

May 2021

Volume 19, Issue 5

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HCMG
May 5, 2021
HCYEC & Zoom

1:00 p.m. Meeting
2:00 p.m. CE

**“Habitat for Monarchs
and Other Hill Country
Butterflies”**

Cathy Downs
As a Monarch Watch
Conservation Specialist,
Cathy has traveled over
100,000 miles in TX as a
Monarch Ambassador



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”.

Hi Everyone,

President’s Message

Anne Brown

I have bragging rights! The B&B committee all put down their ideas on if or when we would sell out of plants at our sale, and I chose 11:02. You had to be the closest to the actual time without going over it. Our official sellout time was 10:40, so I won.

To everyone who worked to make our sale a success, **YOU ROCK.** This event doesn’t just happen. Beginning the middle of January when the first plants are purchased, to the pot parties which start the growth of our exceptional one gallon plants, to the watering required for them to grow, to the cutting of all blooms off constantly to insure a fully rooted plant, to the fertilizing of the plants bi weekly, to the constant checks for disease and bugs and the immediate eradication of any problem, to the constant moving of plants around in the greenhouses to insure they are getting the light and space they need as they grow, to the constant attention to the weather and temperature checks to insure optimal growing temperatures, to the timing of letting the blooms mature so they are at their best for sale day, to spa day for a final check on the plants, to moving day when they are all moved over to the barn and rechecked and placed on the tables, and to all the organization of the sales assistants, the cashiers, the tic checkers, the greeters, and this year a wagon wrangler to sanitize all the carts as they are used, to the preparation of the information sheets,

to all the signage that is required, it’s a huge production to say the least. This year’s sale was coordinated by Fernando and Janell. Congratulations to both of them for leading the greenhouse and the B&B respectively. Both put in long hours to bring this event off. Throw in the freeze in terms of the greenhouses, and it was a trying year. Fortunately, the greenhouses never lost power, but greenhouse 1 was extremely cold,
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B&B Chairman Janell Dahms and President Anne Brown in serious discussion at the beginning of Spa Day.

Photo Credit: Vicki Killeen

TEXAS SUPERSTAR[®] PROMOTIONS FOR 2021

by David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent-Horticulture



Rockrose, *Pavoniasiopetala*

Pavoniasiopetala, variously known as rockrose, las rosas de San Juan, pavonia mallow, rose mallow, rose pavonia, Texas mallow, Texas pavonia, or Wright pavonia, tolerates heat, drought, and sun and keeps on blooming. This showy Texas native functions as a small shrub in USDA hardiness zones 9 to 13, a woody subshrub or herbaceous perennial in zones 8 to 7 as far north as Lubbock, and can be grown as a summer annual or container plant in colder climates. Foliage is a nice medium to dark green covered in velvety whitish

pubescence, lending the leaves a bit of a dusty or frosted appearance. Flowers of rockrose look like small, 2 inch diameter, pink hibiscus blossoms. Flowers occur from spring to frost as long as good growing conditions are maintained.

Exposure: Best flowering and foliage density is in full sun or light shade. Shady locations tend to reduce flower production, reduce canopy density, and encourage powdery mildew on the foliage.

Height: When open grown, rockrose forms an irregularly rounded canopy 2 to 3(4) ft. tall with equal or greater spread; size is site responsive, with smaller plants on thin dry Hill Country soils, and large plants in fertile garden soils.

Plant type: Rounded small woody shrub in south Texas, woody subshrub or herbaceous perennial in central Texas, annual or container plant in north Texas.

Planting time: Container grown plants from early spring through fall.

Soil type: Well drained soils are needed. Plants well adapted to a range of soil pH, but better adapted to high pH soils than most species; plants are favorably responsive to good fertility, but can persist in low to moderate fertility soils. Drought tolerance is good once plants are established.

Suggested uses: Rockrose has superior performance in xeriscapes, rock gardens, and informal perennial or mixed borders. This is a good selection for naturalizing and use in transitional plantings that link the cultivated garden with the surrounding wildscapes. Rockrose can be used as a small facer, foundation shrub, or informal hedging plant in warmer parts of the region. Rockrose is perfect for lending a sense of place to Texas landscapes. Rockrose seldom has serious issues with pests or disease as long as growing conditions are favorable.





