

October 2017  
Volume 15, Issue 10

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

**AgriLife Classroom**

**12:00—1:00 Networking  
lunch -no volunteer hour**

**1:00—2:00 Business  
Meeting**

**2:00—3:00 Program  
Lavender and Old Lace  
Beth Potter Patterson**



**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

September was a busy month for the Demonstration Garden and the Greenhouse committees. Weeds were pulled, cardboard laid, and gravel and mulch spread in the Pot Yard. With the help of our County Agent, Roy Walston, on his tractor, red crushed granite was spread on the walkways of the Demonstration Garden. All this hard work was done in preparation for the Demonstration Garden Open House and Junior Master Gardener Fun Day to be held on September 30th.

Kerr County Commissioners graciously allowed us to build a new greenhouse on an area that extends behind the current greenhouse. In turn, we wanted the appearance of our areas to be appealing to the eye. A tremendous amount of sweat, hard work and love has gone into creating a beautiful garden.



**Jim Wilhite and Jackie Connelly**



**Roy Walston**

**Photo Credit:  
Barbara Hunter**

**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.  
Be sure to call the sponsor and confirm event.*

**September 26, NPSOT Fredericksburg**, 6:30 p.m. social followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. NPSOT will present its annual members' forum discussion: "Native Landscaping – Learning by Doing." Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

**September 30, NPSOT Native Landscape Certification Program Level 3**, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in Fredericksburg; 8:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m. in Boerne. Instructors will focus on installation and maintenance of native plants and will cover 45 native plants and five invasives not covered in Levels 1 and 2. Snacks will be provided; bring your own lunch. Register online at <http://npsot.org/wp/nlc>. For more information, contact Meg Inglis at [nlcp@npsot.org](mailto:nlcp@npsot.org) or 512.589.131. Central Texas Electric Cooperative in Fredericksburg or Cibolo Nature Center in Boerne.

**October 3, NPSOT Boerne**, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Craig Hensley, Park Interpreter/Resource Specialist, Guadalupe River State Park, will speak about the unique structure of milkweed flowers and introduce you to those native to the Hill Country, as well as to those found around the state. Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. Visitors welcome.

**October 4, HCMG Hill Country Master Gardeners.** Business meeting 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Program 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Beth Potter Patterson, Education Coordinator for the Texas Lavender Association and former President will present a program on lavender – best varieties for various uses, maintenance, harvesting and challenges to successful growing. Hill Country Youth Event Center. HCMGs and interns.

**October 10, NPSOT Kerrville**, 1:30 p.m. Tyson Broad, Llano River Watershed Coordinator for Texas Tech, will speak about aquatic plants used in recovery planning and conservation efforts. Riverside Nature Center. Visitors welcome.

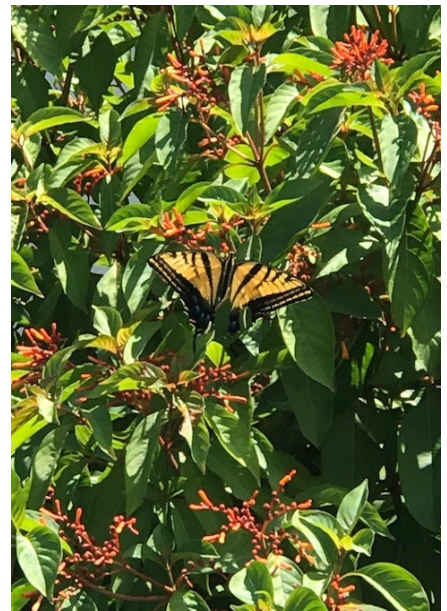
**October 11, Rose Garden Club of Medina**, 2:00 p.m. Duane Robinson, HCMG and Texas Super Star Specialist, will present "Texas Super Stars." Medina Community Center. Visitors welcome.

**October 16, Invaders of Texas workshop**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., conducted by Dr. Hans Landel, Invasive Species Program Coordinator at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, at the Hill Country Youth Events Center, 3785 Highway 27, Kerrville. See page 8 for details.

**October 17, Hunt Garden Club**, 10:00 a.m. HCMG Patty Zohlen, with 10 years experience as a vermiculturist, will present "Working with Worms." Hunt United Methodist Church. Visitors Welcome.

**October 17, 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.

**Swallowtail  
Butterfly**



**Addresses for Events Listed Above**

Butt-Holdsworth Memorial Library, 505 Water Street, Kerrville  
Central Texas Electric Cooperative, 386 Friendship Lane, Fredericksburg  
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

## Hill Country Master Gardeners Monthly Program and Business Meeting September 6, 2017

The Monthly business meetings was held at the Kerr County Youth Event Center classroom. 51 members were present.

