

January, 2017
Volume 15, Issue 1

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**HCMG will meet on
January 4, 2017**

**Location Agrilife
Building Classroom**

**Noon - Lunch
1:00 - Meeting
2:00- Program
(see page 4 for
program description)**



**TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas are cooperating.



**Jackie Skinner
President**

President's Message

It's a new year for the Hill Country Master Gardeners with a freshly elected executive committee to help steer us through the events of 2017.

Our Education Committee has already begun their restructuring which, this year, includes a streamlined training program designed to get our students ready to join us in quick order. They have created a syllabus featuring new subjects, many of us will find so appealing, we'll want to attend ourselves. That syllabus is available for our viewing on VMS. Simply click on General Information; then, Newsletters/ Documents, then 2017 Class Syllabus. If you plan to attend, please sign up on VMS so they'll know to provide extra seating. To sign up, click onto "Continuing Education Events." You'll be afforded an opportunity to meet the 2017 class, ask about their particular interests and talents, and make them feel welcome. Even better, you'll be treated to new information while refreshing your memory on what you have already learned. Occasionally you might discover a different way of looking at things

Learning is a key component of being an effective volunteer. Master Gardeners are charged with providing our communities with horticultural information using research-based recommendations from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. To that end, we each must make the effort to update ourselves by attending lectures and classes, and learning on our own by seeking answers to questions posed by the public. Whether or not we are able to reach a satisfactory conclusion, the exercise itself introduces us to all sorts of miscellanea to which we might not have otherwise given a thought. I like to think of it as detective work. Most times the answers are there online or in our office library, it's just a matter of ferreting them out. The more we perform the exercise, the better at it we become. It's a real confidence booster and it can open new worlds, awaken new interests, and make us better prepared to meet the public.

HCMG 2017, Calendar of Events

Attendance at events other than Master Gardener meetings is optional. We list events for those wishing to attend other educational offerings. We try to limit the listed events to those that would earn our members CEUs, but not all will be eligible. Be sure to call and confirm event.

Dec 28, NPSOT Fredericksburg. No meeting.

January 3, NPSOT Boerne, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Ben Eldredge, Director of Adult Education and Stewardship at Cibolo Nature Center and Farm, will present a program on the negative environmental impacts of conventional agriculture and practical ecosystem-based solutions, including Holistic Planned Grazing and "Restoration Agriculture." Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. Visitors welcome.

January 4, Hill Country Master Gardeners, 12:00 p.m. lunch, 1:00 p.m. monthly meeting. 2:00 p.m. Trena Cullins, Texas Master Certified Nursery Professional, will present "Everything You Wanted to Know About Plants and Were Afraid to Ask." Location TBA. HCMGs & interns.

January 10, NPSOT Kerrville, 1:30 p.m. Leanne Beauxbeannes from the Hill Country State Natural Area (HCSNA), will present a program on plants found in HCSNA. Riverside Nature Center. Visitors welcome.

January 11, Rose Garden Club of Medina. 2:00 p.m. Patrick Klein, Ranch Manager at Mills Springs Ranch in Medina, will present a program on Screech Owls. Medina Community Center. Visitors welcome.

January 17, Hunt Garden Club. 10:00 a.m. Bridget Symm, local organic vegetable grower and seller, will present a program on growing organic vegetables. Hunt United Methodist Church. Visitors Welcome.

January 17, Kerr County Cactus & Succulent Society, 7:00 p.m. Program to be announced, Holdsworth Memorial Library. Always confirm date time and location. Visitors welcome.

January 20, TAMU AgriLife Extension Service, Fredericksburg. 12:10-12:50 p.m. "Raised Beds – Your Answer to No Soil." This is the first of a group of courses, "Gardening by the Month," to be held on the third Friday of every month, except July, August and December. \$10/class (you can register in advance or at the door) or \$20 for all nine classes (you must register in advance at the office or by calling 830.997.3452). TAMU AgriLife Extension Service, Fredericksburg.

Other tentative topics are:

February 17: Spring Vegetable Garden Prep
March 17: Potatoes!

April 21: Organic Gardening Methods

May 19: Bad Bugs; What You Gonna Do?

