

September 2021

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HCMG
September 1, 2021

HCIYC
In-person ONLY

12:00 Social Hour -
Brown Bag Lunch
1:00 Meeting
2:00 Continuing Ed

“Growing Olive Trees in
Texas”
John Gambini

See page 4 for details



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

Hi Everyone,

It’s that time of the month again, and what to write about? We have 111 certified Master Gardeners, 46 of whom have met their certification hours for the year, and 41 whom have met their CEU requirements.

That’s pretty good for this time of the year, given that the VMS system has had its problems. However, we are hopeful that is behind us, and everyone can now post your hours. Please catch up as quickly as you can. If you need help, contact Jackie Connelly.

If you need to find volunteer hours, look no further than to the list of opportunities listed every Sunday in Jackie’s e-minder. Any of the project coordinators listed would love to have more volunteers, especially in the gardens that we tender. What a job is being done to bring back the gardens from historic freeze to what they are today.

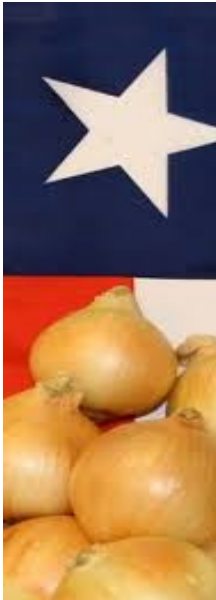
Speaking of coming back, our demonstration Garden, under the guidance of Jackie Skinner and with the help of a lot of loyal volunteers, is back and better than ever. Recently, Sandy Lewis and I were doing a home visit where the homeowner asked for an assessment of her trees following the freeze. We drove up to a huge house on the side of a hill that was being tended by one-person following the death of her father. After discussing the tree situation, we asked to help with some tips on how to improve the landscape around the house. As I do when asked about that, I invited the homeowner to visit our Demo Garden to get ideas about what she would like. Surprisingly, I received a message from the homeowner that she had visited the garden and thought it was beautiful and very helpful. I just wanted to thank all those who work so hard in this garden plus have those folks see what impact it is having on our community. I’m sure that all the other gardens we are tending have the same impact on their communities.

Continued on page 11



TEXAS SUPERSTAR[®] PROMOTIONS FOR 2021

by David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent-Horticulture



Texas Sweet Onion *Allium cepa* '1015 Y'

1015Y, Texas Super Sweet Onions, are Texas's most famous onions and are also some of the sweetest! It's called the 1015Y in honor of the ideal date to plant the seed (Oct 15th), and Y stands for yellow. Whether you are a novice or beginner, Texas Super Sweet Onions are the perfect onion to add to your garden.



Exposure: Full sun exposure is required for optimum production.

Height: 18 to 24 inches

Plant type: Biennial but grown as an annual; if plant size is too big during the winter, the plants can be vernalized and set a seed stalk in the spring as opposed to bulbing.

Planting time: Plant seed around 15 October; Plant transplants beginning in November and continuing into February.

Soil type: Almost any well drained soil.

Suggested uses: Days to harvest are about 105 to 110, and bulbs are globe shaped. They have an off-white flesh and are very sweet and flavorful, excellent for salads, slices, grilling, and cooking. 1015Y Texas Super Sweet Onions are known for their great flavor and large size, disease resistance, and very little pyruvate (which is that substance in onions that makes you cry like a baby when you are cutting them up). Under the correct growing conditions you should produce good yields of 6", sweet, yellow onions.

Special notes: The onion plant has a fan of hollow, bluish-green leaves and its bulb at the base of the plant begins to swell when a certain day-length is reached. The bulbs are composed of shortened, compressed, underground stems surrounded by fleshy modified scale (leaves) that envelop a central bud at the tip of the stem. 1015Y which is a short-day onion, starts the bulbing process when daylight length reaches 10-12 hours. They take approximately 110 days to mature in the south and just 75 days in the north. The earlier you plant them, the larger they get, but they will not get very big in the northern states.



