

September 2022

Volume 20, Issue 9

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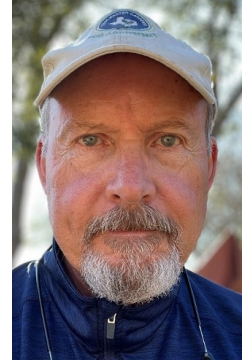
**20 years of the
 HCMGS
 Community Service**
 at the
 Museum of Western Art
 Pavilion

Wednesday
 September 14, 2022
 11 a.m.
 Lunch provided

"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



September is a special month for HCMG: we celebrate our 20th anniversary. Twenty years is a long time, especially when so much of the world changes overnight. I wonder what our founders expected when they started a master gardener program here in the Hill Country. Did they think we would survive twenty years? Did they hope we would have 100 members with a wonderful demonstration garden and on-going projects throughout the Hill Country? Perhaps we'll find out when we review the history of HCMG at our celebration on the 14th.

Anniversaries, however, should be more than a review of the past. We must also look forward. Will there be a HCMG in 2042 and, if so, what do we, the current members, want it to look like? What will our future colleagues (and, hopefully, some of us) celebrate at the 40th HCMG anniversary? Our actions will determine our future.

The founders of HCMG had remarkable foresight. Master gardeners teach others how to protect the environment and conserve resources using scientifically proven methods. And these methods are needed now more than ever.

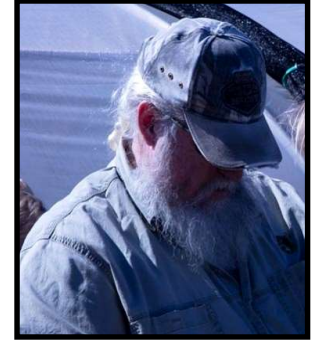
I recently read that turf grass has been outlawed in Las Vegas; there is no longer enough water to support it. Is this surprising? When I look at the water that goes into neighborhood lawns (and, indeed, into my own) I know we can do better. Las Vegas may be "leading" in water scarcity, but Hill Country, especially this year, can't be far behind. When HCMG was formed twenty years ago, spacious lawns were standard for suburban lots.

Recently I've taken two long drives, each almost 1000 miles, without having to clean bugs off my windshield. When HCMG was established, many cars needed protective screens to keep bugs off the radiator. Where have the bugs gone?

The master gardener program is designed to address these and other important issues. I may be biased but I believe Master Gardener groups offer the most relevant public training of the volunteer programs in the state of Texas. And our work going forward will be even more critical. Congratulations to HCMG for twenty years of community service. Good luck to us in the next twenty.

Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG



Tomato Transplants

I'm happy to report that the daily high temperatures seem to have lowered and rain has fallen in some areas. With this, I have renewed enthusiasm and thoughts have shifted to putting in a fall garden. I could not resist picking up a few tomato transplants the other day. I have replanted them into larger pot in order to grow out the roots and plan on putting them in the garden in a week or two. The yellow squash has played out for this year. I will be pulling them out soon. The sweet potatoes are still growing well. I'm

tempted to dig some up now, but I will wait until later this fall.

The big surprise this year has been the Butternut squash. I planted them as an afterthought back at the end of May. Butternut squash is a vining plant so I tied them up onto trellises. Each plant produced a few fruits, I was pleasantly surprised. I had a volunteer Spaghetti squash come up as well. I plan on saving seeds from both to plant next year. Both the Butternut and Spaghetti squash have continued to grow throughout the summer and are now starting to put out more flowers and fruit. I was surprised once again when the flowers were full of bees after all this heat during the summer. There can't be much out there for the bees right now



Sweet Potato Plants



Butternut Squash

so I'm thinking about putting out a shallow pan of sugar water to help them build up their food supplies for the winter. I'll have to figure a way to keep the ants out of it.

All in all, this has not been a productive summer in terms of produce. It has though, caused me to think outside the box for next year. The biggest take away this year has been the wicking pots. I definitely will be making a few more for next year.



Butternut flower

What an exciting year this is for our Hill Country Master Gardeners (HCMG)!

By Patti Schlessiger



So much has been accomplished over the last 20 years. Just think about it: voting on officers, writing bylaws, establishing meeting dates, times and places, locating speakers for the programs and making new friends that will last a life time.

