

November 2018

Volume 16, Issue 11

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### HCMG will meet on November 7, 2018

Location:  
Kerr County  
Youth Event Center

**1:00 - Meeting**  
**2:00 - Program**

**Dr. Chris Distel,  
Schreiner University**  
**"Impact of Climate  
Change on Plants"**



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## President's Message

*Jackie Skinner*

Autumn has arrived at last. And with it has come our much welcome rain (for those of us who weren't washed out in the deluge). This has been a challenging year for we gardeners. Quoting Charles Dudley Warner (1829 – 1900), "But what a combat has gone on here! What vegetable passions have run the whole gamut of ambition, selfishness, greed of place, fruition, satiety, and now rest here in the truce of exhaustion!" Charlie has pretty much summed up our Hill Country summer.

Isn't it somewhat strange that, at this time of year when our green pets are beginning their annual dying back process and our local world is turning brown, that we are celebrating the season with such giddiness. We meet Fall with the hilarity of a birthday party instead of the despondency of a funeral. Halloween is upon us with spooks and graveyards and all manner of ghouls trying to out-scare each other, and here we are setting out pumpkins and garlands of brightly colored leaves. We're paging through catalogs sent from far away nurseries, vowing that next year's garden is going to be so much better than this year's, and if not, then the year after that for sure!

Mother Nature is leading our parade. Confetti-like seed heads atop our grasses resembling flurries of tiny skyrockets when the waning sun shines through them. The soil is mellow, heady with the smell of the earth. Autumn-blooming perennials are in their glorious height. If you're skeptical, just take a stroll through our demonstration garden. The zinnias are show-stoppers, but don't let them distract you from viewing Firebushes, Fall Asters, Zexmenia, Lantana, Esperanza, roses, and the sages – Autumn, Mexican Bush, Indigo Spires. And we have little mini peppers in orange and yellow and red. The garden is teeming with butterflies. Were it not for the steady stream of cars passing by outside the fence at 100 mph any visitor would think he was in heaven.

Please, do come visit our little version of heaven before winter blows away all our pretty posies.



**RAEANN REID IN FULL BLOOM**

## HCMG 2018, Calendar of Events prepared by Raeann Reid

Attendance at events other than Master Gardener meetings is optional. This list is for those wishing to attend other educational offerings. Some events may not be fully eligible to fulfill CEU credits toward annual recertification. Call to confirm.

**November 6, NPSOT Boerne, 6:30 p.m.** social, 7:00 p.m. meeting, . Melissa Huffman, Lead Meteorologist at the Austin/San Antonio National Weather Service Office, will present "Winter Outlooks for South Central Texas". The presentation will include a regional forecast for the upcoming winter as well as an overview of climatology impacting native plants in the region. Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. Visitors Welcome.

**November 7, Hill Country Master Gardeners, 1:00 p.m. business meeting, 2:00 p.m. program.** Dr. Chris Distel, Associate Professor of Biology at Schreiner University, will present a program on climate change and its impacts on plants. Hill Country Youth Event Center. HCMGs and interns.

**November 13, NPSOT Kerrville, 1:00 p.m. social, 1:30 p.m. meeting.** Bridget Langdale, a Hill Country Master Naturalist and member of two area astronomy clubs, International Dark Sky Organization and the Hill Country Alliance, will present "Dark Skies and Why They Matter," including how light pollution affects plants and a variety of pollinators in a negative way, and why our

plants and gardens need hours of dark sky. Riverside Nature Center. Visitors welcome.



**November 14, Rose Garden Club of Medina, 2:00 p.m.** Deb Hopkins, club member and Medina Community Library

Board member, will present a program on the Medina Community Library Expansion, including building and garden plans. Medina Community Center. Visitors welcome.

**November 20, Hunt Garden Club, 9:30 a.m.** Judy Anderson, club member and go-to planting advisor, will discuss the history of the most important supporting player in the show emerging from your bowls and vases – the frog – as she demonstrates with samplings from her own collection. Hunt United Methodist Church. Visitors welcome.

