

May 2020

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HCMG meetings will be canceled until social distancing is no longer needed to control the spread of the Covid-19 Virus

MG are asked not to work in Demo Garden at this time



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".

Social Distancing Edition

Pat Wolters, Editor

I always love the pictures from our Blooms and Barrels preparations and the sale. When I knew this wouldn’t happen this year, I asked Jackie Connelly to send out an email request for pictures of your gardens. You responded with the most amazing pictures.

I wasn’t able to fit all of your pictures in the May Newsletter. In fact, that is why I published this Social Distancing Edition. If you don’t see your pictures be sure to look for them in the June Newsletter.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Pat Wolters by tomato cages, Malabar spinach and Swiss chard in front. Beets and green beans are planted in the area without cardboard.

Pat Wolter’s No Till Vegetable Garden Process

Organic gardener, Ray Lang, who spoke at the February meeting, talked about how tilling destroys fungal networks and the sticky exudates of soil organisms that hold soil together. Tilling also destroys humus. In other words, tilling destroys what nature gives you for free. I decided to follow his advice and lose the tiller. My husband was sad but he is getting over it.

1. Plant cover crop of Elbon Rye in fall
2. In the Spring weed-eat rye grass & leave on top of the soil
3. Add 3 inches of compost
4. Place irrigation hose over compost
5. Place cardboard over the compost/irrigation hose—use plain cardboard with tape removed
5. Cut holes in cardboard for plants
6. Add straw mulch (or wood chips) over cardboard
7. Add woodchips over paths (I picked up woodchips for \$20.00 for 5 cubic yards from the Fredericksburg Landfill).
8. I placed grow cloth around my tomatoes to protect from wind and cool nights



