

November 2017  
Volume 15, Issue 11

President's Message	1
Event Schedule	2
Minutes	3
Demo Garden Open House	4
Demo Garden Open House	5
CHEF at Botanical Gardens	6
RNC and Fall Blooms	7
Hill Country Veggies	8
MG Certifications	9
Minutes continued	10

**HCMG will meet on  
November 1, 2017**

**AgriLife Classroom**

**12:00—1:00 Networking  
lunch -no volunteer hour  
1:00—2:00 Business  
Meeting  
2:00—3:00 Program  
Ornamental Grasses in the  
Landscape, Joanne Hall**



**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

When a lovely young cilantro decides she's tired of being just a face in the crowd and wants to bloom, she BOLTS. When the nights turn warm after a chilly winter, and a handsome ornamental kale begins to think about... well, you know what...he BOLTS. Herbs and roughages - eventually they all do it.

Once those well behaved children become teenagers, there's no heading them off (oh, did I just make a pun?). As their thoughts turn to dallying over flowers and seeds instead of going about their work making leaves, what they do is BOLT.

Bolting occurs when plants go to seed at maturity. Cooler weather at the end of a warm season; warm weather after a cold season, water stress, even the changing of the length of daylight can be blamed for bad behavior. But the worst culprit, the one that ultimately stops root swelling and makes stems woody, is soil temperature change. Like unwelcome company, it lurks at the corner, slowly and insidiously robbing our darlings of their youth and vitality. Oh yes, at first those flowers can be impressively beautiful. Their splash of color, even majesty, may draw attention, perhaps admiration, but the hot rush of plant hormones is short lived and inexorably runs its course. We've all been through it. We can warn our prodigy of where it all leads, but will they listen?

It is possible to briefly stave off their drive toward self-ruination by routinely providing all they desire to be content. For instance, a steady supply of nutrients and water is important. Water stress will assuredly put them in a rebellious mood leading to (oh no!) BOLTING. And give 'em "land, lots of land 'neath the starry skies above." (If plants are sited too closely together, they'll take to quarrelling over who got what, and before you know it, they're BOLTING.) As temperatures begin to change, a heaping application of mulch may fool them for a few weeks. Snipping off flowers and flower buds early at their onset may repress the urges. However, the waxing and waning of daylight hours, Mother Nature's Pied Piper, will ultimately lure their wills toward producing the next generation, and as quickly as possible. In other words, BOLTING.

When all is said and done, they and most of our animal species are among the lot who lose our heads over reproductive activities. We can hardly blame them for "doin' what comes nacherly."

**HCMG 2017, Calendar of Events prepared by Racann 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. Be sure to call the sponsor and confirm event.*

**October 20, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Fredericksburg.** 12:10-12:50 p.m. Beth McMahon, Horticulture Agent, Gillespie County, will present "Seed Saving." Gillespie County TAMU AgriLife Extension Office. Open to the public, \$10.

**October 24, NPSOT Fredericksburg,** 6:30 p.m. social followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Steve Stoutamire, Geologist and Texas Historical Steward Archeologist, will present "17,000 Years of Climate History as Recorded in Halls Cave, Kerr County." Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

**November 1, Hill Country Master Gardeners.** Business meeting 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Program 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Joanne Hall, VP of South Texas Growers, Inc., will present a program on using ornamental grasses in your landscape and maintaining them. Hill Country Youth Event Center. HCMGs, interns and the public.

**November 7, NPSOT Boerne,** 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Cheryl Hamilton, Alamo Area Master Naturalist will present "Invasive Plants: Stop the Spread!" Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. Visitors welcome.

**November 9, Riverside Nature Center,** 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Seedy Characters – learn

shapes and types and seeds, how seeds travel and the animals they feed. Riverside Nature Center. Free and open to adults and children.

**November 14, NPSOT Kerrville,** 1:30 p.m. Susan Sanders, founder of Riverside Nature Center and Center naturalist will present "What Birds Have Taught Me About Plants". Riverside Nature Center. Visitors welcome.

