



Great Community Gardening Happening Here!

By Pam Umstead, MG

Hill Country Master Gardener Rae Raiford is helping Girl Scout Troop 672 earn their Girl Scout Gardener badge, at Glory Community Garden.

These young ladies are learning life skills that will serve them well for years to come.

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Lastly, as I write this, we are preparing for the 2023 Fall Festival in our demonstration garden. My hope is that the Fall Festival will become an annual event that people in our communities anticipate each year in the same way they look forward to the B&B. The demonstration garden is both an educational resource for the community and a recruitment resource for HCMG and, given the amount of time and money we devote to it, should be fully exploited. Can you imagine what it will be like for families to come to the AgriLife Extension office to participate in the 4-H garden, chicken coop and market and then wander through the demonstration garden? Talk about synergy.

Change is characteristic of active and thriving organizations. Groups that don't adapt to the world around them don't survive. As Anne Brown pointed out in her review of our history at the 20th anniversary celebration, HCMG has undergone many changes over the years. And I'm sure there will be many more in our future.



What a small amount of rain and cooler temperatures can do for a pollinator garden. Photo Credit: Pat Wolters

**Hill Country Master Gardeners
Monthly Meeting
October 4, 2023
Medina River Oaks Court
Medina, Texas**

Call to Order (Please Silence Your Cell Phones)

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the group.

Invocation – Sue Hall delivered the invocation preceding lunch.

Special Guest – Mark Zoeller, Bandera County’s Extension Agent introduced himself and gave some background information. He said he is willing to help our organization and hopes more people are interested in becoming MGs in Bandera.

Verification of Quorum – Rita Aliperto verified a quorum had been met.

Approval of Minutes from September 6, 2023 Meeting – Melayne Arnold moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Anne Brown.

Treasurer’s Report – Rachel Garrison gave account balances and explained line items on the report. The biggest expenditure was \$1,250 for 50 rain barrels.

Business Items

Budget Meeting – Oct 12 at 2 pm. Any Chairs and Project Coordinators should attend. The meeting is in the Extension Office classroom.

Christmas Party – will be on Wednesday, December 6th at HCYEC. It will be a potluck like last year. Also, the table decorating theme will be done again. Watch eMinders for details.

Hospitality Committee – Tamara Ruby and Rachel Garrison will co-chair the committee.

Dues – Although the Texas state dues are increasing by \$3 annually, HCMG’s dues will be holding at \$20 for 2024. Those renewing their membership must submit their dues and a signed member agree-

ment no later than December 31, 2023. Please obtain the newest version of the member agreement on our website as the document has changed from two pages to three.

Standing Committee Reports

Education – Donna Bellis reported we have 25 applicants signed up currently for the 2024 class. She announced that Pat Wolters and Rae Raiford will become the new co-chairs of the Education Committee. The way applicants are handled will be different than previous years. We will conduct background checks prior to class starting and we will host small meet-and-greet sessions with the applicants on October 17th & 19th. We want them to feel welcome. She asked if anyone is interested in bringing baked goods for these sessions to see her. Rachel Garrison also mentioned that we will begin mentoring early. If you wish to mentor, contact Rachel or Rae Raiford so students and mentors can be matched up as soon as background checks are completed.

Fall Festival – In Kay Nelson’s absence, Dave reported that the Fall Festival in the Demo Garden (DG) will be held Saturday, October 28th from 10am to 2pm. More details to follow. To get the DG ready for the festival, there will be a workday on Wednesday, October 18th at 8am. We will be installing sod, spreading mulch and weeding. All volunteers are welcome.

Rain Barrels – Anne Brown purchased 50 rain barrels, which are already sold and will be trying to obtain 50 more. She will announce a workday soon to assemble barrels and peel off the impossible sticker on the outside.

Emergency Preparedness Expo – Anne announced that we had over 300 contacts at the expo and the MG booth was among the busiest because of the free seeds.

Other Announcements

Executive Committee Nominees – although the nominees were announced at last month’s meeting, Dave provided the names again.

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President – Sheryl Landrum; VP – Rae Raiford; Secretary – Marge Muniz; and Treasurer – Jackie Connelly. At next month’s meeting, other nominations from the floor will be accepted and then there will be a vote.

Volunteer of the Year Nominations – If you wish to nominate a fellow MG for VOY, please submit written justification no later than November 15th to Dave.

Charity of the Year Nominations – The charity to which we donate rotates each year based on the counties we serve. Kerr County is next in the rotation. Please submit your nominations to Dave. Advanced Training – Composting. This training will be held December 6 – 8, 2023. See Dave for details.