President, Jackie Skinner, called the meeting to order. James Latham led the members with the Pledge of Allegiance.. Invocation was led by Patty Zohlen. Quorum was verified.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved. Anne Brown moved to accept the minutes and Debra Foley seconded and the motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

Logo Wear: Half the order was delivered, the "Butter" colored shirt was discontinued.

Greenhouse Update: Anne Brown says the greenhouse sidewalls are up and the door was delivered.

### NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Expenditure for Electrical work on the new greenhouse: Electrical work estimates prices ranged from 5562.00 to 2360.00. The lowest bid was accepted by Jackie Connelly and seconded by Melayne Arnold.

Nominating Committee for 2018

Officers: a call was made for persons to volunteer for the nominating committee to select a new secretary for next year; Anne Brown, Chris Seifert and Kim Courtright volunteered.

Attendance Poll on Invasive Plant Class, 9:00am - 4:00pm, October 16: 14 possible attendees by way of a show of hands.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cibolo Nature Center—Stephanie Patillo spoke about the Herff farm programs that will begin and will be in need of volunteers to help grow and support the programs for both children and adult gardeners. Vegetable specialists can obtain more

information while volunteering.

For volunteer opportunities call 880-249-7230 talk to Joli—volunteer coordinator.

New Junior Master Gardener Committee Chairman: Kim Courtright spoke about the new children's programs that she is hoping to get started and would like some help.

New IT Chairman: Melayne Arnold spoke about the computers being replaced with new computers with more storage capacity to help end the "freezing" during presentations.

2017 Graduate Certifications: Jim Wilhite, Kathy Leonard, Deborah Lee, Terri and Jerry Clark and Judy Beaufort Wanted: Booth Coordinator and Public Program Chairman—someone is needed to help keep our booth information paperwork and signs in order for each booth event. Al Bispo stated that materials used for the fair booths seems to be missing. 14 volunteers came to help with the Gillespie fair booth and there were 360 contacts made with 10 copies of the Texas Super Star Book sold.

Demonstration Garden Work Day—Friday, Sept 29: gravel will be spread with other rock to be spread in the pot yard on September 18th before the demonstration day. Volunteers will be needed for the yard spruce up on the 18th.

Demonstration Garden Open House—Saturday, October 14th: If the workday improvements are not finished the Open House date will be pushed back to a later date.

Propagation Committee Work Day—Friday, September 8; Monday, September 11

Update on Education Committee Plans for 2018 students: The committee has confirmed several instructors for next year, each fair booth will have fliers for

prospective students to sign up and to learn about the Forum which will be conducted on Friday, Nov 3rd Student Training Class

Recruiting Forum—Friday, November 3rd 10:00am: This event will be advertised on the radio and in news articles as well as each event we as Master Gardeners hold in the next two months. A new volunteer opportunity session will also be planned so that prospective interns can be introduced to the volunteer projects we offer.

Update on Propagation Specialist Training Class—Duane Robinson: 34 participates with 6 on the waiting list.

Our Lady of the Hills School Keyhole Garden Project: Mickie

Cunningham spoke about the need for vegetable specialist to help with the new school garden project. Kerr County Fair, October 27, 28 and 29th: Booth volunteer needed for the event.

October CEU Program: Beth Potter Patterson of Lavender and Old Lace will be speaking to us about growing lavender—this will not be an open CEU program.

Pollinator Postage Stamps available to the Cully Street Post Office San Jacinto Master Gardeners Cookbook for sale at the sign in desk Thank you notes from Randa Homann (scholarship student) and UGRA were read to the membership.

### PROGRAM

Soil Survey with Travis Waiser

### ADJOURNMENT

2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lydia Jones, Secretary



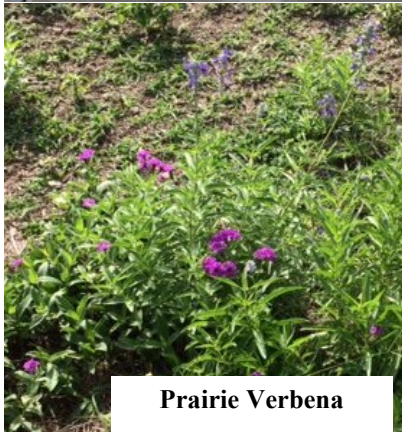
Henry Wilde  
Sunflower  
Growing in the  
crack



Antelope Horns



Prickly Pear growing  
in a tree



Prairie Verbena



Snow on the Mountain



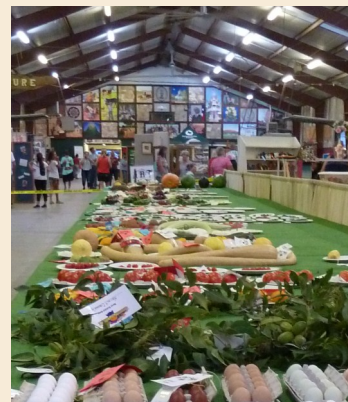
Lantana moving to where it  
wants to live



Above from left, MGs Anne Brown, Lloyd Kneese and Al Bispo provide education and free seed packets to the public.

