

July 2017
Volume 15, Issue 7

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**HCMG will meet on
July 5, 2017**

**Location: AgriLife Building
Classroom**

**Noon - Networking/
Open Forum**

**1:00 - Program
Invasive Species
Dr. Hans Landel**

2:15- Meeting



**TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.



**Jackie Skinner
President**

President's Message

Had William Shakespeare been a gardener, he never would have made Juliet Capulet say something lame like, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." That's wrong, wrong, WRONG, and we all know it. In horticulture, if you are identifying a plant or wish to make a purchase, you had just better watch out if you don't know its exact botanical name.

For instance, should you want one of those pretty groundcover trailing germanders we feature in Section 5 of our demonstration garden, and you don't specify *Teucrium chamaedrys* (standing 1' tall and 2' wide, bearing dark green ferny leaves and clusters of white flowers), you could end up with *Teucrium fruticans* which is silver gray in appearance, stiffly standing 4 – 8' tall! You've gotta have the genus and species.

There are other important factors to keep in mind. Take the juniper. *Juniperus chinensis* (anything of the species "chinensis" comes from China) in its natural state is a tree, 50 – 60' in height, erect, its foliage blue green. Maybe you like the look of this genus and species but you need one much smaller in proportion. *Juniperus chinensis* 'Pfitteriana,' standing 5-6' tall, is your answer. 'Pfitteriana' is a cultivar of *Juniperus chinensis*. (Cultivars are plant varieties produced by selective breeding. The word cultivar is a composite of cultivated and variety).

This lovely cultivar, with feathery gray-green foliage seems just the ticket for your space, but then you discover it blends in too much with your background. A blue one would be better. Guess what! You can get a *Juniperus chinensis* 'Pfitteriana Glauca.' Same characteristics, different color (glauca means blue).

When it comes down to specifics, there is a wealth of confusing terminology made up by experts so they seem more special than they are. Variety is defined as "a subdivision of a species having a distinct though often inconspicuous difference, and breeding true to that difference." (Really? If the difference is inconspicuous, who cares!) "x" indicates a hybrid. (Why not say "hybrid," then!) A hybrid is "a plant resulting from a cross between two or more other plants which are more or less alike." Hmmm, that's double talk if you ask me.

My point is, roses are not the same by another name. Do your research, find exactly what you want, and order it by using all the Latin adjectives accurately describing your selection. Better yet, write it down and hand your nurseryman the note. Then don a condescending smile as he struggles through the pronunciation.

HCMG 2017, Calendar of Events prepared by Raeann Reid

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 the sponsor and confirm event.

June 16, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 12:10-12:50 p.m. Chris Seifert, HCMG, will present "Composting." See other topics, cost and registration details on the HCMG website homepage. Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension Office.

June 27, NPSOT Fredericksburg. 6:30 p.m. social followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Rufus Stephens, TPWD Biologist, will present "Attracting Birds in the Texas Hill Country: A Guide to Land Stewardship." Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

July 5, Hill Country Master Gardeners, 1:00 p.m. Dr. Hans Landel, Invasives Species Program Coordinator, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, will discuss the threats invasive species pose to our natural heritage, our economy, and our recreational opportunities. Hill Country Youth Event Center. HCMGs and interns.

July 18, Kerr County Cactus & Succulent Society, 7:00 p.m.

Program to be announced, Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library. Always confirm date, time and location online in latest newsletter at <http://home.windstream.net/wildfong/KCCSS.html>. Visitors welcome.

July 25, NPSOT Fredericksburg. 6:30 p.m. social followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Dr James Stanley, Master Naturalist, author and weekly columnist for the Kerrville Daily Times will present, "The Critical Importance of Native Grasses to the Health of Hill Country Habitat" - Memorial Presbyterian

Addresses for Events Listed Above

Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library, 505 Water Street, Kerrville

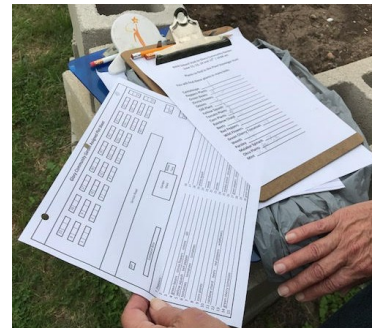
Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension Office, 95 Frederick Road, Fredericksburg

Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Highway 27, Kerrville

Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam Street, Fredericksburg

News from the Glory Garden

This week Monday thru Thursday, HCMG's are hosting children's groups from Kerrville First United Methodist Church at Glory Community Garden to teach about veggie gardening. The MG team is led by Donna Guthrie, with assistance from MG Interns Debbie Lee and Lloyd Kneese. Some of the activities included a veggie scavenger hunt, identifying herbs by smell, and getting acquainted with the concept of a keyhole garden.