B&B Spa Day

Photo Credit: Vicki Killeen

Above: Our Master Gardeners make sure every plant looks its very best for Blooms & Barrels

Right: Look! It's Dee Dunton & Sandy Martin blooming among the geraniums!

Below left: Allan Perry grooms Turk's Cap during Plant Spa Day.

Below right: Indigo Spires salvia are looking good courtesy of Rachel Garrison & Debbie Bacon.





More B&B Spa Day

Above left: Greenhouse Chairman Fernando Gonzales answering questions among pot yard volunteers.

Above right: Tom Collins celebrates 20 years as a Texas Master Gardener in the greenhouse during Plant Spa Day.

Below left: It's obvious, Janice Walker knows how to fertilize geraniums.

Below right: Kathy Lewis peeks out behind Mystic Spires salvia while Diana Jones spiffs up Giant Coneflowers.

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope."

Lady Bird Johnson



Photo Credit: Vicki Killeen





B&B Moving Day

Under the direction of Fernando Gonzales and the Greenhouse Committee members, 1740 plants found their assigned table.

Photo Credit: Patti Schlessiger & Mark Shultz



Our Quickest Blooms and Barrels Ever!



Photo Credit: Vicki Killeen



7:15 a.m. The line starts forming for the 9 a.m. opening.

9 a.m. B & B opens.



The first of 614 customers begin shopping.

10 a.m. All 1745 plants and 29 rain barrels are sold.

Blooms and Barrels Sale 2021



Above: Master Gardeners are ready to greet the customers that have lined up outside the Hill Country Youth Event Center

Left: Janell Dahms gives last minute instructions and Patti Schlessiger handles the props

Photo Credit: Mark Shultz



Above left: Meg Scott-Johnson, Pam Umstead, Nina Wagner, Dee Dunton & Diane McMahon are eager to greet customers.

Above right: Plants that have been under the care of Fernando Gonzales and his team are ready for their Forever Homes while our gardeners make last minute preparations for shoppers.

Below center: These wagons were not enough to meet the demands of 614 shoppers

Below left: Rita Aliperto, Donna Guthrie, Jackie Skinner and Debbie Lea have loads of gardening knowledge to share with our customers

Below right: Mimi Stidham and Peggy Ryan are two of our enthusiastic volunteers.



**HCMG Monthly meeting Minutes
April 7, 2021
In person (HCYEC) and Zoom**

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation – Rachel Garrison

Verification of Quorum – Donna Nutt

Approval of March 3, 2021, minutes as published in the newsletter

Treasurer’s Report – Jackie Connelly – Jackie reported a balance of \$42,936.97 in Guadalupe Bank and \$16,506.65 in Security State Bank. Details can be found in the Member Zone of the HCMG website.

Committee Reports

B&B report – Janell Dahms – Janell gave a thorough and detailed presentation on all aspects of the B&B sale. She sent a PDF copy of the presentation, titled B&B Instructions 2021.pdf, to all HCMG members the day of the meeting. Janell thanked all volunteers. Both Janell and Fernando Gonzalez emphasized the need for boxes and wagons. Sandy Martin mentioned that HEB was willing to save boxes if asked, but boxes must be picked up by 0800 before they are disposed of. Sandy said she snagged 30 boxes for the sale. Included in Janell’s presentation and email is a list of plants unavailable for purchase by Master Gardeners, as well as instructions for each day, and instructions for personal shoppers (a new position), and sales assistants.

Greenhouse – Fernando Gonzalez – Fernando Gonzalez gave instructions for Move Day at Greenhouse. Fernando said the volunteers will be divided into two teams, Greenhouse Team 1 and Greenhouse Team 2. Janice Walker is in charge of Team 1 and Vickie Killeen is head of Team 2. Fernando also said he would supervise at the greenhouse and Anne Brown would supervise at the AgBarn yard. Fernando would be handing out plants, Anne Brown will direct wagons, and Janell Dahms will direct the plants to their tables. He stressed that on Move Day volunteers should carry no more than two plants at a time to avoid damage. Fernando mentioned that vegetable plants are in short supply. Fernando also reminded everyone of

the importance of fulfilling their commitments to water, as there was a watering session missed.

Demo Garden – Jackie Skinner – Jackie reported on the April 6 workday. Jackie said volunteers distributed 8 yards of mulch on the beds, weeded the beds, inspected and groomed plants. She thanked Shannon Barker for donating rare milkweed seeds and Pattie Schlessiger for volunteering to propagate the seeds.