June 16: Composting

September 15: Fall Garden Prep

October 20: Seed Saving

November 17: Growing/Cooking Winter Squash

January 25, NPSOT Fredericksburg. 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Jennifer Lorenz of the Hill Country Land Trust will present "Overview of the Hill Country Land Trust Mission and Approach." Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

Addresses for Events Listed Above

Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library, 505 Water Street, Kerrville

Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Road, Boerne

Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension Office, 95 Frederick Rd, Fredericksburg

Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Highway 27, Kerrville

Hunt United Methodist Church, 120 Merritt Road, Hunt

Medina Community Center, 13857 State Hwy 16N, Medina

Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam Street, Fredericksburg

Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street, Kerrville



BUILDING AN ORNAMENTAL GARDEN

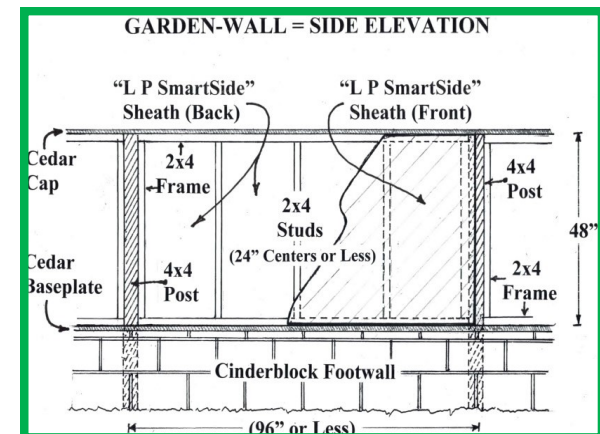
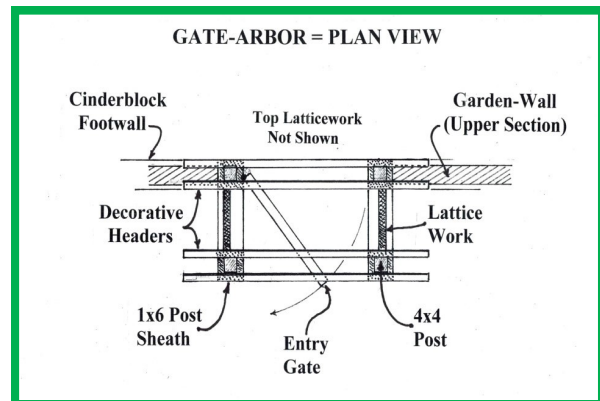
CONSTRUCTION OF GATE-ARBORS AND GARDEN WALL

By Bob O'Connor

Introduction: Years ago I saw “Lost Horizons”, a movie based on the book by James Hilton. In the story a group of plane-crash survivors stumble upon “Shangri-La”, a mystical valley hidden in the high mountains of Tibet, where the inhabitants lead charmed and peaceful lives to great age. The architecture of the palace and the simple beauty of the gardens inspired my design of the gate-arbors. For the surrounding garden wall my inspiration has been the substantial stucco walls of the American Southwest, walls that are reminiscent of those built during the Spanish colonial period. In this month’s article, I discuss the construction of these two special, but relatively easy-to-build, garden features.

Gate-Arbor Construction: The gates consist of cross-braced 1x4-frames sandwiched between “LP SmartSide” panels. For decoration I’ve added rectangular openings in each to provide for metal frames with vertical steel bars. Slide bolts atop the gates serve as latches. Each associated arbor consists of four 4x4-posts inserted into footwall cinderblocks as shown in the Plan View (Top Right). The posts, to which headers are attached, are protected and made heavier looking by adding 1x6-cedar-sheathing. Lattice-work fills the lateral sides between the posts and the oriental-like headers span the pathway below See Photo (Center Right).

Garden Wall Construction: The garden wall consists of a peripheral cinderblock footwall with 4x4-posts inserted every 8 feet or less. Above the footwall a 48” high, 2x4-frame with vertical studs is built between each post-pair as shown in the Side Elevation (Bottom Right). “LP SmartSide” panels are glued and nailed to these frames on each side and then fastened with screws to the post-sides making possible later removal and replacement of individual sections, if necessary. Capping the wall, covering the abutment of adjacent side panels, and providing a baseplate, 1x4 cedar is used. Finally, the wall is protected by a coat of sand-impregnated paint that, when dry, resembles stucco. From the outside, the approximate height of the wall is a little less than six feet, sufficient to keep deer and other larger animals out (except for squirrels, cats and birds).



TIME



Carol Edwards

to

Sometimes thoughts of my value and worth; make me wonder the plan, for being on earth.....

What shall I contribute as my time is waning; what joy can I bring to life that is fading.....

Now, mind you, I have a lot left to give; but what shall I do complete how I live.....

I remember the times in my much younger years; when life just flew by with no time for tears.....

No time for this, and no time for that; no time for him, and no time for her; then all of a sudden life is a blur.....

So, things do slow down and thoughts will occur.....

Thoughts of regret that he or she needed care; a moment of time to say and to share.....

Tell someone you love them before it's too late; because family and friends are what make life so great.....

Now that I've thought of the things I shall do, with the time I have left, and TIME is the clue.....

I shall smile and garden; and smile and cook; and smile and share with the ones that I can, the joy of the TIME I have left on this land.

For some day I hope to smile down from above; with no thoughts of TIME, only with love.....