Photos by Pam Umstead



Hill Country Master Gardeners Monthly Program and Business Meeting June 7, 2017

The Monthly business meeting was held at the Kerr County Youth Event Center classroom.

57 members were present.

President, Jackie Skinner, called the meeting to order at 2 pm. Dyana Orrin led the members with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation was led by Patty Zohlen.

Quorum was verified.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved. Anne Brown moved to accept the minutes, Cindy Anderson seconded, and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Badges: The membership order will be made in one month, the initial order to all members will be purchased with Master Gardener funds.

Logo Wear: Order forms are available at the check-in desk. Completed forms can be placed in Jackie Connelly's office box.

Greenhouse Update: Jerry Clark arranged for a delivery of gravel to be applied to the floor of the new greenhouse when construction has been completed. The new greenhouse will be utilized over the winter by the Propagation Committee to propagate plants for next spring's B&B sale.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurers report was made available at the check-in desk.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

41 visitors were present at our Open CEU program today.

The July pot luck has been postponed until August in order to accommodate our July CEU program which will be open to the public. The July CEU program will be held at 1:00 p.m., with the business meeting following at approximately 2:15 p.m.

Road Runner Award: Given to Lloyd Kneese, first to complete hours for certification, with over one hundred volunteer hours already finished.

Scholarships: Four higher education scholarships have been submitted with 3 candidates chosen to receive awards from our scholarship committee. Special membership scholarships are available for those members wishing to pursue a specialist class. Preference will be given to those members seeking a specialty that is not represented well, and can give our organization a 2 year commitment of service as well as join the speakers bureau.

Reminder: Rain Barrel class will be held on June 21, 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at the Extension Office. There is a need for 2 facilitators to help with the class.

Anne Brown and Sandy Lewis contributed \$2500 each toward funding the set up of the greenhouse. A special thank you was extended for their generous contribution to the Master Gardeners Greenhouse!

Glory Community Garden Update: The Glory garden is becoming a "community" with the activities that are planned for the year which include Learn and Grow education for gardeners, as well as classes for children during the summer months. The water catchment system is being planned and implemented, as well as an "education" center with a roof and seating for future classes.

UGRA Project Update: There will be an education center area with beautiful landscaping that will focus on water catchment education for the community.

The Juvenile Probation project this month will involve helping with the delivery of soil and plants by committee members. Students will unload trucks and do the planting under committee oversight.

Horticultural Inquiry Forms: There is a need for members to submit horticultural inquiry questions for our interns to research. Forms are available at the check in desk (yellow paper forms).

July CEU Program: The program will be at 1:00. The August meeting will be a pot luck with 1.5 volunteer hours.

ADJOURNMENT

3:00

Respectfully submitted,
Lydia Jones, Secretary

Restoration vs. Landscaping: Is the Tension Necessary?

By Aryn Young

Reprinted with permission from Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)

Although seemingly straightforward, landscaping is a tricky word with a lot of context. On one hand, landscaping allows us to create something that is visually pleasing and desirable. It is an outpouring of creative energy, much like painting. Through landscaping, we get to use aesthetic discretion and our own two hands to make an idea reality. There is something satisfying about pouring your hard work and intellect into something, and seeing it come to fruition.

But there's another side to this elusive word "landscaping." The idea of traditional landscaping hinges on the removal and deconstruction of something already there in order to create an altered reality. The common perception is that we must disregard most of the plants and start over. Native plants have spent an unknowable amount of time evolving to know how to inhabit a very particular place. Do we really need to be the new masters of our own space?

So this is where landscaping stands at the moment: A black-and-white choice of either destroying in order to create, or subscribe to "wildness" while our innate creative energy languishes. But, as with many things in life, this topic of land tending is never as black and white as presented. What if, instead of choosing between our own creativity and what the land so obviously wants to be, we choose both?

