

October 2018

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### HCMG will meet on October 3, 2018

Location:

Glory Community Garden  
200 West Davis, Kerrville

12:00 **Brown Bag Lunch**

**1:00 - Meeting**

**2:00 - Program**

**"History of Glory Garden"**

Allen Noah



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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"



*Jackie Skinner*

### President's Message

When I think of the genus *Caesalpinia* I'm reminded of the Gabor sisters (those of you who were born later than the 60's probably have no clue about whom I'm speaking). They were all beautiful, but beyond that their individual qualities easily differentiated them. Unlike the Gabor sisters however, a wealth of attention and expensive supplements are eschewed by these beauties except for the iron chelate they may require for chlorosis, which is priced similarly to diamonds. Over-watering can spell the death of the entire genus, and good drainage is a must.

Eva Gabor (of "Green Acres" fame) was delicately refined like the species *gilliesii* (Yellow Bird of Paradise). This plant is considered by us to be a Texas native although it's actually splendidly and exotically South American. (Happily for us, she immigrated while our border control took a more relaxed attitude.) Although she thrives in summer heat and dryness, she can withstand the colder temperatures that occasionally call on the Hill Country. Her bright yellow flowers with long hot pink stamens can be breathtaking, particularly when viewed up close. Yet, as do all of us who are gorgeous, she does have her faults, one of them being that she really really really like to procreate. This hussy waves around long seed pods which, when ripe, pop open with loud clicking noises that will have you looking around for the popcorn cooker. If you don't harvest those pods before they begin to party you'll have baby *gilliesii* all over your yard. In certain instances though, can that be so bad?

Her sister, *Caesalpinia pulcherrima* is more like Zsa Zsa. She loves to show off in the flashiest of ways. Bearing bright orange and red blooms beginning mid-to-late summer, when most plants are about ready to call it a day, she can be a loud presence that does not blend well with others. But for a show-stopping specimen she can't be topped, particularly in a desert or tropical setting. She demands (so like Zsa Zsa) perfect conditions to do well in the Hill Country...excellent drainage and protection against the cold. If she gets through our coldest months she will respond pleasingly to a nice haircut right down to the ground in late winter. Her beautician recommends this treatment in order to maintain her stunning appearance and perfect figure. And that, of course, IS everything.

A third sister, *Caesalpinia mexicana*, known also as Mexican or Dwarf Poinciana, is intriguing. I'd love to meet her in person but that may never happen here. Reportedly she will grow in San Antonio and Corpus Christi, but "Big Apples" are NOT Kerr or surrounding counties. It might be worth planting her against a south-facing wall to see how she does though. While *gilliesii* and *pulcherrima* are wispy, this one is heavier set and more sturdy in appearance. Once established, *mexicana* may be limbed up to an attractive multi-stemmed tree reaching a height of 15 feet or so, with bright, fragrant yellow flowers nestled among lush green foliage. Inasmuch as the local nurseries don't seem to carry this specimen, I'm led to believe she is not for us, which makes me want one THIS VERY MOMENT! If I looked like Zsa Zsa (when she was alive instead of now, when she's dead) I'll bet I'd have one and at no cost to my fabulous self.

**October 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 event.*

**October 1 and 2, Bennett Land Trust Women's Natural Resource Management Conference** to help women be successful in managing their natural resources. Topics include finances, laws, small ruminants, and more. First day is presentations; second day is a tour. Cost is \$75 and includes all meals and tour transportation costs. Inn on Barons Creek. Register at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/>

**October 2, NPSOT Boerne**, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Benito Trevino, ethnobotanist and owner of Rancho Lomitas Native Plant Nursery, will present a program about the many uses of the native plants with a special focus on how the plants were used by the indigenous peoples and our ancestors. Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. Visitors Welcome

**October 3, Hill Country Master Gardeners, Glory Community Garden**. noon lunch, followed by the business meeting and a presentation by HCMG Allen Noah about the history of one of our special projects, Glory Community Garden. Bring a brown bag lunch (beverages and cookies provided), sun protection and a lawn chair. HCMGs and interns

