

May 2022
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HCMG
May 4, 2022
HCYEC

1:00
 Business Meeting

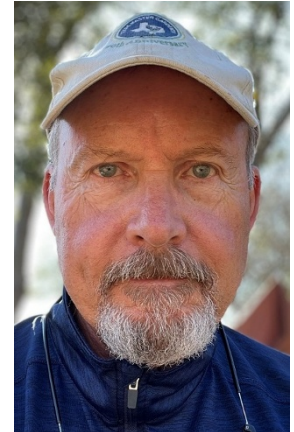
2:00
 Continuing Education
 Fire-wise
 Landscaping

Anne Brown, MG

“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

Dave Kinneberg



March Madness has always meant basketball to me. No longer. It now describes the frantic - but organized -activities of HCMG going into the first week of April.

Admittedly, I’m new to the group (class of 2020 and I won’t let anyone forget it) and haven’t participated in many of these activities before. COVID caution kept me away from group gatherings. HCMG “veterans” are probably used to the March/April pace. After all, springtime is always a busy time for gardeners. Now that it’s over, all I can say is “thank goodness for the dedication and efforts of our members.”

What exactly took place? Let’s start with our new class of interns. Twenty-nine individuals completed the training, passed their exams and are now diligently amassing volunteer hours. By all accounts, it was a great class. But I am equally impressed with the education committee and the super job they did activating a dormant program. Besides taking care of the new students, they found time for a special propagation class for six people from 2020 who missed out on this important hands-on training. As president, it was my privilege to pass out membership cards to the new interns on April 6. Then we all celebrated with a potluck banquet. In a symbolic graduation, members of the 2020 class were recognized with a special gift and a photo at the business meeting.

Then, of course, there was the Blooms and Barrels sale. I was apprehensive on the morning of April 9. What would happen after last year’s unusual event: boom or bust? The greenhouse committee had done their job in spectacular style. New plants were purchased, transplanted, and carefully groomed to the point of perfection on sale day. While there wasn’t a February storm of the magnitude that hit in 2021, there were the “usual” challenges that cropped up and had to be dealt with.

On sale day, I was assigned to the information table and got to watch the event unfold before me. At 8:59 AM, the venue looked like a juried plant competition. **Continued on page 12**

Graduating Class of 2022



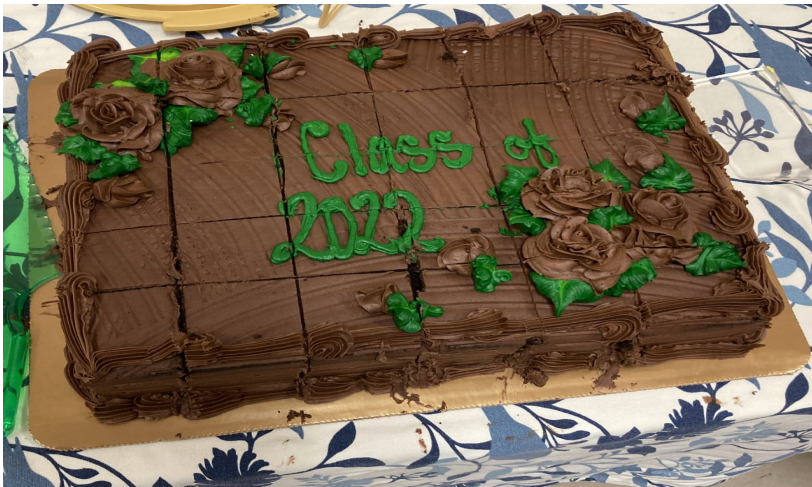
Front row: Kaysi Craig, Shannon Stuteville, Julie Lewis, Angelica Vela, Cattina Gonzalez, Lisa Cantini
Middle row: Michael Bell, Donna Hugly, Sheridan Stringer, Kathy Enke, Tish Hulett, Debbie Castillo, Barbara Castillo, Sandy Corbin, Cindy Shakelford
Back row: Diane McRae, Phil Roberson, Jodi Tippens, Brian DeFord, Becky Leal, Aimee Tennant, Rae Raiford, Kay Nelson, Mary Mechler, Pat Corbin



We had quite a turnout for 2022 graduation. Each graduate received a Whopper Begonia, a Texas Superstar Plant which can reach a height of almost 3 feet.