We can use our desire to create something from our space for the restoration, stewardship, and celebration of that space. We have faculties to change the land we occupy—as humans we are extremely good at this. Instead of desiring a blank canvas, what if we discern what the land wants and say, "What already exists is beautiful. Let me help you and build off this!" Or, better yet, "I love what you used to be. Let me help you get back to that point so we can work together." Our creative energies then turn from destruction into stewardship. We allow our energies to create something not only beautiful, but something that evolved to develop a sense of our own place. At that point, we find the marriage between our aesthetic tendencies, and how the land natively functions. At that point we discover

where we are.

Native American Seed and organizations like the BRIT based in Fort Worth are seeking to give people the opportunity to discover what it means to put themselves into the place they occupy. By deciding to occupy your landscape with native plants and seeds, you actively participate in the restoration of your place. Creative discretion and aesthetic desire within the native-plant palette are pleasing to the eye, but also foster the spirit of restoration, good stewardship and sense of place within yourself. BRIT strives to give people the chance to experience their native landscape firsthand for themselves, knowing that as we experience it our love for it grows, as does our desire to see it thrive. Through hands-on education, securing available resources, and harnessing an urban prairie space, BRIT shows citizens how much there is to love and take joy from within our local native landscapes. This is done with the idea that once others experience the native prairie firsthand, they will seek out resources like Native American Seed and actively become a part of the land-stewardship story themselves.

We don't need a blank canvas. We have a painting already started—a style-laid out that begs us to add our own brushstrokes.

Botanical Research Institute of Texas

www.brit.org

Native American Seed Farm

www.seedsource.com



Donation to Greenhouse Construction by two Generous Master Gardeners



Anne Brown (left) and Sandy Lewis (right) were awarded Certificates of Appreciation at the June 7 HCMG meeting by President Jackie Skinner (center). The long-serving Greenhouse Committee leaders were recognized for their generous donations to cover construction of the new greenhouse which supports HCMG's mission to provide horticultural related education to the public.

In addition, both were presented with polo shirts featuring the new, hot-off-the-press Texas Master Gardener logo.

Summer Bounty!

I guess when the neighbors start locking their doors as they see you coming down the street with more squash, its time to try this recipe.

SQUASH FRITTERS

By Jerry Clark

2 medium squash
1 small onion
2 eggs
Corn meal approx. (1&1/2 cups)
Garlic powder
salt & pepper
Milk

Rough or coarsely grate the squash and onion in a mixing bowl -Add the eggs -Add corn meal
Mix the contents adding enough milk to make a batter the consistency of a moderately thick pancake batter -
Add salt, pepper, and garlic powder to your taste!

FRY IN A SKILLET UNTIL GOLDEN BROWN

AN ABUNDANCE OF OKRA CAN BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THE SQUASH IF YOU DESIRE!!



**Above: Jerry in his garden harvesting squash
Left: Jerry's healthy yellow squash.**

Special thanks to **Kathy Leonard and Debbie Lea** who were working the help desk when this picture arrived with the question, "what's wrong"? They found in *The Vegetable Book* by Dr. Sam Cotner that this is squash mosaic virus, a disease transmitted by insects. Virus-infected plants are usually stunted and often have mottled, distorted leaves. Chemical control is ineffective. The best bet is to practice prevention by controlling insects and pulling up and discarding any plants exhibiting symptoms.



This squash was unfortunately found in Pat Wolters's garden

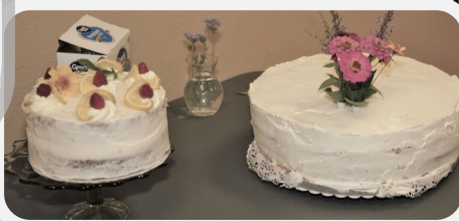
First two interns of the Class of 2017 to complete the required hours to become certified as a Texas Master Gardener



Left: Jackie Skinner, President, presents MG Certificate to Rachel Garrison

Right: Jackie Skinner presents MG Certificate to Lloyd Kneese

Below: Lydia Jones baked two delicious cakes for the celebration



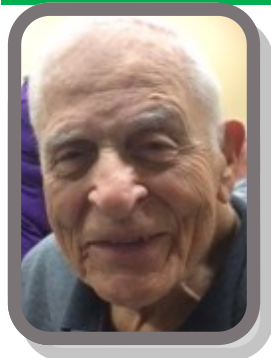
Roadrunner Award Presented



Pierre Vinet (left) 2016 recipient of the Roadrunner Award presents the trophy to the 2017 winner, Lloyd Kneese (right)

The Master Gardener class of 2016 was given a challenge at graduation that the first person to complete the required hours to become certified as a Texas Master Gardener would also receive the Roadrunner Award.