**October 9, 1:30 p.m. NPSOT Kerrville**, Michael Haynes, Bandera County Extension Agent, will present a program on insects – "The Good, Bad, and Ugly." Riverside Nature Center. Visitors welcome

**October 11, 2018, 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Texas A&M AgriLife**. Tree Management Workshop includes identifying and managing oak wilt, common tree pests, stress minimization tips, pruning techniques and tree diversity/replacement. This program will feature a root collar excavation and tree injection. Cost \$40 includes lunch. For additional information, contact Denise Perez, at 210-631-0400 or [dsperez@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:dsperez@ag.tamu.edu). San Antonio Botanical Gardens-Culinary Garden Classrooms A and B. Register online at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/> by Oct 10

**October 12, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Cibolo Nature Center** director of education Ben Eldredge and Monarch Watch conservation specialist Cathy Downs will present "Monarch Biology, Ecology and Citizen Science Workshop." Suggested donation \$20 includes lunch. Cibolo Nature Center. Register online at [www.Cibolo.org](http://www.Cibolo.org).

**October 13, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Herff Farm**, Michelle Gorman of Wallflower Farm and Garden will present "Handmade Bouquets, The Art and Science of Hyperlocal Flower Bouquets" including techniques to grow beautiful flowers using organic water-saving methods, tricks to keep them fresh and the best seasonal varieties for San Antonio. Cost is \$20. Herff Farm Teaching Barn. For more information contact [farm@cibolo.org](mailto:farm@cibolo.org). Register at [www.cibolo.org](http://www.cibolo.org) in the 10/13 calendar link

**October 15 and 16, Texas A&M AgriLife**. Texas Fruit Conference speakers Monte Nesbit, Larry Stein and others will offer a combination of fundamental and advanced presentations on fruit growing for Texas conditions. Individuals interested in starting an orchard for fun or for profit as well as experienced growers will benefit from the range of production and marketing topics including plums, figs, pomegranates, blueberry container production and more. Cost is \$75 and includes entry to the Monday evening tasting event and one lunch. Contact Monte Nesbitt at [mlnesbitt@tamu.edu](mailto:mlnesbitt@tamu.edu) for more information. New Braunfels Civic Convention Center. Register online at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/>

**October 16, 9:30 a.m. Hunt Garden Club**, Bridget Langdale, a Hill Country Master Naturalist and member of two area astronomy clubs who works with the 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. Hunt United Methodist Church. Visitors welcome

**Addresses for Events**

Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne  
 Glory Community Garden, 200 W Davis St, KRVL  
 Herff Farm, 33 Herff Road, Boerne  
 Hunt United Methodist Church, 120 Merritt Road, Hunt  
 Inn on Barons Creek, 308 S. Washington St. FBG  
 Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam St, FBG  
 New Braunfels Civic Convention Center, 375 S Castell Ave, NB  
 Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, KRVL  
 San Antonio Botanical Gardens, 555 Funston Place, SA





## Hill Country Veggies

**October 2018**

**By Allen Mace**

Last month was interesting. I had written my article and as I was trying to download the pictures, my computer crashed. I don't know why, it was only 10 yrs. old and

working on Microsoft 7. I don't do tech change well. Once I figure out how to do something, I tend to stick to it. I had to buy a new laptop and now am trying to learn a new system. Everything looks different and it's going to be a slow process. Oh well, thus is life in the 20th century. Unfortunately, it's the 21th century but my tendencies seem to favor the 19th.



**New beds**

Last month I cleaned up my beds and started my fall garden plants. This year the heat just wouldn't give up. I had to keep my new plants sheltered from the hot afternoon sun. At some point I'm going to have to create a shading system or move the garden. It's hard to find the perfect spot for a vegetable garden and most likely you will have to make some modifications to your site. Gardening is a dynamic process and you must be able

to make changes as you develop a site.

This summer was very dry and very hot at my house. My spring garden had burned up by mid-July. Normally I like to start the fall garden towards the end of Aug. This year I had to wait until the 1st part of Sept. I was able to time the planting just before the rains started. I like to put new plants in the ground when the forecast is



**New plants**

showing a good chance for rain. Rain is acidic



**Plantings**

and has nitrogen and both are good for new and developing vegetables plants.