President Dave Kinneberg congratulates Brian DeFord.



Graduation Luncheon

Photos and captions
by Vickie Killeen, MG

Yum! One of three celebratory
cakes and other decadent desserts.



Gardeners are the best cooks...
and we love our luncheons!



What a Feast! Lisa Cantini (intern),
Anne Brown & Kay Nelson (intern)
enjoy the pot luck luncheon.

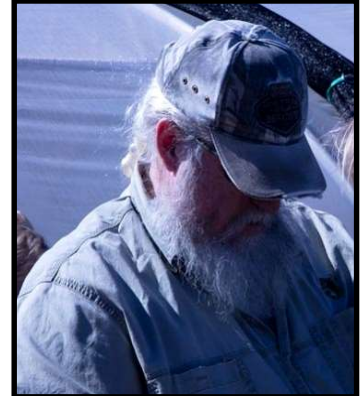


Left
Darla Cluster &
Bee Evans, key
members of the
Demo Garden
team, celebrate
our new
graduates
Right
New graduate
Sheridan
Stringer is all
smiles.



Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG



Spring vegetable gardening season is once again upon us. I have to admit that I've been a bit distracted this spring. With Plantastic, helping out a few times with intern training classes, the plant sale and tax season, I've been meeting myself coming and going. You Master Gardeners that do this full time, well let's just say that I am in awe of you. You guys are rock stars. I was sitting in the back area at the plant sale at 9 am when I heard this low humming sound. I look up and saw what looked like a cloud of locust, devouring everything in sight. In less than 20

minutes everything had been consumed. It was awesome.



Transplants

Normally I'll pick up a few vegetables at the end of the sale, but there was nothing left. It's been an interesting spring thus far but now its time to get to the business of starting my spring vegetable garden. This year I am trying a few new things. I started some vegetables from seeds, that's been interesting. I've purchased some transplants as well. I've been revitalizing my garden soil, utilizing some organic nutrients and minerals. I'm also experimenting with grow bags, self-watering pots and wicking beds.



Potatoes

So far, all my plants are progressing nicely. The deer have not been coming around lately. I have yet to see any rock squirrels. I am a little concerned with the cottontail rabbits. I have spotted a few baby bunnies close to the garden area. The other morning, I stepped out on the porch and observed two rabbits on the west side of the house exhibiting interest with each other. I'm hopping that the new pots and beds will be high enough to prevent the rabbits from gaining access to my plants. Time will tell.



Wicking pots

This year I'm planting the usual suspects, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and several different herbs. I'm adding butternut squash, sweet potatoes and regular potatoes this year. I may be adding more but I'll wait to see how much space I have after everything else is in. Lots of new projects in the works means lots of time needed to complete them. Lots of time needed to complete projects means lots of effort on my part. It seems that the older I get the less effort I'm inclined to exert. With less exerted effort leads to projects taking more time. It's a catch 22. Sometimes I feel like a dog chasing his tail and sometimes I catch it, now what? Oh well, slowly but surely, I'm working my way through all the projects and eventually I'll get them all done.



Aaah Spa Day... for our *Plants!*

Photos and captions by
Vickie Killeen, MG



1. Donna Hugly, Shannon Stuteville & Kay Nelson make sure our plants look their best for B&B.
2. Our popular Geraniums & Black & Bloom salvias get the TLC treatment from Tish Hulett & Sandy Martin.
3. Diana Johns & Rae Raiford have our Mexican Honeysuckle & Gold Lantana in great shape.
4. Patti Schlessiger captures hard working volunteers in the pot yard with her phone camera.



Moving Out Day

By Vickie Killeen, MG

1. While the teams organize, Tom Collins, Dusty Gilliam & Raeann Reid prepare for another year of moving plants.
2. Early arrivals of our moving crew gather at the greenhouse for assignments.
3. Darla Cluster loading up the trailer to transfer plants to the sale barn.
4. Volunteers learn whether they are moving out (greenhouse) or moving in (sale barn).
5. This team is ready to get moving.



Moving In Day

Photo Credit: Dee Dunton, MG

Moving in to the sale barn is no easy task. Trailers were loaded with plants at the greenhouse area. The plants were transported on trailers to the large sale barn. Volunteers carried 2 plants at a time to the waiting tables. Pictures of the plants and information handouts were available on all the tables. The Garden Shed had lots of fun gardening items for sale!

