

September 2019

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HCMG will meet on
September 4, 2019
at

1:00 - Business Meeting
2:00 - CEU Program

Fall Vegetable Gardens
By Allen Mace,
Master Gardener,
Advanced Training in
Vegetables



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Rachel Garrison

President's Message

Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability. - Sam Keen, author

I am a wimp when it comes to working in our Texas summer heat. I prefer to sit on the porch sipping iced tea with a new book rather than working in my garden. I guess you could call me a lazy gardener!

That being said, I love plants so any plant that is fairly carefree in our heat is a winner in my book.

Although I've never been a lover of cacti or succulents, they are certainly easy to grow and require very little attention.

One of the presentations at the 2019 state conference was "Sizzling Succulents" by Brie Arthur. Educated in Landscape Design and Horticulture at Purdue University, Arthur's presentation was delivered with humor and unbridled enthusiasm for succulents. She provided photos and pertinent information on cultivating various succulents. She showed us pictures of unusual and interesting ways to showcase succulents including succulent walls, wreaths, and tablescape. There are many seasonal ways to display them, too. They can be potted in a pumpkin, used in a globe shaped terrarium, or fashioned into a Christmas ornament. Such displays are only limited by one's creativity or ability to use Google for fresh ideas.

Last summer I saw pictures of succulent wreaths that were quite pricey so I Googled and found DIY plans. I made one with a few succulents I purchased along with some wire, sphagnum moss and a wire wreath frame. The finished project was quite lovely and I had fun making it. Since I didn't have place to hang the wreath, I used it as a centerpiece on our patio table. After Arthur's presentation, I knew I wanted to try something else with succulents.

Arthur had a picture of an outdoor table with a trough in the center. We have a large family so seating everyone is always a challenge.



Cont'd on page 9

HCMG 2019 Continuing Education Opportunities 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; not all events are eligible to fulfill continuing education credits toward annual recertification.

Be sure to call and confirm event.

September 3, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m., NPSOT Boerne. Nyta Brown, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department superintendent at Old Bat Tunnel State Park in Fredericksburg will present "Bats as Pollinators." Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. Visitors welcome.

September 4, 10:00 a.m. Riverside Nature Center and UGRA's EduScape series. Pete Van Dyke will explain permaculture, contours and swales and will explain how to utilize them in your landscape. Space is limited. RSVP to RNC.kerrville@gmail.com or 830.257.4837. Upper Guadalupe River Authority classroom.

September 4, 1:00 p.m. business meeting, 2:00 p.m., CE program, Hill Country Master Gardeners. HCMG "Of Leaf and Limb" vegetable gardening columnist Allen Mace will present a program on fall vegetable gardening. Hill Country Youth Event Center. HCMGs, interns.

September 6, 12:00-1:00 p.m., Gillespie County AgriLife. GC AgriLife agents Beth McMahon and Shea Nebgen, will present "Grow It Cook It: Trendy Cauliflower." Recipes and tastings included. Cost \$15. Call GC Extension Office at 830.997.3452 to register. Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension Office.

September 10, 1:00 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 1:30 p.m., NPSOT Kerrville. Craig Childs, Program Manager for Roberts Ranch, will present "YMCA Roberts Ranch: Education, Nature Preserve, and Research Center. Riverside Nature Center. Visitors welcome.

September 11, 2:00 p.m., Rose Garden Club of Medina. Stephanie Hill will present a class on fall wreath arrangements. Medina Community Center. Visitors welcome.

September 12, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Friends of Fredericksburg Nature Center Nature Series. Carol Clark, Texas Master Naturalists and conservation specialist with Monarch Watch, will present a workshop on "Native Bees for your Landscape". Limited seating. Suggested donation \$10. For more information and to register see <http://fredericksburgnaturecenter.com/native-bees-for-your-landscape/>. Tatsch House.

September 17, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., Riverside Nature Center Association's NEd Talk. Bob Howells will present "Ugly Americans Abroad," about well-known American species that have become environmental and economic problems elsewhere in the world. Suggested donation: \$5. Riverside Nature Center.