New plants should start to produce by mid October. The average freeze date for Comfort is around the middle of November. When it starts to cool off, I'll keep some protective cover handy. Because our winters tend to be mild, if you can protect your plants from a lite frost for a day or two, most of the time it will warm up again and your plants will continue to produce. Its not uncommon for me to still have tomatoes or squash into December, sometimes even into the first part of January. The key is to be aware of what the weather is up to and prepare, beforehand, to be able to protect your plants.

Things are always changing and we as gardeners should be able to overcome and adapt.





## Butterflies swarm to the NICE Blue Mistflower

By Cindy Anderson, HCMG and Native Plant Society (Kerrville Chapter)

The Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT), Kerrville and Fredericksburg chapters, are putting the spotlight this fall on Blue Mistflower (*Conoclinium greggii*) — as part of a quarterly program called **Operation N.I.C.E.**

**N.I.C.E.** is an acronym for “Natives Instead of Common Exotics,” a program designed to introduce people to great native plants that are available locally to use in place of non-native (exotic) species.

Plants that are exotic, or not native to a local region, may seem suitable, but often they offer nothing in the way of food or habitat for key wildlife species. Native plants, on the other hand, provide nectar for insects, shelter for birds, and food for wildlife. “By putting the spotlight on one native plant each season, we hope to increase the public’s knowledge of beneficial native plants,” said Debbie Windham, president of the Kerrville Chapter of NPSOT. “This will increase demand for them, which will encourage the nurseries and wholesalers to provide more of them. “Native plants offer so many advantages — including drought tolerance, pest and disease resistance — and they thrive in our shallow, rocky, alkaline soils,” Debbie continued.

### **BLUE MISTFLOWER (also known as Gregg’s Mistflower)**

This fall season (which begins on Saturday, September 22), the Kerrville and Fredericksburg NPSOT chapters are featuring blue mistflower (*Conoclinium greggii*) at five local nurseries as their N.I.C.E. plant of the season. Blue mistflower is a native, deciduous perennial. What does that mean? **NATIVE** means that it is found naturally in this area. **DECIDUOUS** means that it dies back in the winter (deciduous being the opposite of evergreen.) **PERENNIAL** means that it comes back every year (as opposed to an annual plant that lives one year only.) Most gardeners and landscapers today make a point of including plants that attract butterflies. One of the best butterfly magnets for Texas gardens, particularly at this time of year, is the blue mistflower. This attractive plant grows 1-2' tall with dense bright green toothed leaves, and from spring to first frost produces clusters of fuzzy misty-blue blooms, making it look a lot like the old-fashioned garden plant ageratum. Despite its name, the color is more lavender than blue. It needs full sun to partial shade, and tolerates even hard clay soils. Like all plants, it needs regular water until established. After that it will survive in a drought but will stop producing new blooms until it receives some moisture. This plant is not invasive, but does spread gently, and will grow into a nice full clump in a couple of years. If spreading is not desired, it is easily pulled up to keep it in bounds. In early spring, it should be clipped back almost to the ground to encourage new green growth. In May, you may want to prune it back a little to control its height and encourage a thicker, more lush habit. Considered very trouble-free and easy to grow, this native plant is a guaranteed butterfly magnet. In the summer and fall it attracts great numbers of Queen butterflies, migrating Monarchs, and many others.

As to deer-resistance — some say yes, some say no. Oh deer!



### **Look for the “NICE Plant of the Season” sign stake at these nurseries and growers in Kerrville and Fredericksburg:**

Blue Oak Trading Company, 1834 Junction Highway, Kerrville, 830-315-2583

Natives of Texas, 4256 Medina Highway, Kerrville, 830-896-2169

Plant Haus 2, 604 Jefferson Street, Kerrville, 830-792-4444

The Gardens at The Ridge, 13439 S. Ranch Road 783 (Harper Rd.), Kerrville, 830-896-0430