Pierre Vinet was the first recipient of this prestigious award. He kept the trophy until he could present it to this year's winner, Lloyd Kneese. In addition to the trophy, each winner's name is added to a wall plaque kept in the Master Gardener Office at the AgriLife Extension Office.

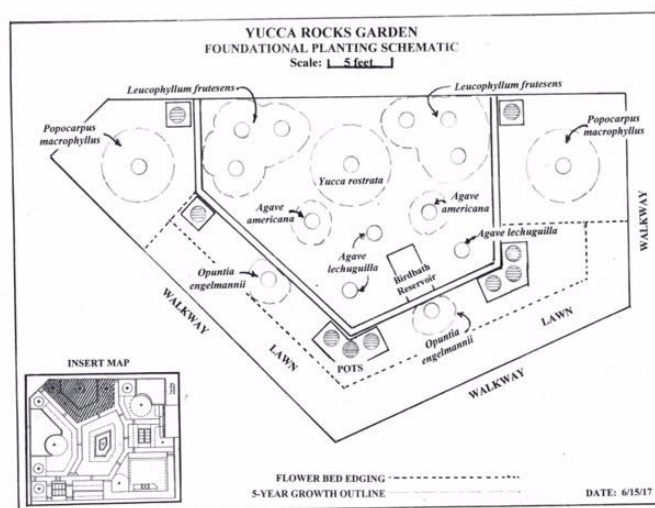


BUILDING AN ORNAMENTAL GARDEN A TOUCH OF DESERT

By Bob O'Connor

Introduction: This month I begin a series on the individual Garden Islands I named in last month's submittal, starting with Yucca Rocks, which truly is "a touch of desert". I describe its foundational planting and give my reasons for the design. After that, I offer some thoughts on color with drought-resistant perennials and pots. Finally, I write a little about the evolution of these plants and their pedigrees.

Foundational Planting and Substance: The single most important plant in this garden is the *Yucca rostrata* (Spanish Dagger). It is the central focus from every vantage point, a singularly striking specimen. On either side I've planted three *Leucophyllum frutescens* (Texas Sage) for color and mass support and in front, two *Agave americana* (Century Plant), also for color and mass support. Elsewhere, as can be seen in the plan, I'm using *Dasyliirion texanum* (Texas Sotol), *Agave lechuguilla* (Shin Dagger) and *Opuntia engelmannii* (Prickly Pear) to complete the scene. Garden surface treatment for the raised bed is rocks extracted from the soil when excavating for flower beds and lawn. These choices are quite conventional but taken together serve well as foundational planting. In five or more years, all will grow closer together and quite a bit larger but retain, generally, similar size relationships with the *Yucca rostrata* continuing to dominate.



Dress-Up and Excitement: As of this date, choices of perennials and grasses for seasonal color have not been made, but, in keeping with the desert scene, selections will be highly drought resistant natives. My plan is to intersperse them sparingly among the foundation plants and in the annulus between the raised portion of the garden and the lawn strip adjacent to the walkways. Also in the annulus, I plan to use colored pots to supply visual interest during winter when there is very little flowering. Local masses of strong color provide more sustained excitement, I believe, than the mixing of many colors throughout extended areas.

Cladistics and Pedigree: Here, I had hoped to be able to provide more evolutionary information but, unfortunately, plant classification is in a rather chaotic state today as new genomic information is quite radically changing both the nomenclature and inferred interconnections of plants as derived using the older Linnean System. Plant proximity now is based on genetic criteria rather than on selected physical similarities. This phylogenetic methodology goes by the name of cladistics and is quite sophisticated. The best I can say at this point is that at the level of order, the common ancestor of the Agave and Yucca plants dates probably to the Cretaceous Period, 145-66 MYA (million years ago) and that of the Prickly Pear, a cactus, to late Paleogene, 35 MYA.