Not a CEU

Tuesday September 17, 11am – 1pm, "Friends Appreciation Lunch" at Glory Community Garden. All HCMG officers and other members who have played a part in the Garden's success are cordially invited to attend. Lunch will be served in the Pavilion at the Garden. No charge, but you must RSVP to attend – please email Pam Umstead at pam@umstx.net if you wish to join us!

September 24, 10:00 a.m., Hunt Garden Club. Field trip to Riverside Nature Center. Becky Etzler, executive director of RNC, will present "Protecting the Heritage of Our Guadalupe River," including water conservation practices and landscaping. A small donation to RNC will be appreciated. Riverside Nature Center. Visitors welcome.

September 24, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m., NPSOT Fredericksburg. Late speaker cancellation. Watch HCMG weekly eMinder for program information. Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

September 28, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., NPSOT. Native Landscape Certification Program Level 3: Installation and Maintenance of Native Landscapes. You will: 1) recognize the differences between native and non-native landscapes; 2) become familiar with how to install the different types of native plants into a landscape, including plant choice, purchase, placement, spacing; soil choice; bed and soil preparation; planting seeds and plants; mulching; 3) understand maintenance requirements and techniques; and 4) create maintenance schedules for different types of native plants. The course includes a classroom session and a 1.5-2 hour outdoor plant walk. \$50 for members; \$65 for non-members. Level 1 is a prerequisite. For information on Level 1 classes in early September and to register: <https://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/>. Central Texas Electric Cooperative

Go to page 5 for event addresses

Glory Community Garden
200 W. Davis St
Sunday, September 22
5-7:30 p.m.



Music

IN THE GARDEN

Hot Dogs/Popcorn/Tea/
Lemonade

Bring your chairs and
enjoy an evening of music.

Bands

Time Bandits; Kerr Vanna;
Local Singers; Music of 50 - 80's



Hill Country Veggies

September 2019

By Allen Mace

This month, the heat has finally caught up to me. It's all I can do to keep the tomato plants alive. It's a

delicate dance to water enough to keep the plants going, but not too much as to cause the fruits to split.

I had an interesting conversation with a few other Master Gardeners about watering systems. Most were using some fashion of drip irrigation. The comments ranged from plugged emitters or emitters popping out, to not enough or too much water. I didn't say much, just listened until I was asked how I watered. I heard a collective gasp when I told them that I hand water. One shocked participant commented, "in 100 degree temperature"? I've long wanted to create an automatic system to water my gardens. There's a lot of good ones out there. For the few I've tried, I've spent lots of money building and installing, and more money



Clean Garden

maintaining and repairing. I still would like to automate the process, but for now and for me, hand watering

works, at least until I forget to water a few days in the 100 degree weather, then its time to clean up and prepare for the next season.



Yes, it does happen. I did not forget to water but I am cleaning up and pulling some of the tomato plants. The squash has been gone for a while now, those I did forget to water. The tomatoes are culling themselves. The determinants have stopped producing and are dying off while the weaker indeterminants are slowly dying back. I don't play nurse maid to weak plants. When they show signs of declining, I generally

pull them and move one. This has not always been the case. Experience has taught me that when vegetable plants start to go downhill, they



Heading to the Dump



Last Harvest for now



Ribbon Cutting for the UGRA EduScape

The Kerrville Area Chamber of Commerce had the pleasure of celebrating with UGRA (Upper Guadalupe River Authority) in the Grand Opening of the **UGRA-EduScape** on June 11th. UGRA is proud to be a leader in water conservation education. The 2018 Texas Rain Catcher Award-winning UGRA EduScape is a landscape laboratory that wraps around the Guadalupe Basin Natural Resources Center. Master Gardeners were a vital part of this project and participated in the ceremony. Master Gardeners pictured above include Meg Scott-Johnson, Debra Foley, Pam Umstead, and Diane

Addresses for CEU Events Listed on page 2

Central Texas Electric Cooperative, 386 Friendship Ln, FBG
 Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Rd, Boerne
 Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Ext Svc, 95 Frederick Rd, FBG
 Glory Community Garden, 200 W. Davis St., KRVL
 Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Hwy 27, KRVL
 Medina Community Center, 13857 State Hwy 16N, Medina
 Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam St, FBG
 Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos St, KRVL
 Tatsch House, Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park, 3 miles south of downtown Fredericksburg on SH 16

Hill Country Master Gardeners are partnering with UGRA, Texas AgriLife, and Kerr County to teach the public

“Landscape Techniques to Conserve Rainwater and Protect Our River.”
 Please watch your E-Minder

UGRA 16th Annual River Clean Up

UGRA hosted its 16th Annual River Clean Up on Saturday, July 27th. A total of 10,695 pounds of garbage was collected by 526 participants, working along the river from Hunt all the way to Comfort.