*Photos taken at the Gardens at the Ridge*



### Addresses for Events

Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne  
Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Highway 27, KRVL  
Hunt United Methodist Church, 120 Merritt Road, Hunt  
Medina Community Center, 13857 State Hwy 16N, Medina  
Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam St, FBG  
Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, KRVL





## Hill Country Veggies

**November 2018**

**By Allen Mace**

Just a few thoughts at the end of the season: Here we are, it's Fall once again. Last month I planted zucchini, squash,

tomatoes and cucumbers. Most are doing well, but the tomatoes are looking a bit puny. If they don't get better soon, I'll pull them and be done with them. This year was not one of my better years for tomatoes. They started off great this spring. Lots of growth and blossoms. Not a lot of fruit and then everything stopped. I got a few tomatoes but not what I'm use to. The squash, on the other hand, produced much more than we could eat. We ended up giving much of it away. For the last few years, cucumbers have been marginal at best. In years past I've started my own seeds or planted seeds directly in the ground. The last few years, I've been buying seedlings and planting them. I don't know why but it seems, as though, starting from seeds tend to do better than the plants I've been buying lately. This has got me to thinking why???

One thing that comes to mind is, from whom am I buying my seedlings. It seems that most stores and nurseries get seedlings from just a few vendors. A few nurseries still start their own. I'm not convinced that you always get the variety that is on the labels. There are varieties that do better than others in our climate. If plants are miss marked, you might think you are buying a variety that works here, when in fact you're getting one that will struggle and not perform well here. There are certain tomatoes, squash and cucumbers that work well in the Hill Country, others that won't.

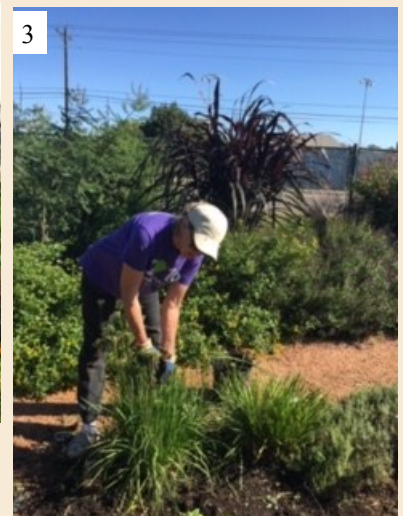
Another variable is soil. The seed mix used by the commercial nurseries is much better than the native soil in most gardens. This might be causing a shock to the seedlings when being transplanted into native soil. Lots of people transplant seedling into containers filled with a potting soil mix similar to that which the seedlings are used to. When kept moist and fertilized, the plants will do as expected. Of course, most gardeners have been building up their soils for years with compost and adding mineral and fertilizers thus most garden plots have a pretty good soil profile.

Probably the biggest factor in most gardens, mine included, is the weeding and watering factor. I know for me, this is a major component to the success or failure of my gardens. My father used to always say, "The success or failure of a vegetable garden, is contingent to the amount of shadow cast by the gardener". We are all busy with life. It's not uncommon for me to get side tracked and forget to even go to my garden. Sometimes it will be three or four days before I have that revelation that I haven't watered for a few days. It happens to all of us once-in-a-while.

I always like to reflect at the end of each year. Think about what worked and did not. Then decide what can be done differently and to remember, it all starts again next season.



# Work Day at the Demonstration Garden



1. Sue Hall admiring our zinnias
2. Zexmenia & Fall Aster
3. Carol Brinkman
4. Wil Rolf tending his cactus garden
5. Kerry Brittain trimming his section
6. Pink Skullcap & Fall Aster
7. Napier Grass, a test plant, Texas Superstar
8. Beauty Berry in full berry
9. Jan Grimes taking a closer look

**Photo Credit: Jackie Skinner**







## Glory Community Garden Hosts the October Meeting

Hill Country Master Gardeners enjoyed a tour of the facility and lunch under the pavilion. For the CEU activity, Allen Noah presented a history of the Glory Community Garden. The Vision of the garden is: Improving health, fostering community collaboration, and sharing the love of God. Pam Umstead reviewed considerations and challenges if you are thinking about starting a community garden and Chris Seifert told about the many activities of the gardeners.

**Photo Credit: Pat Wolters & Patti Schlessiger**





## UGRA Honors Hill Country Master Gardeners

At the September 26 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) honored the selfless service of the Hill Country Master Gardeners in assisting with the creation of the UGRA EduScape. The Board unanimously approved a resolution expressing recognition and appreciation to the HCMGs and presented members Debra Foley and Jackie Skinner with a certificate of appreciation.

The UGRA EduScape is an educational landscape that wraps around the Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center at 125 Lehman Drive in Kerrville. Visitors can stroll along the landscape path to view numerous examples of practice that conserve water and protect the Guadalupe River through stormwater management. Visitors will be guided by information on interpretive signs to enhance understanding of the landscape elements.