Our January Speaker Trena Cullins

Trena has been a Texas Master Certified Nursery Professional for 18 years and has worked at the Kerrville Plant Haus for over twenty years. She will be presenting at the HCMG January meeting on "Everything You Wanted to Know about Plants but were Afraid to Ask".



Meet Three of the New Members of the 2017 Executive Committee

Continued on page 6

Jackie Skinner, President

I discovered a passion for gardening some forty years ago, after landscaping my home in California under the guidance of a local designer and nursery. This first project led me to study at Cal Poly Pomona where I earned a Certificate in Landscape Technology. In the 1980s I relocated to Virginia and continued my studies at George Washington University and the National Arboretum in Maryland. While there, I was invited to design a decorative vegetable garden for the American Horticulture Society's headquarters in Alexandria which was installed the following spring.

After moving to the Texas Hill Country in 2008, I learned to garden under conditions not common to either Southern California or the East Coast. I joined the Tierra Linda Garden Club during that year, and the following year I designed and installed a demonstration garden of native and adapted plants at their community building (a three-year project with a budget of some \$11,000).

I entered the Master Gardener training program in 2014. After my certification, I became involved with the demonstration garden crew and designed gardens for the two beds in front of the extension office building, which I still help to maintain. I have taught two courses offered by our Education Department to the public in landscape design.

I also currently serve as Horticulture Chairman of the Kerrville Garden Club.



Jackie Connelly, Treasurer

Born in Wisconsin, raised in Colorado since I was 4. I've lived in Minnesota, Wyoming, Colorado, Virginia, Nevada, and now Texas - YeeHa! We retired to Kerrville in 2006 and I really didn't know much about gardening, as I worked 50+ hours a week as the Administrator to a marketing/advertising/printing company that specialized in working with credit unions across the United States.

I had a couple of good friends who praised HCMG, so I took the course in 2010. I've been married to Yardboy for 39 years and enjoy vegetable gardening and roses. I'm in dire need of a plant intervention next year... I

have over 100+ pots to re-plant for my patio. Can't wait for the B&B to fill them all up again. I've been on the ExCom before. Secretary 2011 & 2012, Treasurer 2014 & 2015.

I love HCMGs.

The Hill County Master Gardeners 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award



The Hill County Master Gardeners 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Patty Zohlen for her unselfish and dedicated service which made a significant difference in our membership and communities we serve. Patty served on a variety of committees and is very loyal, dependable and extremely dedicated to goals of Hill Country Master Gardeners. Congratulations were given by Debra Rosario, 2016 President, and Jackie Skinner, 2017 President.

Left: Debra Rosario, Patty Zohlen, and Jackie Skinner—Photo by Pam Umstead

Meet Three of the New Members of the 2017 Executive Committee cont'd from page 5

Lydia Jones, Secretary

When you've raised your children, enjoy vegetables and are a California transplant to the southern end of Texas and you need to get rid of excess energy in a positive way so you don't get into trouble—you become a gardener with a cause!

I know that gardening has a huge learning curve with experience needed for the Hill Country in general, so that is why I'll be a perpetual student in gardening with a bit of a special interest in the native plants of the area and how to keep the burgeoning herds of native fauna off the flora.

My educational background in teaching and library science has steered me toward collecting books and information about gardening, herbs and how to get children interested in gardening and eating more vegetables—but it has also opened up an area of herbs that I never knew I was obsessed with. If you've begun to tell yourself that it appears that I'm interested in a whole host of areas—you'd be very right. I have an insatiable appetite for being involved with things that make life better for children and people in general. But wait—there's more. I haven't mentioned cake decorating, sewing, bible study, tutoring children or working with wood as other interests, but since this is about gardening I'll leave that for another day.

I'm looking forward to being more involved with Master Gardeners and learning along side you about how to make God's creations grow to their fullest potential.



HCMG Christmas Luncheon

Master Gardeners enjoyed a wonderful lunch at the Riverhills Country Club on December 14, 2016. A special thanks goes to the Hospitality Committee– Jackie Skinner and Linda Proffitt for putting it together.



Above:
From left: Barb Banks,
Peggy Benson, and
Mickie Cunningham



Above:
From left: Debra
Foley, Gayle
Anderson and
Anne Brown

Photos by
Barbara Hunter



Below:
John Benchen and
Suzie



Above:
Jackie Skinner &
Carl Luckenbach

Above:
From left
Loes Williams and
Dyana Orrin



HCMG Christmas Luncheon

From Left: Loes Williams, Dyana Orrin, Linda Proffitt, Rose Marie Mazanke, Nancy Rodriguez, Barbara Banks, Peggy Benson, Barbara Hunter



Photos by Jim Latham

From Left: Lydia Jones, Carol Edwards, Pat Wolters, Mickie Cunningham, Duane Robinson, Dennis Strauch