Friendly Natives, 1107 N. Llano Street, Fredericksburg, 830-997-6288

**Why Go Native?** Continued on page 10



## Newly Certified Hill Country Master Gardeners

Photo Credit: Jim Latham



Anne Goette and Joe Goette with their mentor,  
Patty Zohlen



Anne Brown, mentor, with Fernando Gonzalez



Patti Schlessiger, mentor, with Susan Roberts



Jackie Skinner, HCMG President, with  
Janet Welty

## Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead

By Pat Wolters

Referenced from National Geographic: Top 10 Things to Know About the Day of the Dead

Day of the Dead is not a Mexican version of Halloween. Though related, the two annual events differ greatly in traditions and tone. Whereas Halloween is a dark night of terror and mischief, Day of the Dead festivities unfold over two days in an explosion of color and life-affirming joy. Sure, the theme is death, but the point is to demonstrate love and respect for deceased family members. In town and cities throughout Mexico, revelers don funky makeup and costumes, hold parades and parties, sing and dance, and make offerings to lost loved ones.



Dorothy Jean Ross, Pat Wolters' granddaughter, joining in the Dia de los Muertos Celebration in Oaxaca, Mexico 2015

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognized the importance of *Día de los Muertos* by adding the holiday to its list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2008. It takes place on November 1 and 2—All Saint's Day and All Souls' Day on the Catholic calendar—around the time of the fall maize harvest.

**Remembrance of Relatives:** The centerpiece of the celebration is an altar or *ofrenda*, built in private homes and cemeteries. These altars aren't for worshipping; rather, they're meant to welcome spirits back to the realm of the living. The holiday is like a family reunion except dead ancestors are the guests of honor. Altars are loaded with offerings: water to quench the thirst after the long journey, favorite foods of the deceased, family

photos, items that were important to the deceased when they were alive and a candle for each dead relative.

**Extremely Social Holiday:** Dressing up as skeletons is part of the fun. People of all ages have their faces painted to resemble skulls and dress up in fancy suits and dresses..

**Marigolds** are the main flowers used to decorate the altar. Scattered from altar to gravesite, marigold petals guide wandering spirits back to their place of rest.

**Off to the Cemetery:** Families bring a huge feast to eat while they clean tombstones, sing songs and talk to their ancestors. Parents might even introduce a baby to a grandparent who died before the baby was born.

This year I plan to take marigolds and knitting needles to my mother's grave in Killeen, Texas.



## Gillespie County Fair

August 23-26, 2018

Hill Country Master Gardeners, Raeann Reid and Chris Davis placed in the vegetable competition at this year's Gillespie County Fair. Beth McMahon, Gillespie County AgriLife Extension, CEA-Horticulture, took the pictures and encourages vegetable gardeners to enter their produce in next year's fair.



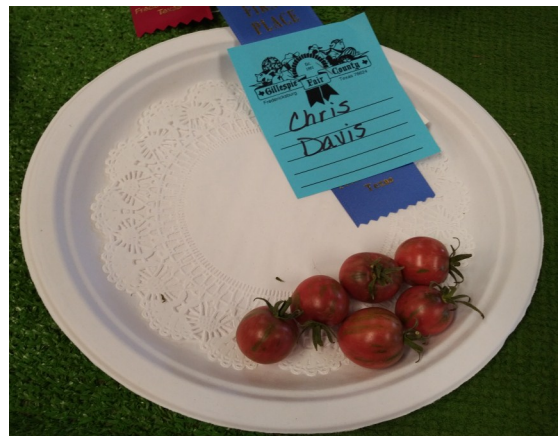
Al Bispo stated there were 15 HCMG volunteers who worked 75 hours at the fair and made 550 contacts. They sold 28 Texas Landscape books, and received \$8.00 in donations.



**Congratulations to Master Gardeners, Chris Davis And Raeann Reid who received First Place Ribbons at Fair**



**Raeann Reid received First Place with her Serrano and Habanero peppers. Chris Davis received First Place with her Chile Pequin peppers and tomatoes.**



### **HCMG Monthly Business Meeting Minutes**

September 5, 2018

Hill Country Youth Events Center

Call to Order (Please silence your phone)-Jackie Skinner called the meeting to order.

Terri DeBusk led us in the Pledge of Allegiance  
Rose Marie Manzanke gave the invocation.

