

June 2018

Volume 16, Issue 6

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HCMG will meet on June 6, 2018

Location:
Kerr County
Youth Event Center

Noon - Networking
1:00 - Meeting
2:00 - Program

**Virtual tour of
Enchanted Rock**
Chris Anderson



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Jackie Skinner

President's Message

There's something about the color grey. Maybe because I'm beginning to identify with it? No, that can't be it. My hair is strawberry blond. Always has been, always will be. I am enthralled by the grey plants overlooked by many garden enthusiasts. I recall a time when,

living in Virginia, I drove my close friend Gerry all the way to the National Arboretum in Maryland to view a Grey Owl juniper. Unimpressed, she murmured, "That's it? We've spent over an hour on the road for THAT? It's big and it's ugly!" She then turned her attention to a nearby, prettily blooming Veronica.

Grey plants bring coolness (*Santolina chamaecypariss*), texture (the velvet leaves of *Lamb's Ear*), depth (a large weeping juniper in the distance) and interest (deeply lobed *Dusty Miller*) to green spaces. They may be breezy like *Artemisia* "Powis Castle," or strongly angular like *Cotoneaster* (pronounced ko-toe-nee-AS-ter).

And speaking of that, our demonstration garden will soon be featuring a *Cotoneaster dammeri*, an "ever-grey/green" shrub with horizontally spreading branches. Its tiny white flowers become red berries in late summer. While the *Cotoneaster* genus is known best where winters are long and cold, they have proven themselves to be unscathed by our blistering summer heat. As with many "Yankee" plants, *Cotoneasters* appreciate regular water and richer soil, and makes no complaints when planted in a place that receives afternoon shade, but they can certainly withstand all-day full sun and caliche soil. They are easy to care for and remain somewhat low to the ground, but they need plenty of space to spread; depending upon the species, possibly to 6'.

Despite their abundance of leaves, most gardeners consider them too sparse in appearance and too angular in habit to sit comfortably in a typical landscape. They're perfect in a long, narrow strip along a driveway or sidewalk as can be seen at the entrance to Sonic's drive-through lane. As a rule, they look best in a colony or standing alone, making them excellent specimens for large pots.

It will be interesting to see how well this new introduction gets along among our other native and adapted Texas plants. Come take a look. It will be the big ugly grey one.

HCMG 2018, Calendar of Events prepared by **Raeann 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. Please verify the event with the provider.

June 5, Cibolo Nature Center, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30, will host a garden tour and a program on planting herbs. Cost is \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members. For more information contact ben@cibolo.org. To register, go to the event date on the calendar at Cibolo.org/calendar. Herff Farm.

Addresses for Events

Herff Farm, 33 Herff Rd, Boerne
Hill Country University Center, 2818 East US
Highway 290, FBG
Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Highway 27,
Kerrville
Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam St,
FBG

June 6, Hill Country Master Gardeners, 1:00 p.m. business meeting. 2:00 p.m. Chris Anderson, Hill Country Master Naturalist and Friends of Enchanted Rock Tour Guide will present a virtual tour of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. Hill Country Youth Event Center. HCMGs and interns.

June 22, Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife, 8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. GC Extension Office will present “Managing Your Piece of Texas: Gillespie County Landowner Workshop.” The seminar will include Planting for Wildlife, Identifying Tree Diseases, Riparian Areas and How to Manage Them, Tax Valuation Options, Wildfire Prevention, Tree Selection, Planting and Care. Cost is \$20 and lunch is included. Class limited to 100 participants. Call the extension office at 830.997.3452 by June 20 to RSVP. Pay ahead. Hill Country University Center

June 26, NPSOT Fredericksburg, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Kelly Simon, Urban Wildlife Specialist with Texas Parks and Wildlife will present “Urban Wildscapes; Gardening for Wildlife” Brief: Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.



