

May 2024

Volume 22 Issue 5

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**Wednesday
 May 1, 2024
 HCYEC**

**Meeting 1:00 pm
 CEU 2:00 pm**



The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other classification protected by federal, state, or local law.

**President’s Message
 Sheryl Landrum**



As Executive Director of the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County, I was privileged to be the Vice President and the Director of the programs and funds of the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County. San Diego has always been a horrific center for autumn fire storms caused by the Santa Ana winds and the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County was formed in 1997 as a nonprofit corporation (501c3) through a collaboration between the RCDGSDC along with local, state, federal, and tribal fire agency partners to combat this threat.

We developed local CWPP’s (Community Wildfire Protection Plans) throughout San Diego County, put together over 20 million dollars’ worth of healthy forestry grants, supported and assisted in the development of local fire safe councils, taught defensible space landscaping and protection, removed dead, dying, and diseased trees, and became an exemplary example for communities to model in keeping their areas more fire resilient and safe.

In San Diego, our biggest tree killers were the goldspotted oak borer beetle and the invasive shot-hole borer beetles (Kuroshio and Polyphagous). In Texas, the main culprit taking out our trees is oak wilt which is carried by beetles as well. The goldspotted oak borer moved out of Mexico to AZ and to Southern California and was pretty much there until a group of boy scouts camping in the Northern LA forests brought infested wood for their campfires....and there, ladies and gentlemen, is the main oak tree killer villain, moving infested fire wood within our communities and states. Never forget, a dead tree has another name: fuel!

So, how do we prevent the spread of these deadly viruses and borers? According to AgriLife Today, buying and burning local firewood is one big step in the right direction. Transporting diseased wood is a great opportunity to spread borers and fungi which can affect communities that do not yet have any tree issues.

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Hill Country

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



Master Gardener Graduates



Front row from right to left:
Barbara Dolan-Wallace, Suzanne Jacobson,
Shawn Holliman, Mary Ann Wood, Peggy
Clark, Joan Connor, Phyllis Sample

Back row from right to left:
Jeff Cluff, Bev Munns, Marti Caldwell,
Caroline Meurer, David Dolan-Wallace, Tina
Pierson, Dawn Piel, Bernie Pearce, Holly
Green, Vanessa Williams, Lori Lester, Pat
Stockbine, Carleen Brenner, Becca Taylor

Master Gardeners from the Class of 2023 form a
“graduation gauntlet” for the new graduates





Graduation Pot Luck Lunch

Photo Credit:
 Vickie Killeen



Above: With graduation underway, Hospitality Co-Chair Rachel Garrison is busy preparing the luncheon

Below: Training program completed, Shawn Holliman pauses at the appetizer table at the luncheon given in honor of our new graduates.



Left: Debbie Bacon finds a sweet spot at the desserts table.

Below: New graduates Suzanne Jacobson and Caroline Meurer are all smiles.

Below center: Kay Nelson with flower given to all graduates





Hill Country Veggies

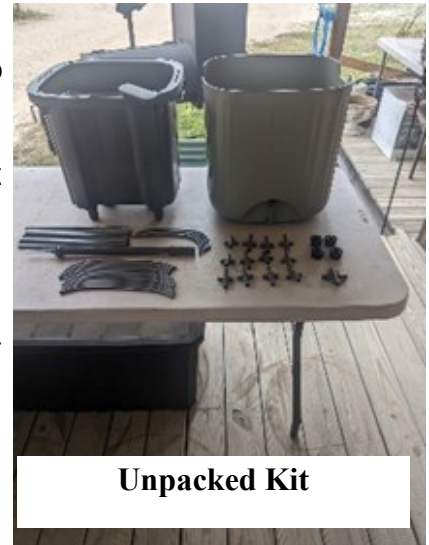
By Allen Mace, MG

Today, I received the newest addition to my wicking bed arsenal. I saw this online very early one morning and with a knee jerk reaction, pulled the trigger on this "Self-Watering Rolling Tomato Planter Pot with Trellis". I haven't fallen for an ad like this in a long time. Oh well, it was very

early, 3 am, in the morning and I was up alone and unsupervised. Now it was on its way to my house. It arrived in 3 or 4 days. I unpacked the box and took inventory. All in all, I was a little impressed.