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

Treasurer's Report – Bernadell Larson provided copies of the Treasurer's Report, and went over the balances.

Brian Strickland moved we accept the report as presented, Susan Roberts 2nd and all approved.

Approval of July 2018 Minutes-Anne Brown moved the minutes be accepted, Sandy Lewis 2nd and all approved.

**Old Business** - None

### **New Business**

Nominating Committee – Need 3 Volunteers-Melayne Arnold, Dee Dunton and Pat Wolters volunteered.

### **Announcements**

- \* New Certifications-The following interns were presented their certificates and membership cards by their mentors: Susan Roberts (Patti Schlessiger), Ann and Joe Goette (Patty Zohlen) and Fernando Gonzalez (Anne Brown) and Jackie Skinner presented to Janet Welty.
- \* Jackie Connelly introduced a visiting Master Gardener, Imelda Horn from Otero County in Alamogordo, NM.
- \* Education Committee – Lydia Jones was not present. Fees – Update-Jackie Skinner said we are still waiting on word from Jayla Fry at the State Office to let us know if there will be a decrease in class fees if one chooses the manual in digital form.
- \* Recruitment Forum – Saturday, October 13, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m., Booth Set Up by Committees and Project Leaders at 8:00 a.m. Fliers will be available for information tables display.
- \* Kerr County Fair, October 26 – 28: No participation this year-Roy Walston has said we do not need to man a booth at the fair.
- \* Gillespie County Fair Results– Al Bispo stated there were 15 volunteers who worked 75 hours and made 550 contacts. They sold 28 Texas Landscape books, and received \$8.00 in donations.
- \* Master Naturalists' Fall Native Plant Sale – RNC, Saturday, October 6, 9 -2:00 p.m. -Patty Zohlen and Frank Dunlap will be manning the booth. If anyone else would like to volunteer, their help will be appreciated.
- \* The Texas Fruit Conference – October 15 – 16, Civic Convention Center, New Braunfels.
- \* Research Desk – Melayne Arnold said there are several dates needing to be covered. After October the desk no longer has to be covered until next Spring.
- \* Demonstration Garden  
Demo Garden Open House/JMG Activities – Saturday, October 13, 9:30 – 11:00 a. m.-Jackie Skinner said volunteers are needed to help give tours.  
General Work Day, Wednesday, October 10, 9:00 a.m. - Please come and help!  
Expansion of Cactus Garden – Wil Rolfe, with the help of Jackie Skinner has been working in the cactus garden to clean and expand. Terra Linda Fire Department has donated a large cactus specimen.
- \* Deer Off/Have a Heart (Blood Meal Mix Canister for 8' X 24' Area) 800-800-1819-Brian Strickland spoke about the different treatments, and the results. He said Deer Off is the best and can be purchased at Tractor Supply in packs of six for \$21.99.
- \* Veggie Competition – February 13, 2019-Allen Mace thinks the best time for our next veggie competition is in February. A list of veggies and rules will be sent out in a future eMinder.
- \* Tree Care Specialist Class in Planning Stages – Scheduled for June 12 – 14, 2019-Several of our members, along with Kerr County and Gillespie County Extension Agents, and a few specialist will be conducting this Tree Care Specialist Class. The Riverside Nature Center will provide a place to plant the tree. It will be an honor to have Dr. Apple present for the entire class.
- \* Need 2019 Chairmen for:  
**Webmaster**—Debra Rosario has resigned as of December 31, 2018.  
**Public Programs**  
**In-house Programs**—Raeann Reed will be resigning at the end of this year. Please consider stepping up and volunteering for one of these positions.

