swept slope! The roots on these maroon beauties are hanging in there!

**PHOTO CREDIT & POOR
SITE SELECTION:
Vickie Killeen**