This pot looks to have about 10 gallons of space for soil with 3 to 4 inches of space under the pot for the water reservoir. The pot has 4 coasters for ease of movement on a solid surface. I plan on leaving this on my deck. There is a float on the side of the pot so you can tell the water left in the reservoir. There are 2 small baskets in the bottom of the inner pot to allow soil contact down into the water reservoir. I will most likely pack these with peat moss to help pull the water up into the soil. On top of the pot, next to the float, is a fill port for adding water down into the water reservoir. At the bottom of the pot is an over flow pipe that rotates to adjust the amount of water that is to be stored in the water reservoir.

First impression, not a bad set-up. It's a little pricey, but shipping was free. The trellis appears to be somewhat sturdy. Overall, I think it should work but I believe this may be better suited for a smaller variety tomato. I will plant a tomato variety called Purple Bumblebee. This is the smallest tomato variety I have in my plant room. Most likely I will have to prune this plant back a little. I am a sucker for trying new products and ideas. That's what keeps it fresh. Hopefully, a weak moment in the early hours of an unsupervised morning won't turn into a pricey boondoggle.



Unpacked Kit



The Inner Pot



Reporting for duty

Featured Projects:
Mercy Gate Ministries and Hill Country Crisis Center Butterfly Garden
 By Rita Aliperto & Frank Dunlap

Two special projects are indeed very special to Hill Country Master Gardeners. Mercy Gate Ministries, an advocacy program for trafficked women is coordinated by Frank Dunlap, has made great strides at providing an inviting, sanctuary for the women who reside there. The team consisting of Kay Nelson, Sheryl Landrum, Bernadell Larson and Mary Contois have been involved and are ready to oversee the placing of plants after obtaining from the annual Blooms and Barrels sale and other local nurseries.

The initial bed design work was done last summer with the very talented former HCMG Jackie Skinner leading it. Plans were submitted to Mercy Gate leadership by Kay Nelson last August and they loved the concepts! HCMG helped with weeding and amending the soil in the beds as well as teaching staff there on what to do. They also had the beds mulched on our advice. Sheryl's husband, Rick installed a drip irrigation system that can be activated as soon as the plants are set. The grounds are sure to be beautiful once complete.

Another very special project, is the Hill Country Crisis Center Butterfly Garden. The Center assists survivors in Kerr, Kendall, Kimble, Bandera and Gillespie Counties of family violence, sexual assault and child abuse and helps restore their lives by providing intervention, protection and justice for their residents.

Approved in 2017, plants were installed and cared for by several Master Gardeners, but several years ago, the project's coordinator moved on, and the Butterfly Garden has not been tended to ever since. Starting in February 2024, Master Gardeners Mary Contois and Rita Aliperto have been working with the HCCC staff to reimagine the garden into a peaceful area for staff and residents to enjoy. However, dealing with four years of neglect and overgrowth has not been an easy task to overcome. Mary and Rita have been weeding, mulching, planting new butterfly-loving plants and actively trying to recruit another volunteer. If interested in volunteering at this project, please contact Mary or Rita.





Friday, April 12 the **Glory Community Garden** was not just alive with plants, but with first graders from Tom Daniels Elementary. They were treated to at least 10 different stations including pelts, butterflies, the art of tortilla chip making, Charlie the tortoise, snakes and lizards and old fashioned toys. You had to be there to see it in action. There were individuals from Butt Holdsworth Library and also Schreiner University interacting with students. We also had members of the Glory Community Garden steering committee as well as fellow members of Master Gardeners. If you were not there, you missed it , but you can get another opportunity next school year.