Many things have been added over the years, such as the demonstration garden, two greenhouses, Blooms and Barrels, and much more.

You won't want to miss the celebration, as you will get to mingle with your gardener friends, eat delicious food and hear about the history of HCMG. There may also be a few surprises.

We will be celebrating at the Museum of Western Art Pavilion on Wednesday, September 14th at 11:00 a.m.

There are ceiling fans to provide a cool atmosphere. RSVP by August 30th.

RSVP to Patti Schlessiger by August 31st via email: pattidru@hctc.net or text a message to 210-912-5763, please leave your name with your message.

We hope you will join us for this special occasion.

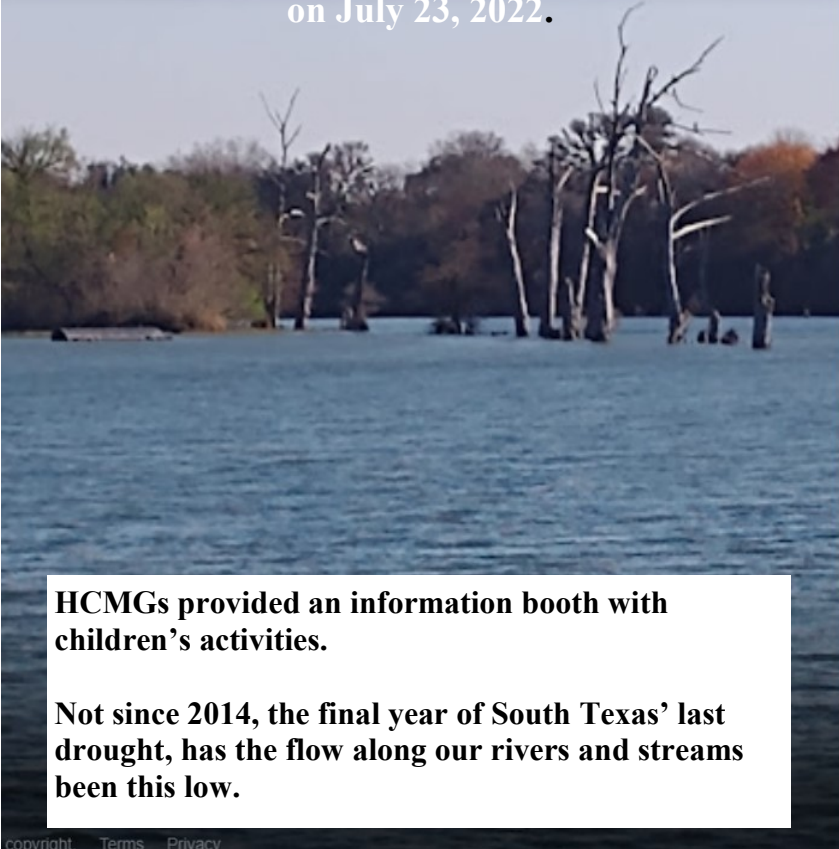


Our Class of 2022 has many super stars! Here are some of them... Julie Lewis, Debbie Castillo and Lisa Cantini and not shown is Kay Nelson.

They staffed our information booth at the Hill Country Retired School Employees Assn August 15th event at the Dietert Center in Kerrville. In fact, Kay went on to speak in front of everyone sharing the Texas Master Gardener mission statement and information about our Texas Native Plants. What a great team!

UGRA 2022 River Clean Up

HCMGs participated in the Guadalupe River cleanup at Flat Rock Park in Kerrville on July 23, 2022.



HCMGs provided an information booth with children's activities.

Not since 2014, the final year of South Texas' last drought, has the flow along our rivers and streams been this low.

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Above: Imelda Horne demonstrating to a future gardener.

Below: Donna Bellis talking about endangered pollinators.

Below left: Pat and Sandy Corbin providing support to the MG Information Booth.



Congrats!

HCMG Welcomes Newly Certified Members from the Class of 2022

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen, MG

The first five interns from the Class of 2022 were awarded their certifications as Hill Country Master Gardeners by President Dave Kinneberg at the August membership meeting.