Hill Country Veggies

By Allen Mace, MG

Summer will be coming to an end soon and it's time to start thinking about a Fall Garden. Transplants should start showing up at the nurseries soon. Generally, the last week of August or the first part of September, you will start finding them. If you want to start your own seeds, now is the time to start. The nurseries still have tomatoes for sale. You might still have time to plant these, but look for an early maturing determinant variety. You might even be able to squeeze in some squash or zucchini. Unless you have carried these through the summer, in which case they should be producing again, trying to start any of these is iffy at best. Remember your average first frost date. Most of our Spring and Summer vegetables cannot

handle frost. I tend to target November 15th to the 20th for my first frost date here in Comfort. That being said, I would keep some blankets on hand to cover plants just in case.

As we enter into Fall and on into Winter, I start thinking about root crops such as carrots and turnips. This is also the time to be thinking about Cabbage, Collards, Cauliflower, Brussel Sprouts and Kohlrabi. Leafy greens such as Spinach, Lettuce, Swiss Chard, Kale and Mustarded Greens will be needing to be planted soon. Most of them should be productive through the late fall and some even through the winter. You can grow these vegetables from seeds, but you can also find most of them in our local nurseries as well.



Swiss Chard



Brussel Sprouts

Your soil will need to be worked to loosen it up. You definitely will need to add compost and a slow released fertilizer. Water it all in before you add your transplants. Add mulch after your plants are going well.



Kohlrabi



"Growing Olive Trees Commercially in Texas"

By
John Gambini



Texas Hill Country Olive Company is a family-owned collaboration between John Gambini and his daughter Cara.

They are passionate about what they do, and about the most awarded olive oil company in Texas, located in the beautiful and beloved "Texas Hill Country" of Dripping Springs Texas. Since day one their focus has been on preserving the natural beauty of the area while providing fresh locally produced extra virgin olive oil and other premium quality products.

Their story starts with John, who always had the dream of owning a vineyard. He is a 3rd generation Italian immigrant by heritage, and he loved the idea of having a bit of his heritage here in Texas. He and his daughter were intrigued by an article about local Texas farmers who had planted olive trees and were starting to figure out what varieties to grow and which areas they would grow best in. Right here in Texas. They thought it would be much more fun to help pioneer a new industry instead of jumping into an already well established one (there were already 160 wineries in Texas at that time). And from there, ... This is their story.

Please join us for the September HCMG Meeting and CEU.



Allen Noah, HCMG to Present at the American Community Garden Association Annual Conference

Allen will be presenting about the Glory Community Garden in Kerrville at the annual conference to be held this year in Hampton, Virginia from September 23-26, 2021. Allen attended the annual conference several years ago when it was held in Atlanta, Georgia. Information received at the conference has been instrumental in his leadership at the Glory Garden.



Submitted by Pam Umstead



Raeann Reid, MG sent these pictures comparing the Bee Balm in her meadow and the Bee Balm that volunteered in her garden.

She plans to collect the seeds from *Monarda citriodora* aka Purple Horsemint aka Lemon Beebalm and donate to the Master Gardener seed give-a-way program. These pictures show the difference between growth in caliche (left) and compost (right).

“I think it volunteered in our vegetable garden from seeds blown in from our meadow, but it may have also been in a salad mix that I threw out as a cover crop in our garden. It is beautiful in both settings, but spectacular growing in our compost-rich garden.” Raeann Reid



JACKIE'S (yes, the same Jackie who makes lots of mistakes)
**PICKS FOR AN (ALMOST) WHITETAIL DEER
RESISTANT LANDSCAPE**

By Jackie Skinner, MG

Ornamental Bunch Grasses and Grass-like Plants

All the Muhly Grasses
Mexican Feather Grass
Maiden Grasses of all sorts
Blue Fescue Grass
Bluestem Grasses
Fountain Grasses (typically annuals in the Hill Country)
New Zealand Flax

*Mondo Grass, Liriope, Aztec Grass, and all others of that crowd
*Nolina (Basket Grass) - Unless you have a big space, stick with the dwarf

Grey and Fuzzy Things

Silver Ponyfoot
*Lamb's Ear
*Dusty Miller
*Artemesia 'Powis Castle' and all the Wormwoods
Blue Santolina
Eleagnus
Jerusalem Sage