Newly Certified Hill Country Master Gardeners

Congratulations to two new members recognized for completing their certification. Mary Contois and Sonja Wilke received their certificate and name badge alongside their mentors.



**Above left: Mary Contois, Dave Kinneberg, & Mentor Bee Evans
Above right: Sonja Wilke, Dave Kinneberg & Mentor Debbie Castillo**

Other – Presidential Volunteer Service Awards - get your hours logged into VMS if you haven’t already. The bronze, silver and gold are awarded to members logging over 100, 250 and 500 respectively from November 1, 2022 to October 31, 2023.

Adjournment
Respectfully submitted,
Rita Aliperto

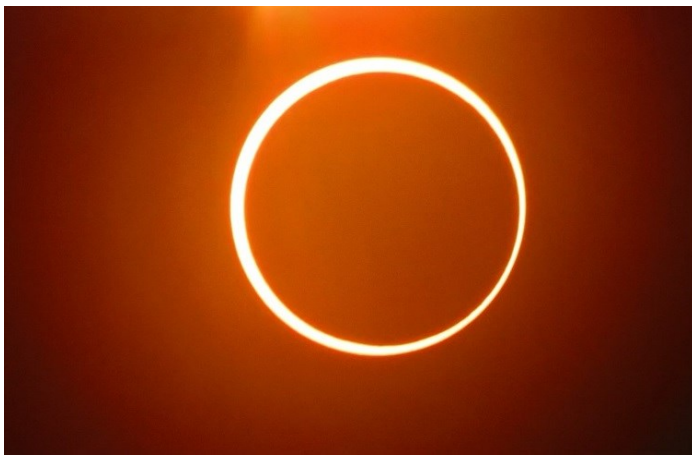
Next Meeting: November 1, 2023 HCYEC



WHAT IS AN ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE?



A solar eclipse happens when the moon journeys between Earth and the sun, blocking the view along a small path of Earth of some or all of the sun's face as it passes. The one that occurred on Saturday is a type called an "annular solar eclipse." This occurs when the moon passes between Earth and the sun at a time when the moon is at or close to its farthest point from our planet. It does not completely obscure the face of the sun, unlike in a total solar eclipse.



"Ring of Fire" was a spectacular show for millions of people across the Americas as the moon moved into place and blocked out all but a brilliant circle of the sun's outer edge.

These two pictures were taken by Vickie Killeen's neighbor, Jacque Magill.



Among the eerie phenomena that can accompany an eclipse of the sun, shadow bands are perhaps the most unusual. These mysterious gray ripples are sometimes seen flitting over the ground within several minutes of totality (the period when the sun's disk is fully concealed by the moon).

This picture was taken by Pat Wolters's sister, Mary Odom, of her drive way near Stillhouse Lake, Texas.

Hill Country Master Gardeners 2023 Executive Committee

Dave Kinneberg
President

Rae Raiford
Vice President

Rita Aliperto
Secretary

Rachel Garrison
Treasurer

Anne Brown
Ex-officio Advisor

C.E.A. Advisor

Committees & Project Coordinators are listed on our website

Newsletter

Newsletter Editor
 Pat Wolters

Associate Newsletter Editor
 Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to
 Judy Beauford for
 proofreading

Photographer
 Vickie Killeen

Submissions to

Pat Wolters, Editor

Patwolters2865
 @hotmail.com

Members Spice It Up at the Garden Club

By Jackie Connelly, MG

Hill County Master Gardeners AND Kerrville Garden Club members Janice Walker, Pam Umstead and Rachel Garrison follow HCMG Connie Townsend's (far right) instructions for preparing her home grown salsa at the meeting last week. First we made the salsa so the flavors would blend. Ms. Connie told us the planting instructions and care of the veggies needed for a simple salsa. Then we ATE it! Ole! If you'd like more information on the garden club, contact Jackie Connelly, Membership chair.



Connie's Salsa Recipe

2 ripe tomatoes, peeled or not (optional), seeded and chopped
 1-2 jalapeno peppers, depending on hotness of pepper and your taste
 1 clove garlic, minced
 1 medium onion, chopped
 Juice of 1/2 lime
 1 to 2T. chopped cilantro
 Salt to taste (1/2 teaspoon suggested)

If using a blender or food processor, process garlic, onion and peppers quickly before adding tomatoes and cilantro, or they will become too liquified. Mix all ingredients; allow flavors to blend for 15 to 30 minute before serving. Use as a dip with tortilla chips or as an accompaniment to meat or bean dishes at a meal. Makes about 1-1/2 cups. Note: peppers may be lightly blistered under broiler, if desired.