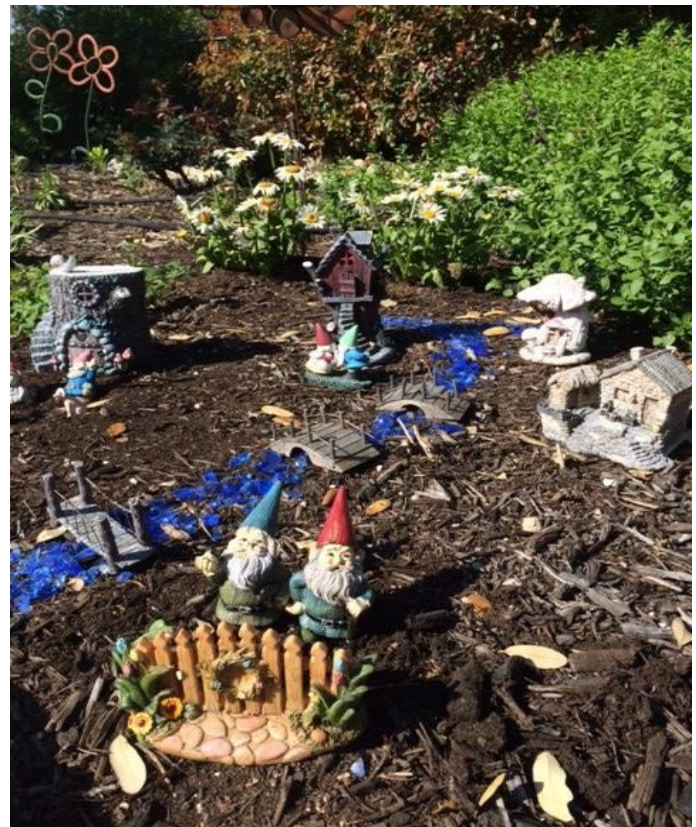
From the Homes of Master Gardeners

Left: **Frank Dunlap's**
Cross Vine

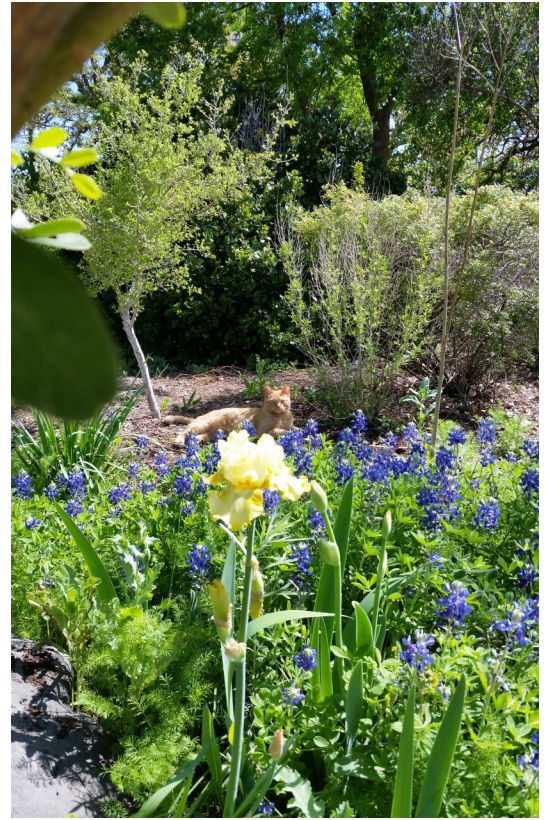
Right: **Pam Umstead's**
yard with cactus
growing in a big rock,
salvaged on the
property during
construction and
placed in the
courtyard. Gregg's
mistflower coming up
beside it



Judy Beauford received this Jerusalem Sage at graduation from her HCMG class



Deb Bass's Fairy Garden with Shasta Daisies purchased at this year's sale



Texans Love Bluebonnets

Clockwise: View from **Linda Proffitt's** house, **Shannon Barker's** bosses garden. Shannon's supervisor, Kiki, is shown in the picture; **Vickie Killeen's** twelve years of reseeding have finally paid off; **Judy Beauford's** yard, **Vickie's Killeen's** neighbor's dog, sweet Helene, poses pretty among her bluebonnets



From the Homes of Master Gardeners



Pam Umsteads' Begonia purchased at the Social Distancing Sale is settling in

Patty Zohlen's African Violet is the result of a leaf cutting that she got during a talk on propagation at the extension classroom a couple of years ago. It is happily growing under a light on her kitchen counter. The leaf came from Anne Brown's mother's African Violet that Anne has had for years. It is obviously good stock.



The poppies are volunteers from last year's poppies and she just lets them grow on their own each year. Below: Soft leaf yucca with 3 flower buds that she is protecting from the herd of deer that wander through daily. So far the black plant pots are working.



Photo from Patty's front yard includes poppies, society garlic, Mexican Feather Grass, and Dwarf variegated society garlic



Demo Garden in Bloom

By Jackie Skinner

This beautiful poppy (right) was a volunteer; a remnant of last year's plantings.

The "Rock Penstemon" (bottom right) referred to by King David is actually Red Valarian (Jacob's Beard), a highly reliable adapted plant. It grows in part shade to full sun.

Photo below features purple *Salvia greggi*, yellow Four-Nerve Daisies, the pink poppy, and purple *Angelonia* (donated by Greenhouse Committee.)

Two spectacular plants of "Red Hot Poker" are growing along the fence near the peach tree, watch for the picture in the next newsletter.