Other Perennials

Texas Lantana (It's gotta be the native!)
*Big Red Sage
Texas Blue Sage
*Many herbs such as culinary sage, catmint, rosemary, oregano (including Mexican Oregano), yarrow, thyme, parsley, cilantro, chives and garlic chives, fleabane
*Society Garlic
Copper Canyon Daisy
Vitex
Texas Betony (Mr. Grinch of the mint family. It's a mean one.)
Dwarf Nandina (not the standard that spreads uncontrollably)
*Boxwood
*Holly
Coral Bells
Flame Acanthus
Zexmenia - Deer might eat the flowers if things get rough out there
Mexican Mint Marigold - ditto
Prairie Verbena

Bulbs and Corms including daffodils, iris, and bicolor iris - But deer eat the flowers. What the heck!

*Ferns

Poppies

Redyucca - But they eat the flowers. What the heck!

Sotols, Twistleaf Yucca, many cacti - for gardeners who don't mind being abused. Oh, and deer will likely eat the flowers. I have lost soft-leaf yuccas and agave to deer.

Rocks and Plant Replicas made of metal or plastic

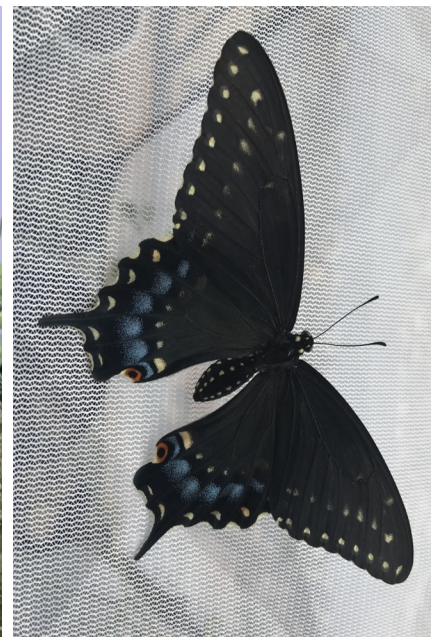
**Will be nibbled, but probably not eaten to death*

Word to the Wise: Don't assume that anything qualifying as a sage will be deer-proof. Most of the hybrids and ornamentals will be subject to nibbling and sometimes gobbling. Take Mealy Blue Sage, for example: the native is eschewed, while the hybrid is a deer delight.

The Butterfly Boutique Hotel

By Pam Umstead, MG

I've always enjoyed watching butterfly larvae in my garden – I plant extra dill, fennel, and parsley just so I have plenty to share. But the last 2 years, some nasty red wasps moved in and ate most of them! This year was much better, and I was happy to observe again...until I saw one nasty wasp consume a beautiful caterpillar. Enough, I said! Two days later, Amazon delivered my pop-up butterfly habitat and I rescued the rest of the caterpillars and eggs. I set up the "Butterfly Boutique Hotel" and felt very accomplished. THEN I decided to re-read the directions to be sure I hadn't missed anything...and learned I had to clean out poop every day! And poop they do...you just don't notice it on the mulch in the garden. So now I'm a boutique hotel housekeeper, too. Soon I realized I didn't have nearly enough food for those ravenous creatures, so I put out an SOS. A neighbor generously cut fennel for me, and a new friend answered my FB plea for potted fennel and parsley. But...the gifted parsley came with MORE caterpillars! Before I knew it, I had several dozen eggs, pupae, and chrysalises all occupying the habitat. In the past two weeks, I've picked up extra fennel and parsley here and there, 4 Black Swallowtail butterflies have emerged and flown away, and there are about a dozen chrysalises and 10-15 caterpillars in various stages dining in the hotel. Interesting factoid – the chrysalis is either green or brown, depending on which color is the best camouflage for the location chosen by the caterpillar.



If Fences make Good Neighbors—Imagine what Screens can Do!

By Pat Wolters, MG



The Mirror Screen above is at the Lake Lure Flowering Bridge in North Carolina. Notice how the 3 mirrors on the screen reflect the garden (see picture below left for distance view) For more information about this beautiful garden go to lakelureflowering-bridge.com. The picture on the bottom right is how my friend screened her backyard from an apartment that is built right on her fence line. She's purchased mirrors at resale stores and plans to add them to her screen.