VMS Update – Jackie Connelly – Jackie updated the group on the ongoing VMS update. She reported that Jayla Fry is working on the project also, as there are approximately 250 county associations involved in this redo. She said that everything should copy over except usernames and passwords. She reminded members that they should have duplicate copies of their 2021 volunteer hours. Patty Zohlen mentioned the calendar has not been developed yet but will be. The early emphasis was on reporting over scheduling, but a calendar should be coming. Patty also mentioned that April 1 was intended to be a soft start and May 1 is scheduled to be the hard start.

Unfinished Business

Covid 19 and Agrilife policies – Anne Brown – Anne updated the membership on the current COVID rules. She said Angela Fiedler received permission by Texas A&M to follow county guidelines rather than following A&M rules. County rules do not require masks but Anne Brown said for customer safety at the sale all volunteers will be masked. She also said the Speakers Bureau is open again for members who enjoy speaking to groups and home visits are allowed again.

New Business

New Certified HCMGs – Diana Johns (on left) was introduced as a certified Master Gardener from the class of 2020 and Jennifer Benitez was announced as a certified Master Gardener but was unable to attend.



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Jackie Connelly introduced Candi Douthit (left) as a newly transferred Master Gardener. Anne Brown mentioned that Tom Collins (right) will be receiving his 20 year pin.

Announcements –Meg Scott-Johnson announced that she and her husband are relocating and the

Kerrville Domestic Violence Shelter will need someone to take over the butterfly patio garden.

Next meeting – May 5, 2021, at the HCYEC and via Zoom

Adjournment

Submitted by Donna Nutt
HCMG Secretary



Connie Townsend (right) provided the continuing education, “Growing Vegetables in the Hill Country”

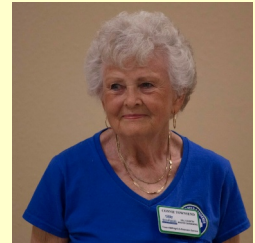


Photo Credit: Mark Shultz

President’s message continued from page 1

resulting in about 25 plants being damaged. With care, most of these plants recovered and were sold. Post freeze, we met the same problem the retail nurseries had – you could not find plants in the wholesale nurseries, so every Monday Fernando would review the availability lists from the 3 wholesale nurseries we buy from and would decide if he would go get plants that week. He made about double the number of trips we would normally make to get our plants this year.

The results of all this effort were outstanding. We had approximately 150 people in line at 9:00 when we opened, and ended with 614 people attending our sale. Many more were turned away due to the sold out sign. In fact the Community Journal sent someone out to take a picture of the sale about 11:30. She had to take her picture of some of us in the parking lot standing in front of my trailer with empty wagons on it! Many of those who came too late were seen walking around the demo garden.

Not to be overlooked at the sale, we sold 30 rain barrels. Mike Muskopf was kept extremely busy with his trying to keep up with all the folks wanting barrels, and will also be busy fulfilling all the orders. Thanks Mike.

Thanks also to all that came out to work on the demo garden the week before the sale. They discovered plants that were coming back from the freeze, and installed new ones where others had died. They also spread 7 yards of mulch. It looked really impressive in spite of needing more plants, which will be procured when available.

THANKS AGAIN TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN MAKING OUR SALE SUCH A SUCCESS.

Pending Executive Committee and Agrilife approval, I am recommending discontinuing the Zoom part of our monthly meeting and having an in person meeting for everyone. Stay tuned to the e minder for details of our meeting on May 5th.

**Hill Country Master
Gardeners 2020
Executive
Committee**

Anne Brown
President

Patti Schlessiger
Vice President

Secretary
Donna Nutt

Jackie Connelly
Treasurer

Rachel Garrison
Ex-officio Advisor

C.E.A. Advisor
Angela Fiedler

**Committees &
Project
Coordinators are
listed on our
website**

Newsletter & Website

Newsletter Editor
Pat Wolters

Associate Newsletter Editor
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Geraniums Before



Geraniums After

The Miracle of Recovery!

These "**Before**" photos were taken inside our greenhouse immediately following Winter Storm Uri in mid-February.

Freeze-damaged foliage was pruned & we hoped for the best. The "**After**" pictures were taken the week of our Blooms & Barrels sale. These are the same pots after 2 months of care.

Photo Credit:

Vicki Killeen, MG



Shrubs Before



Shrubs After