## Gillespie County Fair August 24 - 27, 2017

The Gillespie County Fair located in Fredericksburg, Texas is the oldest continuous county fair in Texas. Beth McMahon, Gillespie County Extension Horticulturist, won "Best Vegetable" in the Fair. Her Bell peppers are displayed below. Also, winning in the fair was Master Gardener, Raeann Reid. Her Cayenne peppers and Habanero peppers took first and second place.



Beth has some pointers about entering produce in the Gillespie County Fair:

- \* The judges like uniformity in vegetables.
- \* Read the fair catalogue and make sure you meet the entry requirements. You can find instructions on the Fair website.
- \* Be sure you have the correct number of vegetables per entry
- \* Leave your onions unpeeled.
- \* Get in the entry line before 3:30 pm. It gets very crowded after that time.

Photo Credit: Lloyd Kneese and Beth McMahon



**Raeann Reid,  
Master Gardener**



**Raeann Reid's Habanero  
Peppers won First Place**



**Raeann Reid's Cayenne Peppers  
won Second place**



**Beth McMahon's Bell Peppers  
won Best Vegetable**

## Victoria Educational Gardens

What began in 2000 as a small beautification project by the Victoria County Master Gardeners Association has become more than an acre of educational gardens surrounding what had been the officer's club on the former Foster Field Air Base, an area adjacent to the old Aviation Control Tower at the Victoria Regional Airport.

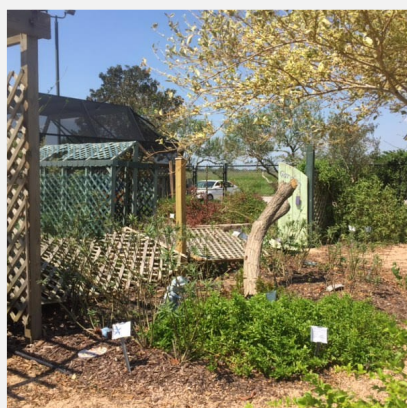
Jim Wilhite and his wife, Pam, visited the gardens a couple of months ago and took some lovely pictures.



## Victoria Education Gardens Photos After Clean Up from Hurricane Harvey

The damage to the Victoria Education Garden was pretty devastating. These pictures are after Master Gardeners had gone in and cleaned up. The piles out front are from the cleanup. The building with the Texas flag on it was the original Officers' Club from WWII. They are talking about tearing it down with the considerable damage it suffered in the storm.

**Photo Credit: Carol Edwards**



## Invaders of Texas: A Citizen Science Program

Hill Country Master Gardeners invite the public to an Invaders of Texas workshop, conducted by Dr. Hans Landel, Invasive Species Program Coordinator at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, on Monday, October 16, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Hill Country Youth Events Center, 3785 Highway 27, Kerrville.

The Invaders of Texas Program is an innovative campaign whereby volunteer "citizen scientists" are trained to detect the arrival and dispersal of invasive species in their own local areas. That information is delivered into a statewide mapping database and to those who can do something about it. The premise is simple. The more trained eyes watching for invasive species, the better our chances of lessening or avoiding damage to our native landscape.

The Invaders of Texas Program supports the creation and perpetuation of a network of local citizen scientist teams who seek out and report outbreaks of selected environmentally and economically harmful invasive species. These teams, coordinated by the Wildflower Center, contribute important data to local and national resource managers who will, in turn, coordinate appropriate responses to control the spread of unwanted invaders. The Invaders Program is designed to move the target audience beyond awareness to action on invasive species.

This program is free and open to the public. Registration is due by October 11, 2017. Register by emailing [hcmg2002@outlook.com](mailto:hcmg2002@outlook.com) with your name and telephone number. Bring a smart phone, tablet or laptop computer. Wear clothing suitable for a brief period outdoors and bring a sack lunch. For more information, call 830-257-6568.