**Continued on page 9**



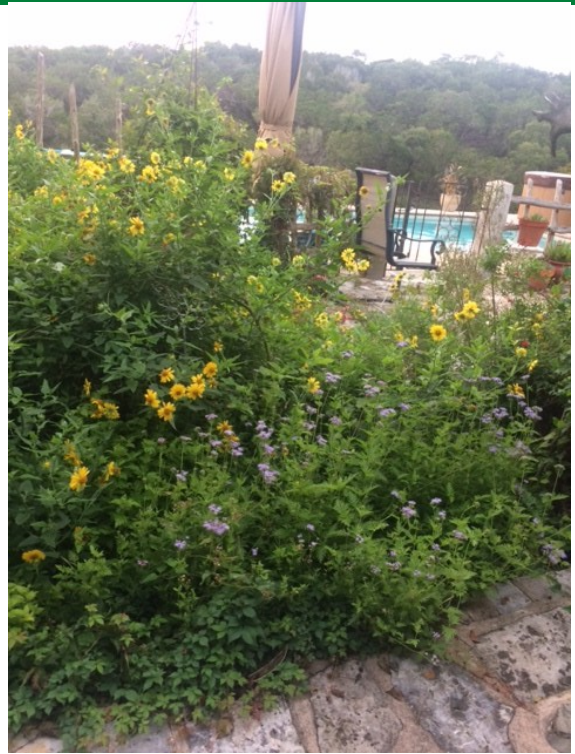


## Pollinator Garden

**Left  
May 2018**  
plants for garden  
purchased at the  
MG Blooms and  
Barrels sale

**Right:  
September 2018**  
After 11 inches of  
rain

Photo Credit:  
Pat Wolters



### Minutes continued from page 8

#### Projects

- UGRA-Pam Umstead said the project is almost complete, just needing signage with educational information.
- Rain Barrel Donation-A Rain Barrel has been donated, and will be installed with a chain as the means to transfer water from shed to barrel.
- Arundo donax remediation-National Parks and Wildlife are partnering with TPWD and UGRA.
- \* Thank You Note-UGRA sent a thank you note thanking us for our volunteer services at the river clean up.
- \* Kronkosky Senior Center-If no one steps up to be chairman of this project, we will have to let it go.
- \* Texas Gardener Magazine – Looking for Articles from master gardeners

#### Change of Meeting Dates for 2019

- January Meeting Canceled
- February Meeting delayed until February 13
- March meeting delayed until March 13

October Business Meeting and CEU Program—Allen Noah will present history of the Glory Community Garden

- Brown Bag Lunch at Glory Community Garden
- Bring a lunch and folding chair
- There will be an appreciation lunch for the workers at the Glory Community Garden on Tuesday, October 16 from 11-1:00 pm

CEU Program at RNC on September 11, 1:30 pm.—Texas Wildflowers-Michael Eason will be the speaker  
September CEU Program—"Herb Gardens with a Texas Accent: Mediterranean Herbs" by Beth Potter Patterson  
Adjournment

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

**Slow Cooker Pumpkin Latte**

Submitted by Kim Courtright

Serves 10

5 cups strong brewed coffee  
4 cups milk (2% or whole)  
1/2 cup heavy whipping cream  
1/4 cup canned pumpkin (not pumpkin pie mix)  
1/3 cup sugar  
1 tsp vanilla  
1 tsp pumpkin pie spice  
Whipped cream for topping



1. In slow cooker, mix all ingredients except whipped cream topping
2. Beat ingredients with whisk until well combined
3. Cover and cook on high for 2 hours stirring once after an hour.

**Why Go Native?**

Continued from page 4

To sustain our local ecosystem, native plants are essential, and many non-native plants are extremely detrimental. Non-natives may seed out more easily, grow faster, and use more water – proliferating and crowding out native species until the natives become extinct. Native plants, on the other hand, have lived here for centuries (without fertilizer or pesticides); have evolved to withstand our temperature and moisture extremes and our poor soil; and have supported the local wildlife by providing food and shelter for our native animals, birds and insects. As they are forced to compete with non-native plants for resources, the native plants become fewer and fewer until they are crowded out or eaten to extinction.

- \* From the Native Plant Society of Texas, Kerrville Chapter, which hosts monthly programs at the Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St., Kerrville, September through May. See [npsot.org/kerrville](http://npsot.org/kerrville) for details.
- \* And the Native Plant Society of Texas, Fredericksburg Chapter, which meets monthly at Presbyterian Memorial Church, 601 North Milam Ave., Fredericksburg. See [npsot.org/fredericksburg](http://npsot.org/fredericksburg) for details.