**November 21, Hunt Garden Club,** 10:00 a.m. Kevin Barry, well known for producing and creating unique art from the garden, will present "Growing and Decorating with Gourds. Hunt United Methodist Church. Visitors Welcome.

**November 21, 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.

Wil Rolfe  
transplanting a  
small cactus at  
the Demo  
Garden



**Addresses for Events Listed Above**

Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library, 505 Water Street, Kerrville  
Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Road, Boerne  
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

Photo Credit: Vicki Killeen

## **Hill Country Master Gardeners Monthly Program and Business Meeting October 4, 2017**

After the meeting was called to order by President Jackie Skinner, the pledge of allegiance was led by Kerry Brittain. Invocation was offered by Patty Zohlen. A quorum was verified by Jackie Connelly, who also offered the current Treasurer's Report to Membership. The Sept meeting minutes, as written by Lydia Jones, were approved by membership following a motion by Debra Foley and seconded by Debbie Bacon.

**Logo Wear** – Jackie Connelly was pleased to announce that orders had been filled for new shirts. She also had a few extras for sale.

**Greenhouse** – Anne Brown reported that the thermostats are not working and the door for the new greenhouse has yet to be delivered and installed. She is again awaiting this equipment from the vendor. No delivery date yet promised. She also announced that work on the benches for the new greenhouse are in progress.

**Nominating Committee:** The nominating committee put forward the following candidates: President, Jackie Skinner; Vice-President, Wil Rolfe; Secretary, Patti Schlessiger; Treasurer, Bernadell Larson. The 2018 officers will be elected at the November meeting.

**Purchase of New Computer:** Melayne Arnold proposed the purchase of an additional laptop computer with more power to assure our future presentations would not be hindered by chronic problems experienced during the 2017 training classes and CEU programs. Pointing out that \$1,500 had been set aside for a tool shed which will most likely not be purchased, she suggested the expense could be accommodated in the 2017 budget. A motion was made to approve the purchase by Diane McMahon and seconded by Anne Brown. Membership approved the purchase.

### **Announcements:**

- \* There will be no credits for social networking before business meetings throughout the balance of 2017.
- \* Membership dues & signed Volunteer Agreement Forms are due at the November meeting.

- \* Kathy Leonard has accepted the position of Booth Supply Manager.
- \* Becky Northcutt has resigned her position of Logo Wear Coordinator due to health issues; we're looking for a volunteer to fill that position.
- \* We are still seeking a Public Programs Chairman. The job description will be issued to membership via an e-minder.
- \* Three certifications were announced for our 2017 graduates: Terry and Jerry Clark (presented by their mentor, Patty Zohlen); Chuck Fitzsimmons (presented by his mentor, Kathy Lewis).
- \* The Exxon Mobile Scholarship was explained by its donor, Bernadell Larson.
- \* A PowerPoint training class will be offered to members in early 2018; also, interested members will be provided training on the new laptop which was, today, approved for purchase.
- \* Another survey was taken on expected attendance by members at the Invasive Species class on October 16. It appeared we would meet the minimum attendance requirements, so this class will not be cancelled. However, members were strongly encouraged to sign up on VMS.
- \* All scheduled work at the Demonstration Garden has been completed for 2017. An open house was held Saturday, September 30th. Approximately 50 visitors attended. Kim Courtright, our Jr. MG Chairman, held a children's activities event in the classroom, but very few visitors brought their children.
- \* Debra Foley announced plans by the Education Committee for the November Forum and scheduled classes beginning in Feb 2018.
- \* Jackie Connelly reported the Propagation Specialist Training class now has 42 applicants. The Hospitality Committee will be providing snacks and full lunches to attendees during the two days of class time. All rooms reserved in advance at the YO Resort have been taken.
- \* We are still seeking a volunteer to offer guidance to

**Continued on page 10**



## Company's Coming! Demonstration Garden Open House September 30, 2017

It was supposed to be a well-prepared open house where we invited the public to our beautifully manicured garden. Every shrub pruned. Every weed whacked. Every spent bloom deadheaded. Attentive HCMG would guide tours, answer questions, and offer refreshments.