"We deeply appreciate the invaluable assistance provided by the Master Gardeners. They provided the initial design of the EduScape, gave us input on re-landscaping decisions, and shared their expertise on plant choices. This has been a long-term project and their steadfast support helped us make the EduScape a reality," said UGRA Board Director and Outreach Committee Chair Diane McMahon.

**Article originally published in the Hill Country Community Journal**



Front row from left: Diane McMahon, HCMG and UGRA Board Member, Debra Foley, HCMG, Jackie Skinner, HCMG President, and Bob Waller, UGRA Board President.

Back row from left: UGRA Board Directors Mike Hughes, Blake Smith, Wayne Musgrove, Maggie Snow, and Mike Allen.

HCMGs who served on the committee but not pictured: Pam Umstead, Melayne Arnold & Meg Scott-Johnson. Also, Anne Brown provided consultation on the rain water catchment system.

**Congratulations to this committee for doing an excellent job partnering with UGRA and putting in an excellent educational project for the citizens of Kerr County. You deserve every bit of recognition you get. Thank you all for making this project a success.**

*Roy Walston*  
County Extension Agent – Agriculture & Natural Resources Kerr County

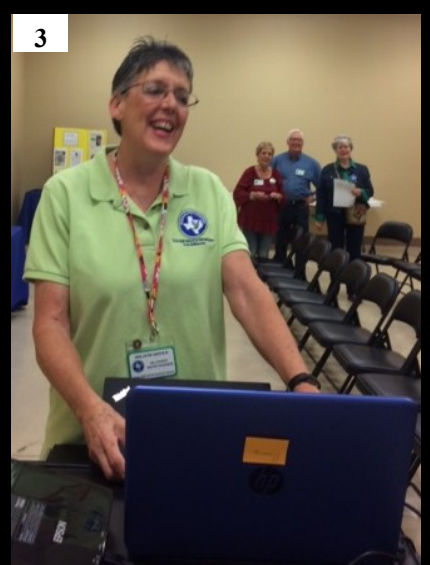
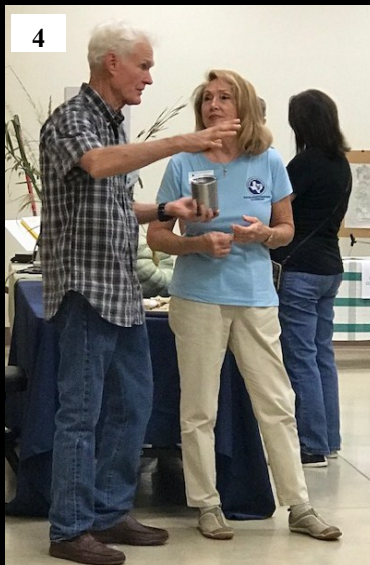
## ***Education Forum***

Ten prospects and many master gardeners attended the 1 1/2 hour forum planned by the Education Committee on Saturday, October 13th. Presenters included Jackie Skinner, Lydia Jones and Beth McMahon. Information booths were set up for projects: Demonstration garden, Propagation, Greenhouse, UGRA EduScape, Newsletter and Bandera County.



### **Members of the Executive Committee, Project chairs and Education committee members at the Education forum:**

1. Jackie Skinner, Brian Strickland, & Wil Rolfe
2. Rachel Garrison & Beth McMahon
3. Melayne Arnold smiles as the group sings her happy birthday
4. Bob Huff, Project Chairperson, & Jackie Skinner
5. Patty Zohlen & Brian Strickland
6. Nina Wagner, Caryl Hartman & Diane McMahon

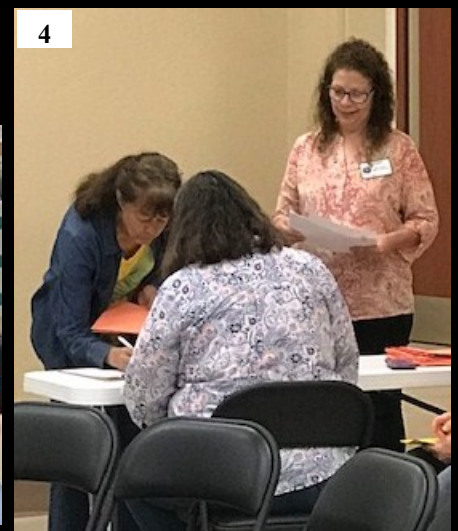






### Education Forum

1. Debra Bass at propagation display
2. Caroll Edwards, Patti Schlessiger, Beth McMahon, & Debra Bass
3. Mike Weberpal & Linda Proffitt talking to a prospect
4. Lydia Jones & Donna Bellis at registration
5. Sandy Lewis, Anne Brown, Janice Walker & Debra Bass
6. Sue Hall talking to a prospect
7. Fernando Gonzalez talking to a prospect





### **HCMG Monthly Business Meeting**

October 3, 2018,  
Glory Community Gardens

Brown Bag Lunch, 12:00 – 1:00

Call to Order: Jackie Skinner called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance-Shari Worsham led the pledge.