Work begins on UGRA Landscaping Plan developed by Master Gardeners



Beautiful flowers at Blooms and Barrels
Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



Hill Country Veggies

June 2018

By Allen Mace

Last month, I wrote about building my version of a Keyhole Garden. We had a few good rains and the drain field in the bottom of the tank worked great. By putting in a

layer of gravel and pulling the plug out of the tank, water was able to percolate down through the soil into the gravel drain field and out the drain hole. After observing this, my thoughts went to how I could capture this runoff water and recirculate it back into the garden again. I'll have to ponder that, maybe next year reconfigure things to be a bit more efficient.

As for the Keyhole Garden, it has outperformed my expectations. This is fast becoming one of the best squash production years I've ever had. The plants are huge and I've never seen so many developing fruit at the same time.



Lots of fruit

So let's recap: I started out with a load of garden mix from one of the local nurseries. It's a heavy soil, a bit sandy and fertilizer had been added to it. I paid less than \$50 for a pickup bed full, about 1 cubic yard. I placed a screen tube, about 14 inches in diameter, in the center of the bed then filled the tub up with soil. I started adding vegetable scraps, coffee grounds and a bit of compost into the center tube, wetting it down every few days. I watered the plants every day for a week to get them started, then I watered one day to flood the bed and really soak it well. That was when I first saw that the drain field was working. I watched the weather reports and saw that we had rain in the fore-



Mulched

cast so I laid a soaker hose in the bed close to the plants, picked up a few bags of mulch and waited for it to rain. It rained a few days later and the next morning I put a few inches of mulch over the bed. I like to time mulching with rain in order to keep the soil moist with rain water as long as possible. Rain water is always better than well water, it's a pH thing. This year I have had a few nice rains and have not had to use the soaker hose yet, but it's in place under the mulch. The days are starting to heat up, but the soil remains moist. With several inches of mulch and a large canopy of foliage providing shade cover, I've been amazed that the soil is still moist. All in all, things are shaping up to be a productive year in the garden. The tomatoes are doing well in the grow bags and the squash is doing great in the Keyhole bed. I put cucumbers and water melons in the old tomato beds from last year.

One other thing I added this year are a few pots of aromatic flowers. This should help to attract pollinators. Now, I'll just sit back and watch things grow.



Foliage



Damianita



Plumbago

Purple Fountain Grass



Bulbine



Purple Fountain Grass



Scarlet Sage

The Plants of B&B
Photo Credit: Debra Rosario



Orange Peel Cestrum



Indigo Spires



Copper Canyon Daisy



Caryl Hartman, HCMG

OK, I know not everyone is as obsessed with plants and gardening as we are but it's always a great time to visit a garden somewhere and it makes a great side trip for many vacation destinations. After the long, foggy

winter we've had not much can beat being surrounded by beautiful gardens that we don't have to take care of!

Check out these gardens and their websites:

Looking for a side trip for this year's vacation? Visit a garden!



NYC Highline, Manhattan, New York City, NY

The High Line is a 1.45-mile-long elevated linear park, 30 feet above street level. It includes a greenway and rail trail. It was created on a former New York Central Railroad spur on the west side of Manhattan in New York City. There is a great view of the Hudson River and the city. Starting in 1999 neighborhood residents began advocating for the old rail line to be renovated and repurposed. Today the park area includes tours, activities, and festivals. The sustainable planting design includes and is inspired by many of the native plants that grew up around the Highline's rail bed.

<http://www.thehighline.org/about>



Wistaria House (note the spelling), Sierra Madre, CA

Located in Los Angeles county, Sierra Madre is in the foothills of the San Gabriel Valley below the southern edge of the Angeles National Forest. Once a year, Sierra Madre celebrates this amazing 120 year old wisteria vine which stretches over one acre. The story is that Alice Brugman purchased the wisteria vine for 75 cents because she wanted something to decorate her porch. According to the Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce. The vine was planted in 1894, 13 years before the town was incorporated. By the late 1920's it had taken over the house. The odd spelling of wisteria is a nod to Dr. Caspar Wistar for whom the genus was named but unfortunately the spelling of the good doctor's name has caused some confusion. The festival this year was March 18, 2018 and tickets may be purchased in advance for 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dsfNzImZurg>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-wistaria-festival-shuttle-tickets-tickets-42891203745>



Allerton Garden, Kauai, HI

Visit a garden continued from page 5

If you have a notion to roam where the dinosaurs did in "Jurassic Park" you should visit Allerton Garden when you're in Kauai. Allerton Garden was used as one of the film locations for the movie. Part of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, the property was purchased in 1938 by Robert Allerton and designed as a garden by him and his son, architect John Gregg Allerton. Guided tours are available to see the beautiful water features and exotic plants.

<https://ntbg.org/gardens/allerton>

A bit closer to home, but still a destination, is the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and I encourage you to make the Japanese Garden part of your tour. If you can, visit in the fall when the towering Japanese Maple trees are ablaze with color. If you just can't wait, May 28-29 is their Japanese Spring Festival. Call the Garden at 817-392-5510 to see what they're planning. The Gardens Restaurant is a lovely spot on site for lunch or Sunday Brunch.

<http://www.fwb.org/>

If you're more of an arm chair garden visitor take a look at this website:

<https://writerinthegarden.com/visit-a-garden-2/>

I think you'll really enjoy it. Sara Salway is an author of three novels and a blogger who has put together a pictorial tour of many English gardens and I have to ask myself why I haven't

heard about her before!! She also has a writing blog that you might want to visit at: <https://www.sarahsalway.co.uk/>

Lastly, here some other gardens you might add to your list - some closer to home:

Lotusland, Montecito, CA
<http://www.lotusland.org/>

MO Botanical Garden, St Louis, MO

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/>

United States Botanic Garden, Wash DC

<https://www.usbg.gov/>

San Antonio Botanical Garden, SA, TX
(This beautiful garden has just been updated!)

<http://www.sabot.org/>

LBJ Wildflower Center, Austin, TX

<https://www.wildflower.org/>

ENJOY!!



Fort Worth Botanic Garden, Japanese Garden,
Fort Worth, TX

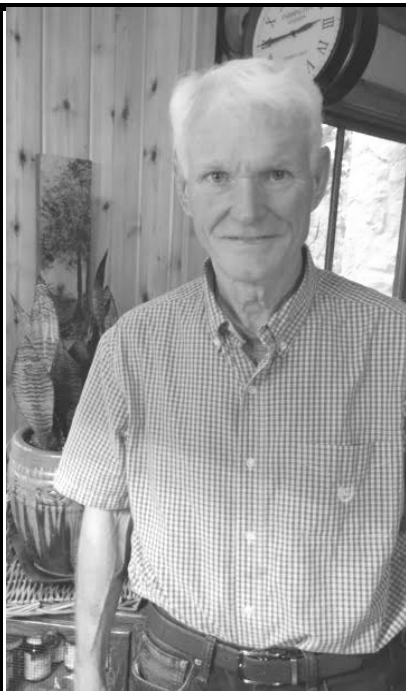


Propagation Workshop Fredericksburg April 25, 2108

1. Beth McMahon, Gillespie County Extension Horticulturist, guides participants on labeling cups
2. Duane Robinson, Plant Propagation Specialist, talks about bulb chipping technique
3. Propagated plants to take home
4. Duane demonstrating bulb chipping technique
5. Beth demonstrates a rooting experiment

Photo Credit: Kim Courtright





Bob Huff is new Chair of Special Projects

Howdy Master Gardeners!

I'm Bob Huff and the new "Special" Projects Chairman. Our 40 ongoing projects have a vital impact on our communities in Kerrville, Bandera, Fredericksburg, Hunt, Boerne, and Medina. I am honored and excited to take on this new role.

My professional background was flying airplanes for the Air Force and Southwest Airlines. After retirement in 2016, I joined the 2017 Master Gardener Class. I was the coordinator for the Kerrville Youth Detention Center Garden project which was completed last year. I hope this experience will allow me to help all the coordinators with their projects. Project Coordinators - I am here for you!

My plan is to visit each sight with the coordinator this year. This allows me to "get up to speed," understand the scope, requirements, and needs of each project.

In closing, I am excited because as a Master Gardener, I get to do what I love and have fun doing it! Gig 'em!

Kathy Lewis Receives Pioneer Spirit Award

Kathy Lewis was recently awarded the Pioneer Spirit Award by the Gillespie County Historical Society, recognizing and honoring her for her outstanding dedication and service since 1994 in furtherance of the Society's mission to preserve and sustain the unique history and culture of our community. In addition to many other activities supporting the Society, she is the team leader of the HCMGs who volunteer in the grounds landscaping and serves on the Landscape Redevelopment Committee currently working on a new plan.

Photo & article credit: Raeann Reid

Jeryl Hoover, Executive Director of Gillespie County Historical Society, and Kathy Lewis, recipient of the Pioneer Spirit Award.



HILL COUNTRY BUTTERFLY COUNTS

By Tom Collins, Texas Master Gardener, Texas Master Naturalist

The Hill Country Butterfly Count, dates and compilers are listed below. Anyone interested should contact one of the compilers who will send out detailed information to those who respond. For Master Naturalist Volunteer time, the code is CC-08-B NABA Butterfly Count. If you are inexperienced, this is a great time to get introduced to butterflies with very knowledgeable team leaders. The Great Love Creek Count is one of the top counts in the Nation and is usually 1st or 2nd in Texas. Regardless, all counts are fun, and the only requirement are a reasonably good pair of eyes to help spot butterflies.

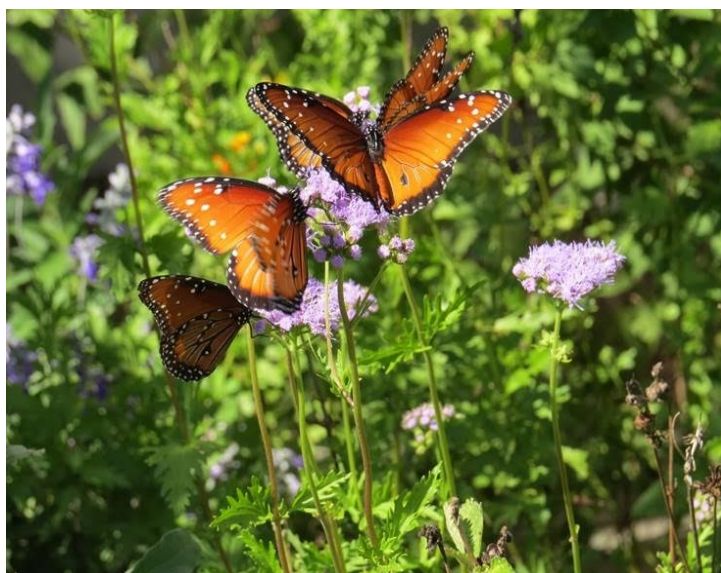


Southern Dogface on Mealy Blue Sage

The Great Love Creek Butterfly Count –
June 19 - Rebecca Neill (rebecca.neill@TNC.ORG),
Tom Collins (towhee@hctc.net)

Boerne Butterfly Count – **June 22** – Cathy Downs (mzdowns@hctc.net)

Kerrville Butterfly Count– **July 13** – Tom Collins (towhee@hctc.net)



Queens on Blue Mist



Gray Hairstreak on Texas Bluebonnet

HCMG Monthly Business Meeting

May 2, 2018

Hill Country Youth Events Center

Jackie Skinner called the meeting to order.

Allen Mace lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Patti Schlessiger gave the invocation.

Patti Schlessiger confirmed a quorum was present.

Treasurer's Report – Bernadell Larson passed out copies of the Treasurer's Report. After review, Anne Brown moved we accept, and Debra Foley seconded the motion.

Approval of March, 2018 Minutes-Kathy Lewis moved we accept the minutes and Sue Hall seconded the motion.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

There was no New Business.

Announcements

- Blooms & Barrels Results – Jackie Connelly announced there were 2065 plants to be sold. Net revenue was \$11,194.44, with the Garden Shed bringing in \$641.80 and the Rain Barrels bringing in \$550.00. A total of 6454 hours were spent raising the plants.

Great Job by Everyone!

Congratulations to Garden Shed Crew!

- Vegetable Competition – Who's In? There are six or seven members interested in competing. The vegetables to be raised are: potatoes, tomatoes, green beans and onions. The contest will be held at our July 11th meeting.
- Website Update – Melayne Arnold asked members to send pictures to Debra Rosario so she can update the website.
- Research Desk Update – Melayne Arnold thanked the interns for getting their hours scheduled early. She said Roy Walston would like the Research Desk to be covered through the summer. If each member would volunteer one hour per year to work the desk, it would be covered. The day to volunteer will be Thursdays, after interns have worked their hours.
- Update on Greenhouse Specialist Class – Jackie Connelly reported the class is over booked with 53 signed up, that's after two have dropped out. There are eight on the waiting list. Thirty Five counties will be represented at the class.
- Current News from the Demonstration Garden-New

evergreen plants will be going in. Weeding Day will be May 21st at 10:00 a.m. Sign-up on VMS.

- Propagation Committee Chairmanship-Duane Robinson has resigned as chairman due to other duties at the state level. We are currently in search of a new chairperson. The new greenhouse will be used for the propagation of plants.
- Committee Chair Meeting – June 6, 11:00 a.m.
- Hospitality Cart Repair – Help! Janet Masek has volunteered to repair the cart.
- Market Days Project - Discontinued
- Postponements-
 - Boerne Field Trip to Herff Farms and Cultivar Farms-Members are welcome to go on their own. Cultivar Farms needs to be added to our website.
 - Picnic at Glory Community Garden-Allen Noah will not be there. We are looking at doing this in October.
- Schreiner Park would like us to help with a butterfly garden. Jan Grimes said she has worked this garden, and it is full of invasives, and is a big job. Bob Huff is meeting with the Master Naturalist, who are already working this garden.
- The County is mowing down wildflowers before they seed out. There was discussion about what could be done to prevent early mowing. County Road and Bridge has been contacted. Meg Scott-Johnson suggested members write letters to their state congressman.
- Bryan Strickland spoke about making Compose Tea. He said he gets his molasses from L & L Feed.
- Jan Grimes said there was a great article on Laura Bush and conservation in the Electric Company's monthly magazine.
- Pam Umstead reported that landscaping has begun at UGRA.
- Tom Collins reported he has put Redman's Trace Mineral Salt, that David Wills spoke about, on his garden. He has yet to see any results. This product is an anti-caking product.

May CEU Program – Susan Longacre, "Seeds, the Fruit of the Matter"

June CEU Program – Raeann Reid announced that Chris Anderson will present a virtual tour of Enchanted Rock.

Adjournment-Jackie Skinner adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted
Patti Schlessiger, Secretary

**Hill Country Master
Gardeners 2018
Executive
Committee**

Jackie Skinner
President

Wil Rolfe
Vice President

Patti Schlessiger
Secretary

Bernadell Larson
Treasurer

Debra Rosario
Ex-officio Advisor

Roy Walston
C.E.A. Advisor

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

Newsletter & Website

Newsletter Editor
Pat Walters

Associate Newsletter Editor
Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to
Judy Beauford for
proofreading

Event Page Editor
Raeann Reid

Webmaster
Debra Rosario

Submissions to

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Master Gardeners at the Riverside Nature Center Plant Sale



Thanks to Debbie Bass, Kathleen Guenther, Donna Guthrie, Caryl Hartman, Joan Morgan and Frank Dunlap for being a great team at the Riverside Nature Center (RNC) plant sale! HCMG was well

represented and helped or discussed questions for about 50 individuals, sold 4 soggy plant brochures and gave away all but one seed packet!

The RNC counted about 400 visitors to the sale .

Photo Credit: Frank Dunlap