Hill Country Veggies

July 2017

By Allen Mace

Last month I was having some issues with my squash and zucchini. I had crowded the beds with too many plants, the fruit that did appear was small and stunted. I did not see many pollinators in



Squash Beds

the squash beds. The flowers were under all the foliage so I suspected that the pollinators weren't seeing the flower and moved on to other plants, such as the tomatoes and cucumbers. I pulled half the plants out of each bed and opened the area up. Since then the pollinators have found the zucchini and I'm starting to get some sizable fruit. The yellow squash, on the other hand are still producing small stunted fruit. I

will most likely just let things go for now. I normally pull all the plants in July and wait to plant the fall garden in mid-August. I think I will go back to the variety of yellow squash I used to use, and start the plants from seed instead of buying the seedlings. I've not had much success the past few years with seedlings. When something is not working as it should, I tend to go back to what worked in the past.



Tomato Bed

The tomatoes and cucumbers seem to be doing well this year. The rain has helped the past few weeks. With the rains that we've been getting, I still like to add a bit of fertilizer now and then. Heavy rains will tend to cause nutrients to leech through the soil, so additional fertilizer helps. When I fertilize, I like to water the garden a day or two, or wait a day or two after a rain, before I plan to fertilize. If your soil is moist before you fertilize, it will slow the rate of percolation of the fertilizer through to soil. You just need to be careful not to moisten the soil too much that it become soggy.

I also like to water the garden in the early part of the day so that any foliage that get wet has time to dry.



Cucumber

After I thinned out the squash beds, I planted some pole beans in each the beds. I like to scatter beans throughout my vegetable gardens. Beans are a good companion crop with most other crops. Beans are a legume and legumes are able to enhance good soil bacteria. These good bacteria help build up the soil, this in turn helps other plants gain access to soil nutrients.

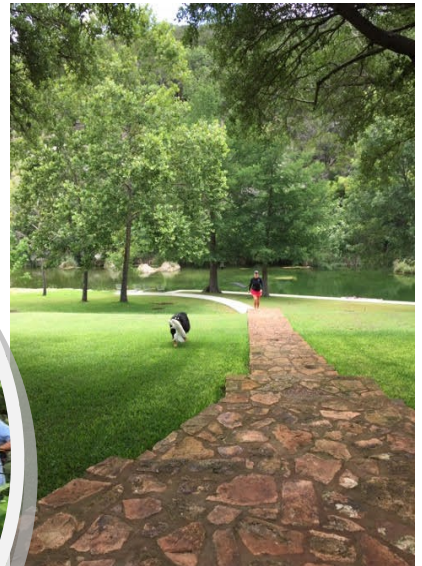
All in all, the garden seems to be doing well. I've learned a few lessons that should be helpful later.



Beans



Garden Tours



Jane Rackley organized the annual Garden Tour for Master Gardeners and guests. Eleven MGs and 6 guests visited 4 homes and gardens in the area around Turtle Creek and Bushwack Creek in South Kerr County.

Photos by Cindy Anderson
and Pat Wolters



Bottom Left:
Paul Zohlen and Patty Zohlen
Diane McMahon
Gayle Anderson
Raeann Reid
Craig Anderson
Sue Hall

Bottom Right:
Jane Rackley
Jerry Clark
Terrie Clark
Our host on Bushwack Creek
Cindy Anderson
Nina Wagner



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**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 this issue
Allen Mace, Bob O'Connor &
Caryl Hartmen

Photographer
Jim Latham

Webmaster - Debra Rosario
Web Assistant -
Diane Boerner

Submissions to
patwolters2865@hotmail.com

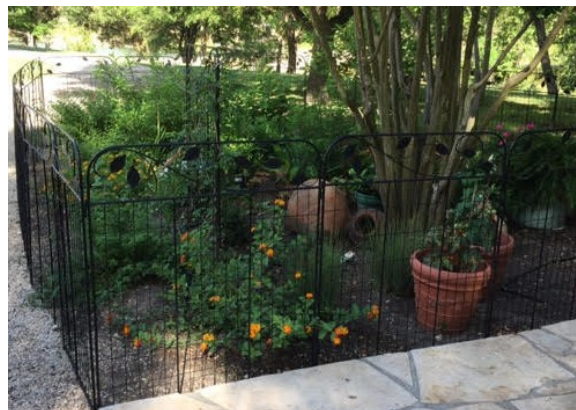
or **New email**

Newsletter.editor.hcmg@
gmail.com

**News from the
Demo Garden**

The team was hard at work again. A Mountain Laurel was too close to the building and the burr oak—it had to go!

Wil Rolfe, with chain saw, Debra Bass and Lloyd Kneese got the job done.



Above from left: Patty Zohlen & Terrie Clark

More Pictures from Garden Tours



Jane Rackley