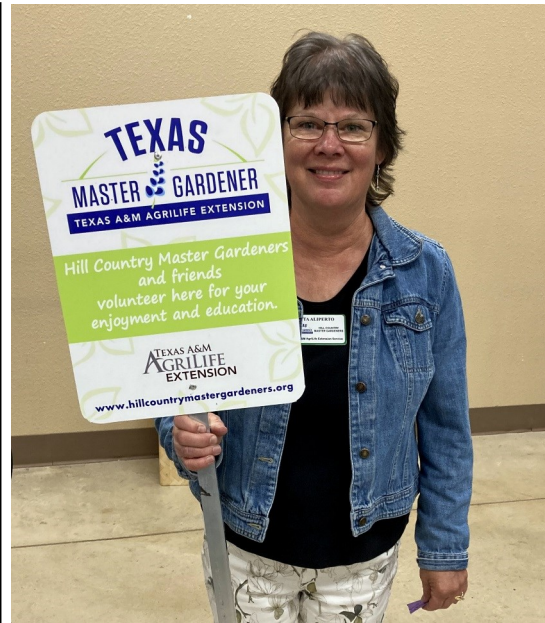
By Linda Lockhart



President's message continued from page 1

<https://agrifetoday.tamu.edu/2021/11/26/prevent-the-spread-of-tree-pests-and-diseases-by-not-moving-firewood/>. Not only do you need to worry about adult beetles, if your firewood contains beetle larvae, beetles can emerge up to two years after the wood is cut and increase the spread to other trees. So, how can we protect ourselves from increasing the danger of infecting, and killing, healthy trees?

When my friend offered me all the firewood I wanted, I asked him if was the wood from his dead oak wilt trees. When he said "yes," I said "no." I also called some local tree service companies in Kerrville for this letter and asked them if they sold firewood and how did they deal with diseased wood? I was told that the diseased wood was mulched and not offered to the public for sale. I certainly hope so. However, all we can do is ask pointed questions and buy wood from a reputable source or take it down ourselves. Please, never buy wood out of someone's truck, it is just a recipe for disaster; I also hope that you never cut down a diseased tree and leave it for others as "free to a good home..." it is the best way to spread the disease, and potentially kill our beautiful trees.



Special Projects Chair Rita Aliperto shows off new signage that will be installed at the multiple projects that HCMG maintain throughout our service area.

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



Pat Wolters never tires of flower pictures

Meg Ware Bio

My husband and I began growing roses when we bought our first home in 1971. We started with 4 bushes and at one time grew about 200. I am now down to a bit over 100 and grow everything from large shrubs to hybrid teas and miniatures. Along the way I became a consulting rosarian and a judge and am now a Master Consulting Rosarian and currently Head of Horticultural Judges for the American Rose Society's South Central District. Most importantly I love talking roses and trying new varieties.

**Hill Country Master Gardeners
HCYEC
April 3, 2024**

Called to Order at 1:00 pm.

Welcome/Opening Remarks – Sheryl Landrum welcomed the group. She congratulated the Class of 2024 and encouraged them to continue their project work.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the group.

Invocation – Patty Zohlen delivered the invocation.

Verification of Quorum – Marge Muniz verified a quorum had been met.

Approve Minutes from March 6, 2024 Meeting. Shannon Barker moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Rae Raiford. Motion carried by acclamation.

Treasurer's Report – Jackie Connelly presented the Treasurer's Report. She noted that \$510 has already been received for rain barrels. The Educational account balance was \$39,316.04 at the end of March and the General account activity is on schedule. There were no further questions regarding the report.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Newly certified Master Gardeners – Sheryl Landrum presented James Ludwig and Brian Schroder, Class of 2023, their Master Gardeners certifications (picture on page 12) Special Certification Award – Sheryl Landrum presented Donna Bellis with her Special Certification Award for Vegetables.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

B&B – Jackie Connelly reminded everyone to review the email that went out regarding the B&B. It answers many of the questions regarding Spa Day, Move Day and Sale Day. 3 plants will be allowed for purchase on Spa Day at \$12 each between 8:30 am and 9 am.

- Spa and Move Day work begins at 9 am. Need to park in the front of the HCYEC.
- On Sale Day, need to arrive by 8:30 and park in the back of the sale barn.
- Interns will be given maroon aprons to wear
- Wagons are still needed. The wagons will be marked to ensure their safe return.
- Help is needed after the sale to dismantle.
- Jackie requested additional volunteers as Early Greeters to greet the outside line of customers, starting at 7:30 am.
- Sue Hall requested assistance with being a greeter during the sale.
- Rachel Garrison asked those that signed up to bring muffins to have them there by 8:00 am.
- Dave Kinneberg later announced that he and Pam Umstead will be interviewed on The Lead podcast Wednesday, April 10th at 9 am.

Education – Donna Bellis stated she had nothing to report.