Dave, Barbara Castillo and her mentor Bee Evans



Dave, Rae Raiford and her mentor Donna Bellis



Dave & Lisa Cantini



Dave and Cindy Shackelford



Dave, Kay Nelson and her mentor Rachel Garrison



WEATHER STATION

<i>IF THE ROCK IS WET...</i>	<i>It's Raining</i>
<i>IF THE ROCK IS SWAYING...</i>	<i>It's Windy</i>
<i>IF THE ROCK IS HOT...</i>	<i>It's Sunny</i>
<i>IF THE ROCK IS COOL...</i>	<i>It's Overcast</i>
<i>IF THE ROCK IS WHITE...</i>	<i>It's Snowing</i>
<i>IF THE ROCK IS BLUE...</i>	<i>It's Cold</i>
<i>IF THE ROCK IS GONE...</i>	<i>TORNADO^o</i>

*Up to the Minute
Weather Report prepared as a Courtesy
by the Golden High Country Archers
Have a nice Day!*



Roy Walston
Retired County
Extension Agent

My Cedar is Dying “What’s killing my cedar trees?”

Reprinted from September 2017. It was the single most asked question in 2017.

Some, I find, are either elated or disconcerted about this phenomenon while others, hate losing any trees. These may be the only tree structures they

have after oak wilt or drought has taken out their oaks. Around Kerr county, especially on the western end of the county, we are noticing Ashe Juniper or “Cedar” are browning in large areas and some have even died.

Many of you have remembered back in 2011 and 2012 when we actually had cedar dying in large numbers from both drought and the Spruce spider mite. This tiny eight legged animal does best in the cool spring and fall weather with severe infestations causing discolored foliage, unhealthy looking plants and premature leaf drop. While feeding occurs in fall and spring, often the damage does not become apparent until the heat of the summer. This oval shaped mite is small (about 1/50”), and with all eight legs stretched out would just cover the period at the end of this sentence. Many spider mites produce webbing particularly when they occur in high populations, providing protection from natural enemies and heavy rainfalls.

During the overwintering period, red eggs are found on the bark of small branches followed by egg hatching during the spring from mid-March to mid-April. Young mites feed on previous year’s foliage and do not attack the current season’s growth until it hardens off in summer. Spider mites do best when daytime

temperatures are in the 60’s and 70’s. During the heat of the summer when the daily temperatures consistently exceed the mid 80’s, adults become inactive and populations decline due to an increase in predatory mites and insects. If temperatures remain over 90 degrees Fahrenheit for an extended period, the adults become dormant and lay tan or salmon colored eggs that only hatch when cooler temperatures return in late summer or early fall.

Scouting for spruce spider mite eggs can be done in early spring or summer with a 10 or 15 power magnification hand lens. Adult mite activity can be assessed by holding a white piece of paper under a branch and striking the branch 3 or 4 times to dislodge the mites. Spruce spider mites will appear as tiny black or gray-green spots moving slowly on the paper.

Some management control options include beneficial insect predators. Predatory mites, lady beetles, minute pirate bugs, and dusty wings can keep the spruce spider populations in check during the summer months but there is often a lag time between the build-up of spider mite populations and predators due to slower reproductive rates. Mechanical control options include spraying the plant with a steady forceful jet of water from a hose twice a week during periods of peak mite activity. This can greatly reduce the mite population and help conserve the natural predators. Spider mites can be dislodged from plants during heavy rains. Spider mites thrive on plants under drought stress, so provide adequate water during dry periods. Most spider mites can be managed with the use of insecticidal soap or horticultural oils. However, keep in mind that oils require good coverage for good control. Some miticide active ingredients available are: abamectin (Avid), bifentazate (Flormite), and carybaryl products (Sevin).

**Hill Country Master Gardeners
Monthly Meeting
August 3, 2022
HCYEC**

Call to Order (Please Silence Your Cell Phones)

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation – Sue Hall led the group in the invocation.

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

Welcome/Opening Remarks – Dave Kinneberg welcomed our guest and today’s CE speaker, Lynn Cox to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from July 6, 2022 Meeting. Anne Brown moved that the minutes from the June meeting be approved. The motion was approved by Brian Strickland.

Treasurer’s Report – Rachel Garrison explained line entries on the treasurer’s report and mentioned it is also posted on our website. She noted that quite a few rain barrels had been sold and the fall scholarship monies have been disbursed.

Standing Committee Reports

Education – Donna Bellis reported that the Education Committee had been meeting and the dates for the 2023 classes have been set beginning next February. She noted that she needs stand-by instructors for classes such as Invasive Plants and Succulents. Donna has also requested a volunteer to be the safety instructor. Janell Dahms promptly volunteered for the assignment. Although the Special Opportunity Garden is on hiatus for the summer, the group is meeting for a workday soon. Contact Donna for more information.

Research Desk – Anne Brown said the Research Desk is going well and if anyone needs hours, they

should go ahead and sign up on VMS. She also reported that 14 rain barrels were built, which makes 16 on hand for sale.

Programs – Ray Tiemann spoke about the upcoming training class he has been working to put together. *Learn Your Lawn and Landscape* will be held Saturday, September 24th at the Gillespie Extension Office (new building by the fairgrounds) for \$35, lunch included. He offered flyers for members to take and distribute/post.

B&B – Janell Dahms reported that the Blooms and Barrels committee is meeting to discuss the 2022 sale. At the October meeting, she will bring forward any proposals or changes recommended by the group.

Greenhouse – On Fernando Gonzalez’ behalf, Dave Kinneberg conveyed a huge thank you. Fernando’s message said: “Please express my thanks for the friendships and knowledge shared by so many in this wonderful group of people. I am going to miss all of you.”

Demonstration Garden - Jackie Skinner gleefully reported that the Yellow Bird of Paradise and the Retama tree had a resurgence after apparently not surviving winter. She thanked Allan Perry for babying the bird of paradise. She sincerely thanked Diane McRae for cleaning out the garden shed and sharpening all the garden tools. Jackie also thanked Bee Evans and Barbara Castillo for adjusting the door on the garden shed so it actually opens and closes.

Other Announcements

New Members! – Dave Kinneberg commended the following interns for completing all the requirements of becoming a Hill Country Master Gardener: Lisa Cantini, Barbara Castillo, Kay Nelson, Rae Raiford and Cindy Shackelford. Mentors Bee Evans, Rachel Garrison and Donna Bellis were also present.

Continued on page 9

Minutes continued from page 8

The new master gardeners were presented with their certificates of completion and official name badges. Congratulations!! Jackie Skinner also mentioned that all of these graduates are on the Demo Garden committee.

20th Anniversary Party Update– Patti Schlessiger reported on the plans thus far for the celebration being held on Wednesday, September 14th at the Museum of Western Art pavilion. Anyone wishing to help should contact Patti. She is also accepting RSVPs through August 31st.

Nomination Committee– Dave Kinneberg asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee this year. The committee works to recruit members to serve in key leadership positions.

Texas Master Gardener Association (TMGA) Directors Meeting – the meeting is virtual and will be held this Friday.

Final Comments – a random number was picked, and Dave Kinneberg announced that Lynn Cox won the door prize.

Adjournment
 Respectfully submitted, Rita Aliperto, Secretary

Next Meeting: September 14, 2022
Museum of Western Art



So many varieties of Tomatoes



The Texas Star Hibiscus

(*Hibiscus coccineus*) is native to the Southern United States and Pacific Coast. It is hardy in USDA zones 8-11, though it will die back to the ground and regrow in the spring in colder areas.

This beauty was blooming in our Demonstration Garden and photographed on August 17th.

The Demo Garden looks beautiful even in this drought. Thank you to Jackie Skinner and all the Demo garden workers.

Read more at Gardening Know How: Texas Star Hibiscus Info: Tips For Growing A Texas Star Hibiscus <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/hibiscus/growing-texas-star-hibiscus.htm>

Hill Country Master Gardeners 2022 Executive Committee

Dave Kinneberg
President

Patti Schlessiger
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 & Website

Newsletter Editor
 Pat Wolters

Associate Newsletter Editor
 Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to
 Judy Beauford for
 proofreading

Photographer
 Mark Shultz

Submissions to
Pat Wolters, Editor

Patwolters2865
 @hotmail.com

or

Newsletter.editor.hcmg
 @gmail.com



Above: MGs, Imelda Horne, Donna Bellis, Rae Raiford, and Pat Wolters with the last harvest. Right: garden has been cleared and soil covered with cardboard awaiting fall planting.

Special Opportunity Garden

provided an amazing amount of produce & flowers in this drought.



Pam Umstead made these arrangements for the Friends Appreciation Lunch in June at the Glory Community Garden. The flower arrangements were made in some of the Pint & Plow fundraiser goblets... basil to keep flies away, and zinnias just 'cause it's summer!

Photo Credit:
 Pam Umstead