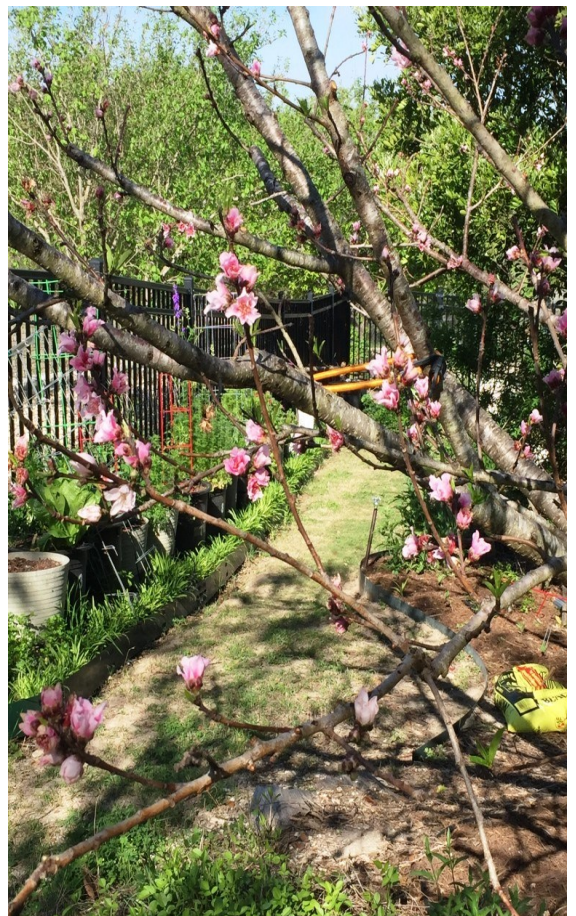
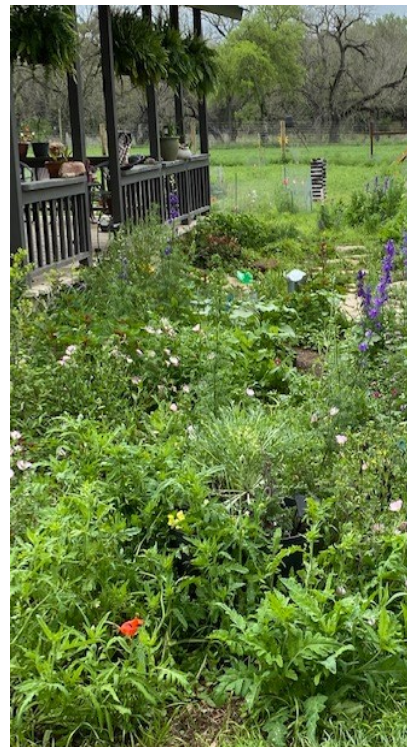