Uh-oh! We should have checked with Mother Nature. Watering was on her calendar. Four days worth of rain finally stopped the night before our tour.

What we hosted turned out to be a Demonstration Gardening Day. It's a good thing that gardeners know how to make lemonade out of lemons. It was a gloriously sunny day, and local plant lovers were as eager as we were to get outdoors. Besides enjoying our lush, blooming beds, our visitors were able to see us in action, demonstrating what it takes to get a garden ready for company!



Photo Credit:  
Vicki Killeen



**Above left:** Before the first guests arrive volunteers Caryl Hartman, left, and Jan Grimes, right, look over the garden with chairman Lloyd Kneese, center. Heavy rain stopped early the previous night, and all the weighted-down foliage perked up.

**Above right:** Jackie Skinner gets some last-minute deadheading done near the office entrance while another volunteer is busy weeding in the background.



**Left:** Jackie Connelly and Anne Brown team up to help a gardener

**Right:** Carol Brinkman, left, and Patty Zohlen, right, spend some time getting acquainted with Lillian Warren, a former New York Master Gardener, who currently lives in Kerrville.





## Demonstration Garden Open House continued



Kim Courtright, Jan Grimes, Rachel Garrison and Mimi Stidham of the Junior Master Gardener committee had fun, garden-related projects ready to entertain young gardeners.

Photo Credit:  
Vicki Killeen



Sometimes the pathways got crowded as visitors lingered enjoying the morning sunshine.



**Above:** Jackie Skinner, center of photo, stayed busy answering questions. On the right, Caryl Hartman guides visitors while Linda Profitt and Wil Rolfe tidy up the succulent area in the garden.



The American Beautyberry and Dwarf Plumbago, a shade-blooming groundcover, were popular with visitors.



Paths were full of visitors  
**Left:** Carol Brinkman and Anne Brown are ready to offer assistance.  
**Right:** Caryl Hartman fills a weeding bucket and answers questions.







What is CHEF?  
Rooted in the belief that food is medicine, CHEF is a Culinary Health Education for Families (CHEF) Program that teaches children and families practical nutrition and basic cooking skills, with the long-term goal of motivating individuals and communities to adopt and sustain healthier eating habits.



**Clockwise from upper left:** CHEF Teaching Kitchen at San Antonio Botanical Gardens; Vegetable Specialist class learning about the CHEF program; newly planted fall vegetables that will be used in the demo kitchen; Chef Dave preparing food; staff gardener weeding; more beds of healthy fall vegetables; Quinoa almost ready to harvest.

For more information go to [www.chefsa.org](http://www.chefsa.org)

Photo Credit: Pat Wolters







Photo credit: Anne Brown

Kim Courtright (left) and Patty Zohlen (right) provided a Master Gardener Information booth on October 7th at the Riverside Nature Center Fall Native Plant Sale & Festival.



### Even the vegetable gardens are in Bloom!

Children's Vegetable Garden at the San Antonio Botanical Gardens

**Left:** Mexican Mint Tarragon (Tagetes Lucida)

**Bottom left:** Cosmos Rubenza

**Bottom right:** Marigolds & vegetables

Photo credit: Pat Wolters







## ***Hill Country Veggies***

***November 2017***

***By Allen Mace***

The other day, I wandered into the local feed store here in Comfort. I was looking for some corn to put in my deer feeder. The feed store always has a few items for a winter garden by the front door. As I walked in, I spotted a box of seed garlic. When I asked about the seed garlic, I was told that most garlic you buy in stores is treated somehow so that growth is inhibited, thus increasing shelf life. Seed garlic has not been treated and should grow well.



**Seed garlic**

I've heard this about potatoes as well. Now, that being said, about 6 or 7 years ago I bought some garlic at the store, planted it, and it did grow. Having never grown garlic before, I had no reference to compare to. I don't remember if I got much or not. I don't think I planted it at

the right time of the year. Needless to say, I haven't tried growing garlic since. It just so happened that the night before I had been looking at books on Amazon about growing and cooking with garlic. Walking into the feed store the next morning and finding seed garlic for sale, I took that as a sign to grow some garlic.