Invocation-Rev. Allen Noah gave a short devotional from the book of Acts 4:13.

Verification of Quorum – Patti Schlessiger verified there was a quorum present.

Treasurer's Report – Bernadell Larson/Approval of Treasurer's Report-Bernadell provided copies of the Treasurer's Report, and went over deposits, expenditures and balances of our accounts. Melayne Arnold moved to accept report and Dee Dunton 2nd, all approved.

Approval of September 2018 Minutes-Caroll Edwards motioned to accept, Kathy Lewis 2nd, all approved.

#### **Old Business**

- Announcement of nominees for 2019 Officers – D. Dunton, P. Wolters, or M. Arnold served on the nominating committee. They presented the nominees as follows: President-Rachel Garrison, Vice President-Debbie Bacon, Treasurer-Bernadell Larson and Secretary-Patti Schlessiger. There were no nominations from the floor. They will be voted on at the November meeting.

#### **New Business**

- Collection of 2019 Membership Dues (\$20) at November business meeting
- Annual Christmas Lunch – Linda Proffitt stated the cost of lunch is \$20. She said the luncheon will be at the Riverhill Country Club, 11:30 a.m. on December 5th.
- Collection of plate fees for Christmas lunch at November business meeting. Please bring either separate checks or envelopes with cash, labeled as "Dues" or "Lunch"
- Nominations for Volunteer of the Year Award-Jackie Skinner asked members to email their nominations to her by November 15th.
- Annual Giving – Kerr County – Suggestions due at November business meeting-Patty Zohlen suggested the Hill Country Crisis Council.

### **Announcements**

- No New Certifications this month
  - Education Committee – Lydia Jones
- Fees – Update?-Still haven't heard from Jayla Fry as to the digital cost of manual.
- Recruitment Forum – Saturday, October 13, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Booth Set Up by Committees and Project Leaders, 8:00 a.m.-If your committee needs a table, let her know. Fliers Will Be Available for Information Tables/Display
- Master Naturalists' Fall Native Plant Sale – RNC, Saturday, October 6, 9-2. HCMGs will have a table at the sale.
  - Research Desk – Melayne Arnold said if a member is in need of hours, they can go in to office and work the research desk.
  - Demonstration Garden Open House/JMG Activities – Saturday - Cancelled, General Work Day, Wednesday, October 10, 9:00 a.m. - Please come and help!
  - Veggie Competition – February 13, 2019
  - Imelda Horne has plants for us!-Call after October 15th to setup a time to pick them up.

#### **Projects:**

- UGRA: Award of Appreciation, November 7 business meeting-HCMG members who were instrumental in seeing this project through are: Melayne Arnold, Debra Foley, Meg Scott-Johnson and Pam Umstead. New Project Name – UGRA Eduscape
- Jackie Skinner announced that the title of Specialist has changed to Advanced (example: Advanced Master Gardener-Greenhouse Management).

**Need 2019 Chairmen for:** Webmaster, Public CE Programs, In-House CE Programs

**Death of Member**-Jackie Connelly announced that Ron Richardson passed away.

CEU Program for October – Rev. Allen Noah, Glory Community Garden

CEU Program for November – Dr. Chris Distel, Schreiner University, "Impact of Climate Change on Plants"

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 Wolters

*Associate Newsletter Editor*  
Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to  
Judy Beauford for  
proofreading

*Event Page Editor*  
Raeann Reid

*Webmaster*  
Debra Rosario

**Submissions to**  
Newsletter.editor.hcmg  
@gmail.com

**Riverside Nature Center (RNC)  
Native Plant Sale and Festival**



Hill Country Master Gardeners, Frank Dunlap, Patty Zohlen, and Debbie Bacon worked the master gardener display at the RNC on October 6, 2018 at their annual Native Plant Sale and Festival. Afternoon shift (not pictured) included Frank Dunlap, Dee Dunton and Rachel Garrison. Patty reports that they had 73 visitors to their display. They gave out a lot of seeds, and also gave information about plants and the master gardener program.