The enthusiastic volunteers scoured the river and its banks from about 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM and when they returned to Flat Rock Park with their trash, they were served hot dogs from the Bald Eagle Café, pizza from Papa John's, and homemade treats from the Kerrville Garden Club. Participants also enjoyed exhibits by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Hill Country Master Naturalists, Hill Country Master Gardeners, Hill Country Fly Fishers, Be a Pollinator Champion, Riverside Nature Center, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, and UGRA.



Master Gardeners working the booth include Rachel Garrison, Anne Brown, Deb Foley and Jan Sewell.

Keep our River Clean

"To protect the river, we actively promote watershed awareness. Simply put, the watershed is all the land area that drains to the Guadalupe River. Anything including paper, plastic, or metal can and will make its way to the river at some point, so it's important to protect our watershed from trash and pollutants. It's rewarding to see so many people working together to prevent this negative impact to our river. This one-time event raises the necessary awareness, so all understand the importance of protecting the Guadalupe River which not only provides enjoyment to us but is an economic engine for the county," said Ray Buck, UGRA General Manager.



Visitors to MG Booth

Photo Credit: Jan Sewell & Dave Garrison

Certificates Awarded to Interns from the Class of 2019

Two students completed the required hours to become certified as a Texas Master Gardener. They were presented certificates by their mentors at the August Hill Country Master Gardener monthly meeting.



Bee Evans and her mentor, Debbie Bacon



Robert Moore and his mentor, Wil Rolfe



Master Gardeners, Kara Grant (left) and Karen Fuller (right) attended a three day Junior Master Gardening training in San Antonio. They will be part of the Junior Master Gardener Committee led by Kim Courtright. The Committee has many new ideas for the Junior Master Gardener program.



Photo Credit:

Ever heard of “Fasciation”?

By Jackie Connelly



Holy Moly - what strange alien life form has attached itself to this Mountain Laurel at the corner of Quinlan Creek and Linda Joy Drive, Kerrville

It is fascinating and actually called “fasciation” and it can happen to many Texas Mountain Laurels (*Sophora secundiflora*) this time of year. Is it a fungus? An Insect gall? Deer antlers?

According to Mr. Smarty Plants at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center...

The staghorn growth you are seeing on the *Sophora secundiflora* (Texas

mountain laurel) is called a fasciation. Fasciation is a plant developmental anomaly in which it appears that stems, flowers, leaves and/or fruits have been fused. It is uncertain whether it is genetically determined or caused by disease or some other sort of trauma to the plant. It does appear that there may be an inheritable tendency toward fasciation that may be triggered by environmental conditions such as temperature, crowding, insect attack, disease or wounding of the plant. Texas Mountain Laurel seems especially susceptible to fasciation.

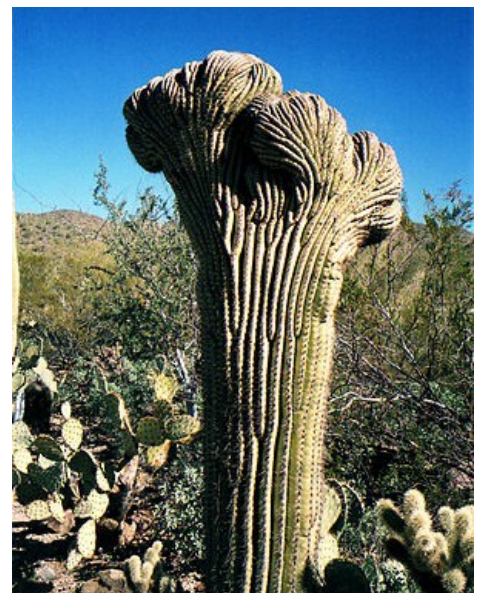


Above: Fasciation leading to two fully formed flower heads on a dandelion.