After spending some time researching on line, I think garlic should be fairly easy to grow. It is ideal for fall gardens. You should plant garlic sometime in October or November. You need a good, well drained soil with a slightly acidic pH,

6.2 to 6.8, and you're good to go. It takes 8 to 9 months to mature, so location is important. It will need to occupy that area until June or July. You don't want the garlic in the way of something else you want to plant in the spring. One benefit of garlic in your garden is that it sometimes will cause insects to move out the area. I had an older gentleman tell me years ago that he likes to plant a few garlic cloves at the base of his fruit trees to help keep pests away.

Each head of garlic should break apart into 6 or 7 cloves. I'm going to leave the paper cover on the cloves. Once the soil is prepared, poke a hole about 1 ½" to 2" deep. Push the clove into the hole pointed end up. Use only the bigger cloves.



**Pointed side up**

After the garlic tips begin to surface, just water as you would the rest of the garden. The stalks should grow about 2 to

3 feet tall. You'll need to fertilize your garlic with a balanced fertilizer from time to time throughout the growing process. Once the garlic has matured, you should stop watering a few weeks before you harvest. This will help in segmenting the cloves and allow the outer paper to dry out. After a few weeks the garlic should be ready to be harvested and enjoyed.



**Harvested garlic**



## Newly Certified Master Gardeners in September & October



Jackie Skinner, President, with (left to right) Judy Beauford, Jim Wilhite and Kathy Leonard



←  
Melayne Arnold,  
Mentor, with  
Deborah Lea

→  
Kathy Lewis,  
Mentor, with  
Chuck  
Fitzsimmons



Photo Credit:  
Jim Latham  
&  
Pat Wolters



←  
Patti Zohlen,  
Mentor,  
with  
Terrie Clark  
and Jerry  
Clark



**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

*Associate Newsletter Editor*  
Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to  
Judy Beauford who checks  
for grammar and spelling  
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**Submissions to**

Newsletter.editor.hcmg@  
gmail.com



Photo credit: Vicki Killeen

A garden requires patient labor and attention. Plants do not grow merely to satisfy ambitions or to fulfill good intentions. They thrive because someone expended effort on them.

Liberty Hyde Bailey, an American horticulturist and botanist credited with being instrumental in starting the agricultural extension services and the 4H movement.



Visitors to the Demonstration Garden admiring the efforts of the Master Gardeners.

*October Minutes continued from page 3*

- \* Our Lady of the Hills on their keyhole garden project.
- \* Pam Umstead described progress on the UGRA project, and also announced a Fall Festival to be held at the Glory Community Garden on November 4th.
- \* Linda Proffitt asked members to bring their \$20.00 check for the Christmas Lunch (to be held at Riverhill Country Club on December 6) to the November meeting. Special meal requests should be included with payment. Also, Membership voted to not hire musicians in lieu of more conversational time.
- \* A request was made for members to consider a charity to receive donations from our food drive on December 6th. The charity approved at the November meeting must be represented by a member who will make arrangements for the donation delivery.
- \* The Riverside Nature Center is holding its Fall Plant Sale on Saturday, October 7th. Patty Zohlen is leading the team working the HCMG information booth at this event. All volunteer positions for this event have been filled.
- \* The Kerr County Fair, October 27, 28, and 29, needs a booth coordinator. Except for Saturday morning, all shifts need volunteers as well. Jerry Christensen and Lloyd Kneese will set up the booth on Friday morning. After the closing shift, the table will be moved, intact, to the large classroom in the Youth Events Center where the Propagation Specialist class will commence the following morning.
- \* The November CEU Program will be presented by Joanne Hall who will speak on Ornamental Grasses. This program will be offered to the public at 2:00 p.m., immediately following the business meeting.

The October business meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Submitted by Jackie Skinner, President