HCMG Monthly Meeting

August 4, 2021

In person only

Call to Order (Please silence your cell phones)

Pledge of Allegiance-All recited the pledge

Invocation – Rachel Garrison

Verification of Quorum – Patti Schlessiger

Approval of July, 2021 minutes as published in the newsletter

Executive Committee Reports – Moved by Melayne Arnold, seconded by Kathy Lewis, Approved.

Treasurer’s Report –

Jackie Connelly–Jackie reported balances of \$43,520.95 in Guadalupe Bank. She reported a balance of \$28,160.73 in Security State Bank.

We received a \$500 grant from Exxon-Mobil given by Liz Althaus. Moved by Bryan Strickland, seconded by Jan Grimes, Approved.



Committee Reports

Research Desk Com-

mittee – Anne Brown – Anne asked members to sign-up on VMS to volunteer to work the research desk.

B&B Sale– Janell Dahms –Janell asked for show of hands of those who received an email, with XL spreadsheet, for recording the plant description



information. She explained there have been issues with opening the spreadsheet, and it is being resolved.

Unfinished Business

VMS – Jackie Connelly–Jackie reported the calendar is working again. There is a video with instructions on how to use the calendar. She asked members to be careful when choosing the category for posting hours, as the outcome is reported by the Ag Agent to the state office.

New Business

Year to Date Volunteer Hours – Jackie Connelly – Jackie reported we have 111 members. Hours need to be earned and recorded in VMS.

CEU Opportunity in Boerne – Anne Brown – Anne announced members have been invited by Kendall County Ag Agent, Steven Zoller to attend a program at the Boerne Library, presented by David Rodriguez on September 17th, 10:00 a.m. to noon. The program is titled, “Twelve Months of Pollinator Plants in Our Landscapes”. Steven asked for volunteers to speak to 5th and 6th graders (approximately 600 kids) for their Ag Day, held on September 15th.

Announcements

Anne Brown asked for volunteers to help Dusty Gilliam, after meeting, with replacing the table cover in the picnic area of the demonstration garden.

Anne asked Raeann Reed if HCMGs were still having a booth at the Gillespie County Fair. She isn’t sure as she has not heard from Al, who was not present. Rachel Garrison commented she thought Al said he wasn’t going to do it this year due to not many inquiries during the fair.

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**Photo Credit:
Mark Shultz**

Anne will be asking for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee next month.

Jan Grimes reported former HCMG, Anne Graves had a stroke but is doing better. Anne presented several training classes on Biology of Plants in the past.

Betsy Scheffe announced all are invited to attend the NPSOT meetings at the Cibolo Nature Center first Tuesday each month. The general meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

August 28th from 9-11 a.m. volunteers will be working in the Herff Garden.

Adjournment

Next meeting September 1, 2021, at the large classroom at HCEYC without Zoom

Submitted by:
Patti Schlessiger
Vice President



Dave Kinneberg introduced our speaker for the CEU. Virginia Sawin presented “What’s in Your Garden? The Good, The Bad and The Other”

Photo Credit: Mark Shultz

**Weeds are flowers too,
once you get to know them.**

Winnie the Pooh

The only thing I planted in this pot was the purple Angelonia. The Mexican Petunia’s volunteered and so did the greenery (I don’t know the name of the greenery).

Photo Credit: Pat Wolters



**Hill Country Master
Gardeners 2021
Executive
Committee**

Anne Brown
President

Patti Schlessiger
Vice President

Secretary
Donna Nutt

Jackie Connelly
Treasurer

Rachel Garrison
Ex-officio Advisor

C.E.A. Advisor
Angela Fiedler

**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

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or

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**Our extended forecast includes global
warming & the catastrophic end of the
human race.**

**But for the weekend, it's
looking like sunny skies, mild temperatures, &
general apathy towards environmental
concerns.**

Back to you, Jim

President's message continued from page 1

I will be forming a nominating committee for next year's officers. If you would like to serve on this committee, please let me know. As I said in last month's meeting, I will chose the committee if I don't get volunteers. Also, if you would like to serve as one of the officers, please let me know and I will pass it on to the nominating committee.

I'll see everyone on September 1 for our next social hour, meeting and CEU presentation.