Right: *Wyethia helianthoides* or mule's ear wildflower (on right) showing fasciation



Although fasciation is rare overall, it has been observed in over 100 plant species and many cactus family. Cresting results in undulating folds. Additional pictures can be found at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fasciation>



A crested" saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*), resulting from fasciation, located at Saguaro National Park (West), Arizona, U.S.

President's message continued from page 1

We have a few large trees in our backyard that provide a little shade. My husband enjoys woodworking. All this made a perfect recipe for a new project! I pitched the idea to my husband who then built a 10-foot long rectangular table and sunk two metal troughs, with holes drilled in the bottom for drainage, down the middle of the table. We moved the table to our slightly shaded area and I planted a variety of succulents in the troughs. The great part of the design is that if we get tired of the succulents we can fill the trough with ice and use it for serving cold drinks!

Succulents are good plants for gardening newbies. They have a low-maintenance reputation due to their drought tolerance quality. They do need some water and many varieties thrive with morning sun and some afternoon shade, while others like full sun. A bit of fertilizer is helpful. Well-draining soil such as a cactus mix is a must. While they need water to survive, they hate soggy soil. Water only when the soil is dry. They are susceptible to root rot so after watering, dump out any water that has drained into the saucer of a potted succulent.

It is easy to see why succulents are so popular these days. They are easy plants to love. Get creative and gift a succulent potted in an interesting way to a lazy gardener or gardening newbie and, you never know, you might cause that person to fall in love with plants!



Chinese Red Noodle Bean

Donna Bellis offered the seeds of the Chinese red noodle bean to the Special Opportunity Garden and they sure did produce. This stunning and unique bean is ready in 80 days. Fantastic, deep red, 18" pods are so delicious and full of nutrition, and they even keep most of their color when sautéed! Long vines produce all summer and do well under many conditions.

(NOT MY WORDS but the words on the seed packet)
You can purchase seeds for these beans at rareseeds.com

Photo Credit: Pat Wolters



Propagation has begun

Those present from the propagation committee were Peggy Ryan, Mark Schultz, Debbie Bass, Janice Walker, and Patti Schlessiger. Greenhouse Committee members assisting were Anne Brown, Vickie Killeen and Sandy Lewis.

Foxie, Anne's dog helped. In addition to being no help, the cat refused to give her name.



Photo Credit: Patti Schlessiger & Mark Shultz



HCMG Monthly Business Meeting August 7, 2019

Call to Order (Please silence your cell phone.)
Rachel Garrison called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance-Carl Lukenbach led the pledge.
Invocation-The invocation was given by Patty Zohlen.
Verification of Quorum – Patti Schlessiger confirmed a quorum was present.
Approval of July 3, 2019 Minutes-The minutes were approved.

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report – Bernadell Larson reviewed the report and provided copies. She explained that the scholarship funds are being moved from RBFCU to Guadalupe National Bank because RBFCU does not recognize the way HCMG's taxpayer identification number (EIN) assigned by the IRS is styled. RBFCU wants the account name or EIN changed. Jan Grimes asked if there is a penalty for moving 1 of the CDs since it has not matured. Bernadell said yes, approximately \$120 to \$130.

Standing Committee Reports

Demo Garden Committee – Cindy Anderson said in July the power was off for several days. She and Jackie Skinner resolved the issue. Area leaders for the Demo Garden need to check their areas often due to the hot weather, and plants needing water.

Education Committee – Donna Bellis asked for volunteers for the Education Committee. She is creating a focus group for the new members to give feedback on their experience thus far with HCMGs. They are to bring a brown bag lunch and meet at noon, prior to our September meeting in the small classroom at HCYEC.

Membership – Badges with new logo-Jackie Connelly asked whomever wishes to order a new badge to sign the list at the sign-in table.

Jr. Master Gardener Committee –Kim Courtright; Kara Grant reported on training event-Kara gave a review of new ideas for the Jr. Master Gardener program.

Old Business—none

New Business -There was no new business.

Announcements

July Veggie Competition-Rachel said attendance for the meeting was good and the Q & A session was fun! A show of hands indicated the membership wishes to have the Veggie Competition next summer. Patty Zohlen asked if peppers and cucumbers could be added next year. The list of veggies will be reviewed and changes made.