Dee Dunton  
HCMG Publicity Chair

**Dr. Hans Landel,  
Invasive Species Program  
Coordinator**





## **Hill Country Veggies**

**October 2017**

By Allen Mace

Summer is just about over, but it's still a bit warm during the afternoons. Nights are starting to cool a bit; I like that. Time to start thinking about



**Before**

putting in my fall to winter garden. The first thing I have to do is get things back in order. I've let everything go and the garden is a mess. With everything I grew during the spring and summer, my soil needs to be reconditioned. After pulling all the old plants and turning up the soil, I like to add some slow release fertilizer to the soil in the beds. This year I did not make any compost so I bought some peat moss to boost up the acidity of the beds. My water is high in calcium, so every time I water from the well I

raise the pH of my soil. Adding peat moss from time to time will help to lower the pH a bit. Most vegetables like a pH around 6.5 to 7. If you have lots of good compost and work it in from time to time, that will help to keep the pH in that range. That is why we use fertilizers with nitrogen, this helps to keep that pH balance. Peat Moss is acidic and can be used as well to help keep the pH balance. I have a cheap pH meter that helps me monitor this. The plants themselves will also show you when things aren't right. This year I've planted cabbage, kale and Swiss chard. Most leafy vegetables do well in the cooler seasons. This is the time to plant lettuce or spinach, if you're so inclined. Broccoli, cauliflower, Brussel

after it is harvested. Kale is relatively new for me. It's easy to grow, and you should be able to harvest leaves throughout the winter. It has become popular because it is highly nutritious. It works nicely in salads or you can sauté them like you would spinach. Swiss chard is something I've been planting for many years. Here again, it works nicely in a fresh garden salad. It's easy to grow and you can harvest the leaves throughout the growing season. You will need to fertilize from time to time. Watering should not be as critical as during the summer, but stay on top of it. Winter greens can grow to a fairly good size, if you don't control them by harvesting regularly. The younger, smaller leaves are the most tender to eat. The larger leaves are generally best when cooked. If maintained, these plants could stay productive into the spring. Be warned, if we get a temperature spike up, your greens could become bitter. All in all, green leafy vegetables are easy to grow, good to eat and highly nutritious.



**Bath Tub Bed**

sprouts and collards also do well this time of year. This year, I'm thinking of planting carrots in my old bath tub bed. Normally most folks plant carrots in the early spring. I've seen a few articles about planting them in the fall in warmer climates. By putting them in the tub, I should be able to protect them if necessary. Cabbage has always been one of the family favorites. It's easy to grow and stores well



**Cabbage**



**After**

## Hill Country Master Gardeners' 1st Workday

September 8th found several of our hard working Master Gardeners in the pot yard whacking weeds, putting down weed block and spreading gravel.



Picture left to right: Debra Foley, Carol Hagemeyer, Debra Lea & Dee Dunton

Not Pictured:  
Anne Brown  
Lloyd Kneese  
Leigh Thomas

**Photo Credit:**  
Anne Brown



Picture left to right: Dee Dunton, Debra Foley, Carol Hagemeyer & Debra Lea



Picture left to right: Allen Mace and Anne Brown

September 11th  
was the 2nd  
Work Day  
in the pot yard.



Picture left to right: Debbie Bacon, Linda Proffitt and Nancy Person



These hard  
working Master  
Gardeners were  
also at the  
2nd Work Day:  
←  
Jackie Skinner  
& Lloyd  
Kneese  
→  
Terry Lashley



## Hill Country Master Gardeners' 3rd Workday in the Demonstration Garden



**Photo Credit:**  
Anne Brown,  
Barbara Hunter  
& Patti  
Schlessiger



**Pictured left to right: Debbie Bacon, Lloyd Kneese, Chuck Fitzsimmon (this completed his required work hours), Edna Platte, Dee Dunton and Diane McMahon**

**Pictured left to right back row: Chris Seifert, Jackie Connelly, Lloyd Kneese  
Left to right front row: Anne Brown, Cindy Anderson, Dee Dunton and Jim Wilhite**



**Picture left to right:  
Patty Zohlen and Debra Foley**



**Chris Seifert**



**Wil Rolfe**



**Picture left to right:  
Dee Dunton and Jim Wilhite**



**Cindy Anderson**

**The red crushed granite walkway is so inviting!**



**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 Editors*  
Joan Morgan  
Patti Schlessiger

*Event Page Editor*  
Raeann Reid

*Webmaster*  
Debra Rosario

*Web Assistant -*  
Diane Boerner

**Submissions to**

Newsletter.editor.hcmg@  
gmail.com

**Hummingbird Moth**

Are you easily amazed? Apparently I am. I was sitting in the pool one sunshiny day when something caught my eye. I turned to look and saw what I thought was a baby hummingbird. As I looked closely, it was an odd looking, flying, large insect. At this point my husband had come out to the pool, and I asked him if he knew what it was. He said it was a hummingbird moth.

Several species of the genus *Hemaris* deserve this name and for very good reason. They fly and move just like hummingbirds. Like them, they can remain suspended in the air in front of a flower while they unfurl their long tongues and insert them in flowers to sip their nectar. They emit an audible hum like hummingbirds.

I took several pictures,

trying to get a clear, close up of it's features. Above is a hummingbird moth on lantana.



**Photo credit and article by Patti Schlessiger**

**Beautiful Cone Flowers in Caryl Hartman's garden**