Demonstration Garden – Dave Kinneberg noted the Demo Garden is looking awesome and thanked everyone that assisted in the spring cleanup day. Yet to be completed is the irrigation finalization before mulch is applied. Signage also needs to be checked to see if the plant markers need replacement. Committee members should get with Bee Evans or Dave Kinneberg. Bee Evans requested 2 members to assist her the day of the B&B to be available for those that come to the garden during the sale.

Greenhouse – Kay Nelson reported there are now 1700 plants for the B&B. She noted some of the plants will not be available to members to purchase on Spa Day. Soil will be available for \$5 per bag. She needs 2 additional people to assist moving plants that will be available for purchase by members on Spa Day to a separate location.

Membership – Barbara Castillo had nothing to report.

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Research Desk & Rain Barrels –

Anne Brown reported that there are 44 rain barrels available for the B&B. The Research Desk schedule is now available for interns to setup their Research Desk training with their mentor. The next several months will be a busy time for the Research Desk.

Other Announcements –

Logo Wear – Melayne Arnold stated that t-shirt and apron orders were being distributed at the meeting. She ordered several extra aprons if anyone would like one. She will be placing another order soon. She will take orders through May 1st, at our next monthly meeting. The next order will be submitted in October.

Help needed:

- * B&B –Jackie Connelly and Dave Kinneberg are co-chairs for 2024, need someone to take over for 2025.
- * Press – Still need a chair, may have a potential candidate from the class of 2024
- * Web Master – Thank you to Bill and Louise Haney for volunteering to assist Jackie Connelly as Web Content Editors.

Sheryl reminded everyone to check out the Texas Master Gardener Program (txmg.org) for information and CEU opportunities. Sheryl also reminded everyone if they are interested in attending the State Virtual Conference being held April 22-24, registration closes on April 16th. Cindy Anderson brought in several bags of Liriope to share. Adjournment at 1:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Marge Muniz
 Secretary

Next Meeting: May 1, 2024 at
 1:00 pm in the HCYEC



Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen

What a cheerful crew! President Sheryl Landrum awards her fellow classmates Brian Schroder & James Ludwig their Certificates of Volunteer Service.

Donna Bellis receives a Special Certification presented by Sheryl Landrum for completing advanced training as a Vegetable Specialist.

Hill Country Master Gardeners 2024 Executive Committee

Sheryl Landrum
President

Rae Raiford
Vice President

Marge Muniz
Secretary

Jackie Connelly
Treasurer

Dave Kinneberg
Ex-officio Advisor

C.E.A. Advisor
 Mike Morris

Committees & Project Coordinators are listed on our website

Newsletter

Newsletter Editor
 Pat Wolters

Associate Newsletter Editor
 Patti Schlessiger

Photographer
 Vickie Killeen

Submissions to

Pat Wolters, Editor

Patwolters2865
 @hotmail.com



Demo Garden ready for B&B Visitors

By Bee Evans

Customers visit the Demo Garden for some inspiration after buying plants at the plant sale. Master Gardener Jodi Tippens answers questions posed by curious visitors.

And a very nice kudo from a customer!

On Saturday, we arrived just as the line began moving inside at 9 AM. Area packed with customers early on. Was impressed with how event was so well organized and I found all MGs present were friendly & very helpful. Also, the young people who assisted customers in getting their purchases to their vehicles were a big help!

After exiting with my \$96.00 worth of plant purchases, walked over with friends to view gardens on-site. And, while viewing plants at the garden and discussion with my friends and MGs at gardens, realized I'd purchased 4 Red Penstemons rather than Red Salvia Greggii, the latter which I'd intended to purchase! Returned to event and spoke w/Jackie Connelly & others who OK'ed me exchanging my 4 plants for the Red Salvia Greggii! Was certainly grateful for this "plant exchange!" Returned home and decided I needed more Red Salvia Greggii to fill a raised bed, so returned to sale and fortunately purchased last 3 Red Salvia Greggii on table! What a fun "plant" adventure that Saturday morning! **Submitted by Jackie Connelly**



HCMG was well represented by Pam Umstead (back to camera) and Dave Kinneberg (far right) on The Kerr County Lead Live podcast hosted by Louis Amestoy and Rachel Fitch. Pam and Dave shared information about our annual Blooms & Barrels sale, Demonstration Garden, becoming a Master Gardener, and HCMG projects.

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen