

March, 2017
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HCMG will meet on March 1, 2017

**Location: AgriLife
Building Classroom**

**Noon - Networking/
Open Forum**

1:00 - Meeting

2:00- Program

**Molly Keck will present
Vegetable Integrated
Pest Management
Bio on page 11**



**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

When I retired I swore I would never attend another meeting or do paperwork again in my whole life, but here I am sitting in front of my computer, writing my monthly message to some of you who may never read this. Nevertheless, it's one of the many perks of my new job. And I wouldn't want you to forget that I'm keeping my eye on you.

As I write, I'm reminded of all the members of our Master Gardener chapter who are doing desk work, just like me. When they retired they swore they'd never attend another meeting or do paperwork either. Yet, they're reconciling our bank statements or awarding scholarships or taking minutes or compiling reports. They're assembling orders for logo wear and planting pots or making arrangements for speakers at our CEU programs. They're working up lessons and classroom schedules for our students or updating our handbook. It wasn't Martha Stewart's staff who flew in to rustle up chili and cornbread for the troops at last year's B&B. It wasn't the Badge Fairy who dropped that something green and white and glorious on your chest. When we have a booth at a fair or Market Days we don't just set up a table where we find the space. A coordinator has to obtain and fill out forms first and then pull together the handouts (which another worker bee has spent a lot of time copying). At the close of each year about 75 of us wouldn't be officially certified without someone keeping track of our volunteer hours and then reporting them to College Station. We have a newsletter editor and photographers and copy writers for our ads. We maintain a website and audio visual equipment. There are dedicated workers who pour through our Horticulture Inquiry Forms to be certain one of us hasn't told a contact, "Of course azaleas thrive here. Why else would Home Depot be selling them?"

My point is, most of us joined Hill Country Master Gardeners because we love to learn about horticulture and, best of all, work in a garden. When a beautiful day brings us perfect temperatures the last place we want to be is at a desk doing paperwork. So I'm taking time now to thank all the unselfish individuals who are willing to sacrifice such days to keep our organization humming. They are the unsung, unseen heroes who take on the necessary tasks of administration. Bless them, one and all.

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.

February 28, NPSOT Fredericksburg, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Beth McMahon, Gillespie County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent-Horticulture, will present a program on native plant restoration, focusing on the successes and failures of parallel programs in Texas and Grand Canyon National Park. Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

March 2017 HCMG trainee classes, Tuesdays and Thursdays, February and March, 9:00 a.m.-noon and 12:30-3:00 p.m. Login to members section of HCMG website for complete list of class descriptions and times. Hill Country Youth Event Center. HCMGs welcome. Must pre-register on VMS.

March 1, Hill Country Master Gardeners, 12:00 p.m. general meeting, 1:00 p.m. monthly meeting. Molly Keck, Extension Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife, will present a program on vegetable IPM. Hill Country Youth Event Center. HCMGs and trainees.

March 4, Cibolo Nature Center, 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. Organic Gardening 101. This workshop will cover all the basics to grow an organic garden, \$15. Register online at Cibolo.com. Herff Farm. Open to the public.

March 7, NPSOT Boerne, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Patty Leslie Pasztor, ethonobotanist and author, will present: "Native American and Pioneer Uses of Plants." Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. Visitors welcome.

March 8, Rose Garden Club of Medina, 2:00 p.m. Michael Derry, Instructor of Floral Design, Bandera ISD, will discuss floral design, student certification and student projects. Medina Community Center. Visitors welcome.

March 11 and 18, Cibolo Nature Center, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Two-part organic gardening short course. \$35 for the course.

Register online at Cibolo.com. Herff Farm. Open to the public.

March 11 and 25, Riverside Nature Center, Two-part wildlife habitat series. March 11: Water for Wildlife, led by HCMG Anne Brown. March 25: Food, led by RNC naturalist Susan Sander. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Per class: members \$15, non-members \$20. RSVP (830) 257-4837 or rnc.kerrville@gmail.com. Riverside Nature Center. Open to public.

March 14, NPSOT Kerrville, 1:30 p.m. Cathy Downs, Texas Master Naturalist and Monarch specialist will present the program, "Volunteers as Teachers." Riverside Nature Center. Visitors welcome.

March 17, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, 12:10-12:50 p.m. Beth McMahon, AgriLife Horticulture Agent, will present "Potatoes!" See other tentative topics, cost and registration details on the HCMG website homepage. Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension Office, Fredericksburg.

March 21, Hunt Garden Club. 10:00 a.m. HCMG and HCMN, Tom Collins, will present, "The Eight Butterflies of the Hill Country and What It Takes to Sustain Them." Hunt United Methodist Church. Visitors Welcome.

March 21, Kerr County Cactus & Succulent Society, 7:00 p.m. Program to be announced, Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library. Always confirm date time and location. Visitors welcome.

March 28, NPSOT Fredericksburg. 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Rebecca Leonard, partner and Austin office manager for the international firm, Design Workshop, will present a program on landscape architecture. 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 Road, Fredericksburg
Herff Farm, 33 Herff Road, Boerne

Hunt United Methodist Church, 120 Merritt Road, Hunt
Hill Country Youth Event Center, 3785 Highway 27,
Kerrville
Medina Community Center, 13857 State Hwy 16N, Medina
Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam Street,
Fredericksburg
Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street,
Kerrville

Hill Country Master Gardeners Monthly Program and Business Meeting February 1, 2017

The Monthly business meeting was held at the Kerr County Youth Event Center classroom. Fifty-seven members were present.

President, Jackie Skinner, called the meeting to order at 2 pm. Chris Seifert led the members with the pledge of Allegiance. Patty Zohlen gave the invocation. Quorum was verified.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved. Jan Grimes moved to accept the minutes, Patty Zohlen seconded, and the motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jackie Connelly provided the January Treasurer's Report and the 2017 Budget Report, both of which were approved. Debra Rosario moved to accept the budget and Kathleen Guenther seconded. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Name Badges: Three choices were presented to the general membership as they signed in at the door of the meeting. Members were asked to cast a vote for their preference and the third sample bordered in green with a larger print font was selected.

NEW BUSINESS

-Greenhouse: Anne Brown presented the information about granting a space adjacent to the extension office for the construction of an additional greenhouse and storage shed by the County Commissioners' Court. She added that the greenhouse would be installed after the

Bloom and Barrels sale with the help of staff volunteers supervised by a former Master Gardener, Ron Richardson.

-Proposed open CEU program in March with Molly Keck: A statement was read by Jackie Skinner (see attached) a motion was made by Caryl Hartman and was seconded by Debra Foley. The membership voted on the proposal and it passed, unanimously. Chris Seifert then suggested that we might be required to charge a fee to cover Cost Recovery as stipulated in Texas A&M AgriLife rules set in place in 2011. Jackie will speak with Roy Walston for advice.

Subsequently, a new motion was made that, provided that there would be no charge for the CEU program, we would offer it to the public. If a fee is required we will table the proposal for further discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Upcoming March program would feature Molly Keck, Entomologist

-Scholarship announcement: Lydia Jones will be taking a Vegetable Specialist Training class in Dallas and will be awarded a scholarship. She will also present a vegetable class during Blooms and Barrels.

-Update on UGRA Project: Pam Umstead stated that they have a good committee ready to work on the UGRA landscape design project. If anyone else is interested in joining, please let her

know right away as they will begin meeting soon.

-Girl Scout Project: volunteers will be needed to help design a low maintenance landscape for their Fredericksburg meeting house. The Girl Scouts will come up with the funding and will maintain the landscaping after we design and install it.

-Tom Collins grade school project: needs volunteers to help conduct the classes for the students during their science fair classes. Sandy Martin led us in a song that the students will be singing.

-Letter from the Special Opportunity Center was read by Chris Seifert — more volunteers are welcome to join this project as well.

-Final number of new students is 26. Class schedule and sign ups can be accessed on VMS. Sign up for each class that will be attended so that we will have plenty of handouts and chairs available.

ADJOURNMENT

2:55 pm.

PROGRAM

Beginning at 1:00 p.m., Beth McMahon from the Gillespie County Extension office spoke about preparing fruit trees and perennials for spring

Hours Earned: 1 hour Monthly meeting, 1 hour CEU

Respectfully submitted,
Lydia Jones, Secretary



Wear Your Garden Gloves... PLEASE

By Carol Edwards

During this past Christmas, my husband and I drove to the Phoenix area (he doesn't like to fly). He doesn't drive anymore either, although it's only 850 miles!! We went to spend Christmas with my 92 year old mother. She's a lifelong gardener, and still lives alone with her beloved dog, Shu Li. Rather spoiled, but she makes Mom happy! My Italian mother is just under 4'10" and very feisty. Mom doesn't drive either, so on Christmas Eve the thing she wanted to do most was go to a nursery. Well, I never turn down a chance to go to a nursery. By the way, Master Gardeners get 20% at some of the Phoenix area nurseries! Anyway, we bought several plants. This is planting time in Phoenix, so she said she would plant after I left. I made sure all of her empty pots had fresh soil so it would be easy for her to actually plant.

I spoke to her about a week or so later and she said that she got everything planted and her yard looked beautiful. We spoke again a few days later and she said her finger was swollen and felt warm. She went to the walk-in clinic and they gave her antibiotics. I kept checking with her, but she seemed to be fine. A couple days later, she called at 6:15 AM (that would be 5:15 in Phoenix) complaining that she had been up all night and her whole hand was swollen and very painful. She called my younger brother. He took her to the hospital and they said she had a severe case of cellulitis.

Following is the Mayo Clinic definition: **Cellulitis** (sel-u-LIE-tis) is a common, potentially serious bacterial skin infection. Cellulitis appears as a swollen, red area of skin that feels hot and tender. It can spread rapidly to other parts of the body. Cellulitis isn't usually spread from person to per-

son. Skin on lower legs is most commonly affected, though cellulitis can occur anywhere on your body or face. Cellulitis might affect only your skin's surface. Or it might also affect tissues underlying your skin and can spread to your lymph nodes and bloodstream. Left untreated, the spreading infection can rapidly turn life-threatening. It's important to seek immediate medical attention if cellulitis symptoms occur.

She was immediately admitted to the hospital and placed on antibiotics that could only be administered via IV. Her hospital stay was 3 days and the doctor only let her leave with a promise that she would not do any gardening for 2 weeks and that forevermore she would wear garden gloves while hands were in the dirt! He said she had a small cut or cracked skin, wherein the bacteria entered her hand and worsened quickly. Her regular physician said that she was lucky it did not enter her bloodstream! She is doing fine now and enjoying her garden. I hope she follows the doctor's orders and that you all will wear your gloves!!!

ON ANOTHER NOTE, in September, I bent down to pull some obvious weeds in the rocky area of my yard, without gloves, and was stung by a Scorpion.

Last spring, my daughter bent to pull 2 weeds on her way out the door, and later called and said her arm was numb, she had touched "stinging nettle", which caused the numbness.

**SO THE MORAL OF THESE STORIES IS TO
TAKE THE TIME TO GRAB YOUR GLOVES
AND ACTUALLY PUT THEM ON YOUR
HANDS!**



HILL COUNTRY MASTER GARDENER CLASS OF 2017



Back row left to right

Stanley Zwinggi, Chuck Fitzsimmons, Donna Guthrie, Shawn Richards, Jim Wilhite, Jerry Clark, Deborah Lea, Chris Scruggs, John Knoulton, Travis Pflughaupt

Patti Schlessiger, Rachel Garrison, Christine Snyder, Judy Beauford, Terrie Clark, Joan Morgan, Kathy Leonard, Nancy Person, Lloyd Kneese

Brenda Heinsohn, Amanda Sutton, Terry Lashley, Mimi Stidham, Bob Huff, Shirley Smith.

Not pictured: Kimberley Courtwright

Photo by Jim Latham

Meet the 2017 Interns and their Mentors

Sue Hall became a MG in Nueces County in 2001 after spending time in the Rose Society. After moving to the Bandera area in 2011, Sue shifted her interest from growing semi-tropicals to fighting deer, armadillos and whatever other creatures venture into her yard. Her first interest and love are people followed by a strong desire to spend as much time outside as possible. A retired English and speech teacher, Sue now coordinates the HCMG program for the Bandera County Boys and Girls Club.



Brenda Heinsohn and family moved to the Mountain Home area 2 years ago. On their mini-ranch, they raise chickens and axis deer and are interested in raising enough vegetables and herbs to preserve for year round family use. Brenda has an independent spirit and is passionate about living chemical free. She is retired from the Comal ISD Transportation Dept. where her specialty was

coding. She is a warm and caring person who is looking forward to gaining expertise on gardening in the Hill Country soil and climate and sharing that knowledge with children. Brenda will be a real asset to HCMG.

Patty Zohlen completed her Master Gardener training in Harris County and certified as a Texas Master Gardener in 2003. Patty, and her husband Paul, moved to Kerrville when she retired after thirty years as a RN (twenty-four years as a school nurse in the Houston area). She transferred her membership from Harris County Master Gardeners to the Hill Country Master Gardeners in 2011 where she has served as Vice-President, Membership Chair, President, Blooms and Barrels Coordinator, VMS Co-coordinator, and JMG Interim coordinator. Patty enjoys talking about vermiculture and keeps two worm bins in her kitchen. She has "mentored" new Master Gardeners during each training class since coming to Kerrville and feels it is a wonderful way to get to know new friends who like to garden.



Jerald (Jerry) Clark is a retired public school teacher with a Master's Degree in Biological Sciences. He has gardened for forty years, with twenty-five of those years in the Texas Hill Country. He and Terrie live in Greenwood Forest in Kerr County. He is interested in home food production and water conservation/ Xeriscape projects and is a willing educator.

Terrie Clark is a retired high school English teacher. She has gardened for thirty-five years with twenty-five of those years in the Texas Hill Country. She has interest in Gardening with the Elderly/Disabled, Gardening with Youth, working on the newsletter and on clerical/ organization projects. Terrie has experience gardening with cacti and succulents and is a willing educator.

Rachel Garrison is from Boerne. She heard about the Master Gardener program about 15 years ago, but was never able to attend till now. She is a homemaker, has only been gardening in the Hill Country for a year. She loves herbs, potted plants and flowers. She has time to volunteer and is eager to learn about gardening here in the Hill Country and teach others.



she volunteers. She does have some knowledge of garden pests, genus/species identifications, methods and terminology. She also has some knowledge of organic gardening and propagation of certain TX native plants.

Terry Lashley is also from Boerne. She and Rachel are friends. Rachel found out about the program through Terry. Terry is a retired insurance compliance advisor. She has been gardening in the Texas Hill Country for 36 years. Terry is eager to learn about Gardening with youth, Insects/Plant diseases, and Organic gardening. She is a volunteer at the Herff Farm in Boerne, and the Providence Garden (a community garden). She wants to share the knowledge she learns in the gardens where

Carol Hagemeier is a certified Master Gardener since 2006. Junior Master Gardener Specialist, Fire-Wise Specialist and certified Beekeeper. She's been a mentor for four years and gardened in the TX Hill Country for over 14 Years. She volunteers at the Bandera Boys & Girls Club in Bandera. She gardens organically because of her bees, and has been organic for 40+ years. It's better for the earth, the environment and our community. She is also a bluebird nest box distributor for the Texas Bluebird Society.

Pam Umstead was born in Dallas, raised in the Midwest, then moved to her husband Dave's home state of Virginia, where she gardened for 25 years. Her family includes 2 sons, 1 who graduated to Heaven in 2008 and the other who lives in Dallas. Returning to Texas in 2009 required a new set of skills so she became a TX MG in Bexar County; she transferred to HCMG when she moved to Kerrville in 2012. Here she served 2 years as VP, led several design projects, served as a mentor, and coordinates Exhibitors at Blooms & Barrels. She especially enjoys landscape design, working with Texas natives & adapted flowers, grasses and shrubs - "the pretty stuff." Getting involved with the Glory Community Garden project launched her into veggies, so she's now proud to be a "practical" gardener, too. And, she is very excited about our new UGRA landscape design project. Pam is also involved with Freedom Loans, a payday loan rescue ministry; a member of Kerrville Garden Club, mentors a Christian business networking group, and hosts a church home group.



Shawn Richard has been gardening for 25 years, though not in our unique Hill Country. Born and raised in San Antonio, her experiences include family recreational ranching near Camp Wood and down south around Moore. Her family includes best-friend hubby Mark, a daughter and son and their spouses, 2 grandsons and a new-born granddaughter. She has a wide range of interests: veggies, residential and container gardens, herb gardening, teaching kids, water conservation, and home food production. She also teaches vocal classes and Bible studies; she loves to write and is good at clerical, organization, and newsletter-type tasks. She enjoys "community involvement concerning all things gardening." On her application, she notes she adores being outdoors in a garden of any kind and has plenty of personal experience with bugs! Shawn is moving to the Hill Country between Kerrville and Bandera later this spring. For now she is committed to commute to classes from San Antonio to earn her HCMG certification, preparing to give back to her new community.

Kim Courtright is a Registered Nurse. She was a Master Gardener in Illinois several years ago so she appreciates gardening and wants to spend time teaching others to enjoy gardening as much as she does. She loves trying new things, getting her hands in the dirt and researching. To me she sounds like a great candidate for the 2017 class.



Kathie Guenther is a member of the HCMG class of 2007. We were on the fast track going to two classes a week to graduate early. We were needed to be a part of the Texas Master Gardener Conference that Kerr County hosted that year. I have been the program chair, a vice-president, worked on several committees and was a writer for the HCMG *Of Leaf and Limb* newsletter for several years. It has always been just a fun group of people, to work with, and I am most thankful for of all that I have been able to be a part of in the Master Gardener program.

Nancy Person grew up in Houston and moved to Fredericksburg in 2012. Nancy is a Hill Country Master Naturalist, a member of Friends of the Fredericksburg Nature Center and vice president of the Fredericksburg chapter of Native Plant Society of Texas. She was the chair of the last four NPSOT plant sales and volunteers in the pollinator garden at Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park, at Wings Over the Hills Festival and in NPSOT's demonstration gardens. She is interested in landscaping, container gardening, vegetable gardening and maintaining flowerbeds.



Raeann Reid is a member of the class of 2013. She lives in Fredericksburg and earns most of her volunteer hours on the gardening projects in FBG. She is the HCMG programs chair for

2017 and prepares the events page for "*Of Leaf and Limb*."

Pat Wolters is an Registered Nurse who retired from the VA on Jan 3, 2016 and started the HCMG the next day. She has been a lifetime gardener and both of her daughters worked at the Plant Haus during high school. She is the editor for the HCMG Newsletter, *Of Leaf & Limb*. Her interests include organic vegetable gardening and native plants. Her goal is to get her Vegetable Specialist Certification this year.



Shirley Smith is a retired Registered Nurse who worked in Public Health and School Nursing. She lives in Boerne and is a member of the Boerne Garden Club. She is currently working at the Mission Garden, a garden affiliated with the Hill Country Mission for Health that serves adults without health care. She teaches them vegetable gardening skills and healthful eating.

Barbara Elmore

transferred her master gardener membership from McLennan County Master Gardener to Hill Country Master Gardeners in 2008. She is chair of the demonstration garden project since 2011 and loves to get involved in other projects from time to time.



Joan Morgan moved to the Fredericksburg area from Houston in 2015. She is a retired Landsman. Her job involved examining property titles for mineral rights. She lives on 17 acres north of Fredericksburg. So far she has planted buffalo grass and is interested in herb gardening and container tomatoes. She likes research & puzzles, and says she could spend hours looking at a family tree.

Carol Edwards is retired from co-owning an office supply and furniture store, with her husband, for 35 years in Victoria, Texas. She and her husband own about 2 acres in Bandera River Ranch with a wonderful view overlooking the Pipe Creek & Lake Hills areas. She loves to sit on her porch in the morning and watch the sunrise

..... rest of the day
..... then sit on her porch in the evening with a glass of wine. Porches are good.



Mimi Stidham is a retired teacher and accountant. She lives on 6 acres just outside of Comfort. Block Creek runs through her back acreage and she enjoys being outside and sitting in a chair in the Creek while reading during the summer. She has two grown sons and one daughter. She is a Master Naturalist and is very

enthusiastic about life in general. A joy to be around!



First meeting of the **Gillespie County Junior Master Gardeners.**

The students are learning how to do a soil test from Horticulture Agent Beth McMahon. Master Gardener mentors are Loes Williams, Kathy Lewis, Linda Proffitt and Nancy Rodriguez.

Photo by Barbara Hunter

↓ Debra Bass, Pierre Vinet, Jan Grimes



Above from Left: Jackie Connelly, Dee Dunton, Chris Seifert, Vickie Killeen

↓ Anne Brown and Vickie Killeen

First Pot Party of the Year

Getting 600 plants ready
for Blooms and Barrels



↑ Sandy Lewis, Greenhouse Chairperson, and Debra Bass



Right: Jackie Connelly, Debra Bass, Dee Dunton



“Gardening by the Month” Kickoff

Beth McMahon teaching attendees about “Raised Beds [for vegetable gardening] – Your Answer to No Soil,” the first class of the series, “Gardening by the Month”. The classes are on the third Friday of every month, except July, Aug and Dec at the TAMU AgriLife Extension Service, Fredericksburg. \$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). The March class will be on “Potatoes”.

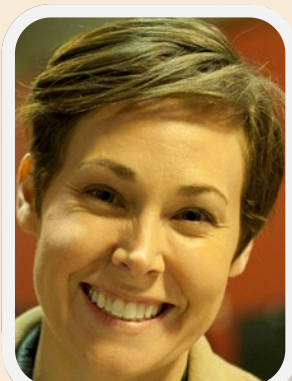
Photo by Barbara Hunter

The Glory Community Garden received certification as a Monarch Waystation

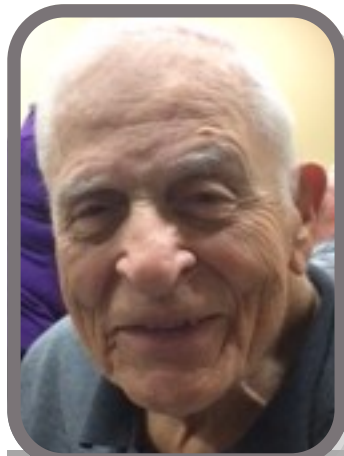
Photo by Pam Umstead



HCMG March Program



Molly Keck is an Integrated Pest Management Program Specialist with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Bexar County, TX since 2005 (San Antonio, TX). Molly graduated from Texas A&M University and holds a Bachelors (2003) and Masters (2005) degree in Entomology. She is a Board Certified Entomologist specializing in Urban/ Industry Entomology. She works with the pest management industry providing CEU courses, identifying insects, and providing information to support the industry. Molly provides Master Gardener and Master Naturalists trainings and various educational seminars on entomology and pest management. In addition, she performs various research projects on fire ants, bed bugs, termites, and other urban and landscape pests.



Bob O'Connor

BUILDING AN ORNAMENTAL GARDEN

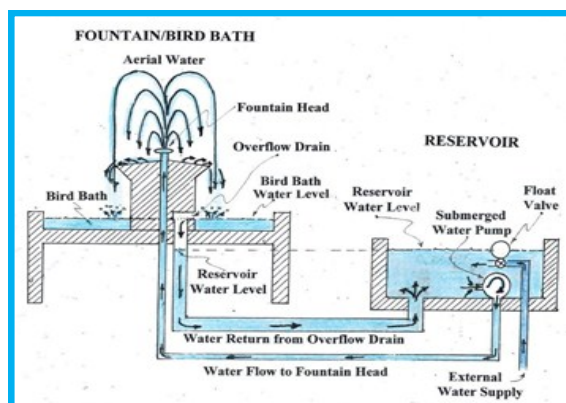
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF CENTRAL FOUNTAIN-BIRD BATH (CFBB) By Bob O'Connor

Introduction: Almost every treatise on garden design emphasizes the need for a central focus to draw the eye inward; thereby, creating an overall sense of unity. In the ornamental garden I'm building, the central fountain-bird bath (CFBB) serves as the main focus. Rather than using a circular or rectangular design, I've chosen an irregular pentagonal one. In plan view it mimics the geometry of surrounding walkways and layout of the raised beds. From the house, conservatory or patio, it is part of more abstract visual views of the garden, but because its functional purpose is to attract birds, it serves an immersive role as well. In this month's article I discuss how the fountain-bird bath works and provide a supporting schematic illustration.

Two photographs show its current stage of construction. What remains to be done is to complete the reservoir plumbing system and add the supportive planting.

CFBB System Diagram and Photo Views: The illustration at right is a schematic diagram of the CFBB system. It consists of a water circulation loop that starts with a reservoir from which water is driven by a submerged pump to the raised fountain head. From there, water pressure produces an aerial water fountain that flows by gravity into the shallow bird bath below. An overflow drain in the central column conducts the water back to the reservoir, completing the loop. Water lost in the system due to evaporation is replaced, as needed, by a float valve that controls the input water supply. The two photographs below show the CFBB as it currently appears from the patio and house entry.

CFBB system Schematic Diagram



CFBB - View from Patio



CFBB—View from House entry





Hill Country Veggies

March 2017

By Allen Mace

I noticed the other day that Punxsutawney Phil came out of his burrow and saw his shadow. Great, six more weeks of winter. Coincidentally, we had thunder and lightning the last week of January, here in Comfort. There's an old wives tale that says if you have thunder during winter, you'll have a late freeze in the spring. Personally, I don't put much faith in a woodchuck, unless you want to know how much wood a Woodchuck chucks if a Woodchuck could, in fact, chuck wood. The thunder in winter has always interested me because this signals to me that the seasons are a bit out-of-sync. Back in the mid 90's, we had an unusually mild winter, similar to the winter we're having this year. That year I got the garden tilled and fertilized early. By the end of February, I had most all my veggies in the ground. They started growing and I thought I had gotten a good early start and was looking forward to an early harvest. Earlier that winter we did have a thunder storm, but I thought nothing of it. That spring on April 15th we had a freeze. I lost all the tomatoes, beans, squash and cucumbers. I said all that to say this, because of the mild winter, I am anticipating late frost. The average last freeze

Seedlings



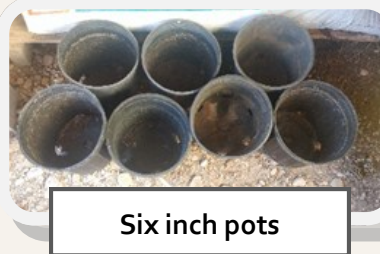
date in Comfort is around March 20th. My peach trees are already starting to bloom but the Mesquites have yet to leaf out. If you remember, I always watch the Mesquites. Fruit trees can be fooled, that's why they can bloom twice. The strategy this year will be to put a few plants in early, maybe 1st or 2nd week of March, but hold some back just in case.

Last year I had good success with Cherokee Purple tomatoes but the Arkansas

Travelers did much better. This year I'm putting in some Roma tomatoes as well. I have gotten the plants and will be transplanting them into 6 inch pots in the next week or so. For now, it's easier to bring them in if the temperature drops. The forecast shows that we have a system coming and we might drop down into the 30's; so for now, I'll bide my time and wait.

Now is the time to start working your tomatoes. If I'm starting my own seeds, I like to start them six to eight weeks before I plan to put them outside in the garden. If I'm purchasing seedlings, now is a good-time buy them in 4 inch pots or six packs. I never buy plants that are starting to flower, these have been in the pots too long, will most likely be root bound, and never grow to their full potential. I like to trans-

plant all my veggies from the six pack or 4 inch pot into a larger 6 inch pot.



Six inch pots

I try to put as much stem in the ground as possible.

Tomatoes are able to sprout roots wherever the stem touches the soil. In shallow soils, instead of trying to dig a deeper hole, you could dig a shallow trench and lay the plant side-wards in order to get more stem in the ground and produce more roots. Tomatoes are a heavy feeder, so lots of compost should be added and worked into the soil before you plant the seedlings. They also like to keep their feet moist, but not waterlogged. A loam or sandy loam soil works best, something that will drain. Tomatoes like to be fed, so fertilize them every 2 to 3 weeks. I like a balanced fertilizer throughout the growing season. I also like to utilize the goat's manure from my barn area. Goats are a ruminant animal, they have four stomachs, and their manure breaks down pretty fast. I just mix it in from time to time. Of course, I do have to pull weeds from time to time, but that's all in a days' work. If you do a little bit each day, it won't get out of hand. Tomatoes are easy to grow, they just need sunlight and a little TLC.

**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
Web Assistant -
Diane Boerner

Submissions to
patwolters2865@hotmail.com

Or

HCMG2002@outlook.com



Pierre Vinet, Anne Brown & Patty Zohlen



Left: Pat Wolters, Pierre Vinet, Anne Brown, Barbara Elmore, Dee Dunton, Patty Zohlen, Jackie Connelly



**Master Gardeners
Tear down that Fence!**

We're getting ready for the new greenhouse. There will be plenty of ways for everyone to get involved.

Left—Barbara Elmore & Dee Dunton