Photo Credit:
Dave Kinneberg





**Mimi Stidham's
Garden**



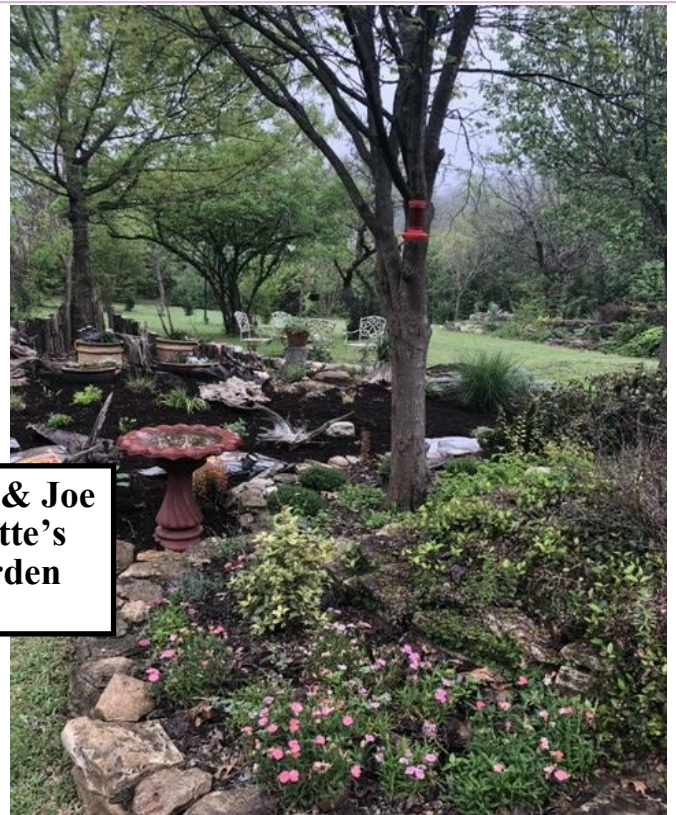
**Cindy
Anderson's
Garden**



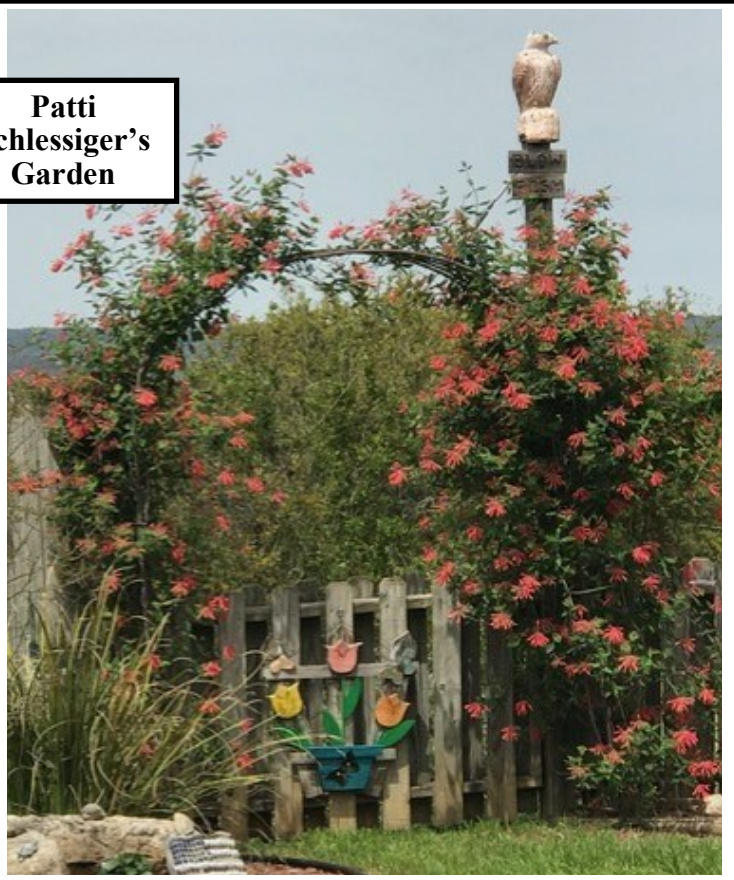
**Peggy
Benson's
Garden**



**Pam
Umstead's
Garden**



**Anne & Joe
Goette's
Garden**



**Patti
Schlessiger's
Garden**

The Green Leaf Begonias really brighten my Talavera planters on our fence. Anxious for the Mexican Honeysuckle and Ruby Grass to grow and fill in areas of our flowerbed needing perking up. The Coral Honeysuckle that was planted last year is very happy! The little hummers are enjoying it.

Vegetable Gardens



Mimi Stidham's vegetable garden



Pam Umstead's vegetable garden.
That's a gigantic artichoke in the back.



Jeanine Capeheart's
productive garden:
onions, remains of winter
cabbage, shard, kale, pots
of spinach, Bibb lettuce and
strawberry plant



Raeann Reid's Biehlefeld

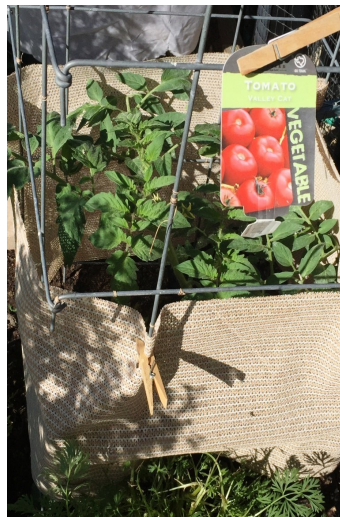
Raeann wrote " Not much to see, just planted 3/31 & 4/1, mostly seeds.
My husband's last name is Biehle and feld is field in German.
We named our place Biehlefeld.



Cindy Anderson wrote

"I bought this Valley Cat Tomato at HEB after our wonderful March tomato presentation by Shirley Smith and Judy Beauford.

They inspired me -- I had never grown that variety, but added it to my other favorites -- Juliet, Tycoon, Cherokee Purple -- and the Valley Cat has the first (and thus far the ONLY) tomato, already the size of an apricot!"



**Sandy Martin's
front yard**