From Left: Debbie Bacon, Carl Luckenbach, Shaun Culp, Jackie Connelly, Melayne Arnold, Rhonda McIvain, Robert O'Connor

HCMG Christmas Luncheon



From Left: Terri Debusk, Leigh Peters, Carol Hagemeyer, Sue Hall, Chris Seifert



Photos by Jim Latham

From Left: Raeann Reid, Kathy Guenther, Kathy Lewis, Valerie Fishell, Debra Foley, Gayle Anderson



From Left: Pan Umstead, Dee Dunton, Janice Walker, Vickie Killeen, Anne Brown, Tommie Airhart, Sandy Lewis, Patti Zohlen



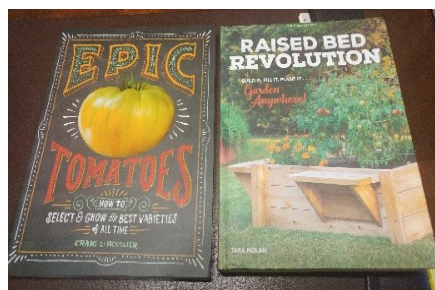
Hill Country Veggies *January 2017*

By Allen Mace

Here we are at the end of another growing season. Some folks just leave the garden alone, with the intention of getting things in order next spring. Others will plant a cover crop of clover or rye to be tilled in later. Still some, such as myself, will continue to grow vegetables through the winter. I'm not using the whole garden this winter, just one bed to grow some kale. I just like to keep something growing year around. There are many plants that will grow well during winter. Most of your leafy greens, such as cabbage, Swiss chard, and mustard greens, as well as lettuce and spinach, will grow throughout the winter months. From time to time, you might need to protect your plants during a bad cold snap. Most of the time we have mild winters, here in The Hill Country. Just remember to amend the soil and don't forget to water now and then.

This time of year is a good time to reflect on what worked and what did not work so well during the last season. I also like to spend time with all the new seed catalogs that start to show up now. It's never too early to start planning for next spring. We all have our list of vegetables that we grow every year, but I enjoy looking at the new varieties that the seed companies are offering. I like to experiment with something new, now and then. You never know when you might be pleasantly surprised. I'm always on the lookout for new additions to my library.

This year I've added two books: *Epic Tomatoes* by Craig LeHoullier, and *Raised Bed Revolution* by



Tara Nolan. I will enjoy going through both of these books this winter.

Earlier this year I wrote about the

Lambs Quarter that I was growing. In most gardens it's considered a weed and is cast onto the compost



pile. In my garden it's nurtured and harvested for its nutritional value. Pound for pound it rivals spinach in nutrition. The last time I had some growing, I let the plants seed out in hopes of establishing them in the back yard area. It came back the next year, but the deer discovered it and ate all of the new plants.

This year, I'm collecting the seeds and will replant

next year, keeping them protected from the deer. I stopped harvesting the leaves once the plants started forming seed heads, about two months ago. After a while the seed heads matured and started to dry out. I checked them every week or two until they were ready. I sniped the seed heads and placed them in a plastic bags. If you shake them gently, the seeds will fall to the bottom of the bag. I'll let them sit in the open bags to keep the air fresh. In a few weeks, I'll collect the dried seeds and package them up. I don't know if the seeds need any chill time or not. I will have to experiment with that, and do a viability test later on before spring.



Most gardeners take the winter months off. I like to spend this time looking backwards in reflection and looking forward with anticipation.

**Hill Country Master
Gardeners 2017
Executive
Committee**

Jackie Skinner
President

Wil Rolfe
Vice President

Lydia Jones
Secretary

Jackie Connelly
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

Event Page Editor
Raeann Reid

Columnists
Barbara Banks, Barbara
Elmore, Caryl Hartman,
Allen Mace, Allen Noah &
Bob O'Connor

Photographers -
Barbara Hunter
Jim Latham

Webmaster - Debra Rosario

Submissions to
patwolters2865@hotmail.com

Or

HCMG2002@outlook.com

H

HCMG are a Generous Lot!



From left:
Carol Edwards,
Carol Hagemeyer,
Lydia Jones

Photo by Melayne Arnold

HCMGs brought non-perishable foods to the Christmas Luncheon. Many hands brought the bags of food out to the curb. Special thanks go to Carol Edwards, Carol Hagemeyer, Lydia Jones, Vickie Killeen, Dee Dunton, Melayne Arnold, and Jackie Connelly for staying to help load the back of Carol's truck.

Carol Hagemeyer delivered the goods to Bandera County Helping Hand - Village of Hope. Bandera County Helping Hand is operated primarily for the charitable purpose of providing direct assistance and counseling for families and individuals in need, who are facing a crisis situation in their lives, and reside in Bandera County.

They have a food pantry, thrift store, clinic, and newly opened tranquility park gardens.
<http://banderavillageofhope.com/>