January 8, 2020 – HCMG meeting at UGRA with scholarship recipients giving a brief overview of their use of the scholarships.

Gillespie Co Fair –August 23-25, contact Al Bispo-Al discussed what is required to assist at the information booth and asked for volunteers to sign-up on VMS. The shifts are 4 hours, except 1st shift is 5 hours.

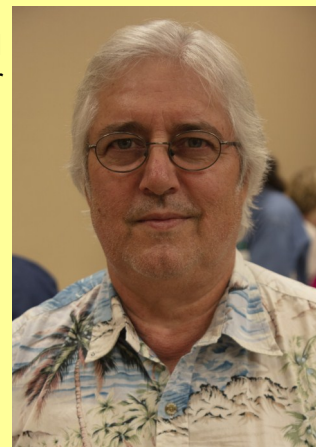
Kerr Country Fair – 10/25-27-Rachel asked if there was someone who would like to be in charge of setting up and tearing down an information booth. No one volunteered.

UGRA – Design & Construction of Rain Gardens – Sept 12 -13

Certification Presentations-Bee Evans and Bob Moore received their certificates and had pictures taken with their mentors, Bee with Debbie Bacon and Bob with Wil Rolfe.

State Level-Duane Robinson gave a brief overview of things happening at the state level.

He said advanced trainings will be every three years except for Greenhouse Management, Propagation and Vegetable Gardening, which will be annually. Next year's convention will be in Waco, May 12th-14th at the Waco Civic Center. 2021 Convention will be in Denton County.



Duane Robinson

Adjournment

Next meeting –
September 4, 2019,
Hill Country Youth Events Center

August CEU - Merry Langlinais, Hill Country Butterflies and their Host Plants

September CEU -Allen Mace, Vegetable Gardening

Respectfully Submitted:
Patti Schlessiger,
Secretary



Merry Langlinais

Photo Credit: Mark Shultz

**Hill Country Master
Gardeners 2019
Executive Committee**

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President**

**Debra Bacon
Vice President**

**Patti Schlessiger
Secretary**

**Bernadell Larson
Treasurer**

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

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Rest in Pesto

By Gayle Malcom, Simcoe, Ontario

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sad passing of Ma Zucchini in her fourth month. Alas, she has gone to meet her baker! Foul play is not suspected, though a few seedy reprobates were grilled by the local police chief.

In the end, it was determined that Ma succumbed to root rot. A transplant was not feasible and C(eed) PR failed to revive this once vibrant, beloved squash.

As a young seedling, Ma didn't have a row to hoe, but she put down roots in the hills, and eventually her inimitable Italian heritage saw her thrive and become one of the most prolific producers in the garden.

True, this stalky gal did to go through a couple of rough patches, but she rose above adverseed to take over her turf.

Any claims by English Ed, the lanky cucumber three rows over-who said Ma hogged more than her fair share of the garden and that her off spring should be fried for treason-must be disregarded. He doesn't have a leg to stand on! If Ma were alive to defend herself, she would exclaim, "Are you pickled? I never promised you a rows garden, you oversized gherkin! Go soak in some brine."

Ma was predeceased by 265 of her 267 offspring, many of whom went on to become casseroles, stews, and breads. She is survived by a couple of young sprouts who had a marrow escape. She will be sadly missed by her neighbors, the Corn brothers (all ears), who, upon hearing of Ma's demise, remarked, "Aw, shucks"

Funeral arrangements are incomplete at this time, but it is expected that Ma will be cremated (it seemed redundant to dig her up only to bury her again).

Dignitaries who are expected to attend the service include George Bushbean, Okra Winfrey, Don Cherrytomato, Chili Nelson, Dill Gates, Yam Waterstone, J. Pea Morgan, Elvis Parsley, Vince Dill, bean Shallot, Rhubarb Streisand, Pota"toe" Blake, Mia Marrow and Bobby Oregano. Unfortunately, Bok Choy Rogers & Kale Evans, Edamame Sullivan, and Beet Davis will not be able to attend.

Music for the service will be served up in spades by a heavy petal band. Ma's epitaph will read "Bet You Can't Grow Just One!" Any donations to Vegetarians Anonymous or the local compost heap in Ma's name would be gratefully appreciated. Rest her soul, and lettuce never forget her.

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