

January 2019

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The January meeting is canceled



**TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity"

President's Message

Rachel Garrison



"If you've never experienced the joy of accomplishing more than you can imagine, plant a garden."
Robert Brault

It's a new year and we're looking forward to new adventures, while anticipating new challenges along the way. Your newly elected Executive Committee, and especially your rookie president, are preparing for the continued success of Hill Country Master Gardeners. We strive to emulate the good leadership of those who very effectively plowed and cultivated the HCMG field before us. We have good soil to work with so, as we plant and water, we are sure to reap a rich harvest.

As many of us are enjoying some gardening downtime, our Education Committee is preparing for the 2019 class. The schedule is getting nailed down, speakers lined up, and mentors are being recruited. Each year we look forward to a new class of hopeful gardeners and their participation in all that HCMG has to offer our community. If you know of someone who may be interested in joining the class, encourage them to sign up soon. The more, the merrier!

As HCMG members, we have the opportunity to refresh our knowledge and record CEU hours for any of the training classes we audit. Attendance also provides the opportunity to get acquainted with our new recruits. Sign up on VMS so we can provide enough seating for you to join the fun.

As volunteers, we want to provide the public with the best information possible. Continued learning and exposure to a variety of gardening topics benefits us as individuals, our organization, and the public we are committed to serve. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides a treasure trove of well researched information. The CEU presentations following our monthly meetings also aid in honing our skills. The more we learn, the more tools we have in our belt to use as we effectively volunteer our time.

I look forward to the coming year as our organization accomplishes more than I, for one, can imagine!



Rachel and her husband, Dave,
at HCMG Christmas Party

HCMG 2018, 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, not all events are eligible to fulfill CEUs credits toward annual recertification. Please verify the event with the provider.

January 3, Hill Country Master Gardeners, no meeting.

January 8, NPSOT Kerrville, 1:00 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 1:30 p.m. The program on the new Pollinator Garden Project will feature three speakers. Zenobia Wooten, of Native American Seed, will open the program with why one should garden for pollinators, including the role of pollinators in crop production, seed production and the beauty of the Hill Country. Joyce Studer, HCMG and Hill Country Master Naturalist (HCMN), will discuss plants for pollinator gardens and how the Pollinator Garden Project is being implemented in Fredericksburg. Richard Coleman, HCMN, will wrap-up the program by describing the certification process for individual pollinator gardens through the Pollinator Garden Project. Riverside Nature Center. Visitors welcome.

January 8, NPSOT Boerne, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Stephen Zoeller, Kendall County AgriLife Extension Agent, will present "Invasive, Exotic, or Introduced Native?". Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium. Visitors welcome.

January 15, Hunt Garden Club, 10:00 a.m. Keri Wilt, Hunt's author-in-residence and busy wife and mother, will reveal how the links between a still popular 19th century children's book, a family connection and some morning journaling have led to one of the greatest adventures of her life. Hunt United Methodist Church. Visitors welcome.

January 18th, Gillespie County AgriLife, 12:00-1:00 p.m. Beth McMahon, Horticulture Agent, and Shea Nebgen, Family and Community Health Agent, will present "Grow It Cook It: Onions." Learn about which varieties of onions to plant, how to plant them, harvesting, preparation and cooking tips, including recipes. Cost is \$15 per class, \$25 for the three part series. The other two installments are "Heat Beating Sweet Potatoes" on May 10 and "The Trendy Versatile Cauliflower" on September 6. Register for individual programs at \$15 each or for all three programs for \$25. Payment can be made ahead of time or at the door. Refunds for missed programs will not be given and payments are non-transferable. Credit cards are not accepted. Call 830.997.3452 to register or with questions. Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Office.

January 22, NPSOT Fredericksburg, 6:30 p.m. social, followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. David Langford, vice president emeritus of the Texas Wildlife Association will present stories and pictures from his new book Seasons at Selah: The Legacy of Bamberger Ranch Preserve. David is one of two photographers for the book. Memorial Presbyterian Church. Visitors welcome.

January 23-24, preconference courses; 25-26 general conference. Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group Annual Conference. Learn how to farm sustainably. Various programs cover cut flowers, soil management, farm budgeting and selling, livestock, vegetables & more. Cost is \$190 until Dec. 22; \$220-250 after for the general conference. Additional charge for preconference courses, mini courses and field trips. Register online at <https://www.ssawg.org/> registration. Statehouse Convention Center.

January 28th-31, 2019. Texas A&M AgriLife will present the Texas Pecan Short Course. Learn everything you need to know about the pecan business from orchard set-up, to growing, to selling. Grafting information included. Four meals provided. Cost is \$250. Register by January 25 at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/>. Somerville AgriLife Horticulture Dept. Teaching Research & Extension Center (HortTREC).

Addresses for Events Listed Above

**Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium, 140 City Park Rd,
Boerne**

**Gillespie County AgriLife Extension Office, 95 Frederick
Rd, FBG**

**Hunt United Methodist Church, 120 Merritt Road, Hunt
Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam St,
Fredericksburg**

**Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street,
Kerrville**

**Statehouse Convention Center, 101 East Markham
Street, Little Rock, AR**

HortTREC, 3199 County Rd 269 E, Somerville



Hill Country Veggies

January 2018

By Allen Mace

This year I'm going to start my own plants from seeds. I haven't been doing much of this the past few years and I've not been

as happy with production as I used to have. Of course, the past few years have been very busy, which could explain why productivity has been down. I hear the voice of my dad in my ear when he used to say that "the garden is only as good as the length of shadow cast by the gardener". This year I'm going to make a concerted effort to spend more time with my plants, that's my new years resolution. So here we go.

I'm starting tomato seeds now, so they will be ready to go into the garden in about 6 to 8 weeks from now. My average last freeze date in the Comfort area is mid-March. I target March 15th to the 20th as my last freeze date. The weather, of course, will dictate if I plant by then, but my goal is to be ready to go into the ground with some of the tomatoes by then. I never plant all at the first planting. I'll plant a few then wait a week and plant a few more the maybe a week later plant some more. This way if we have a later frost then I haven't lost all my plants. Peppers are another vegetable you can start now, to be put out 6 to 8 weeks from now.

This year I bought a heating mat to put under



Heating mat

the tomato flats. This is helpful in elevating the temperature of the root zone. The mat I got

should raise the temp about 10 to 12 degrees higher than the ambient temperature in the room. I'm starting these plants in seed starting mix. It should be a week or so before the seedlings break the surface of the soil mix, so sunlight is not my concern at this point. I do have a plastic cover to go over the flat to hold in the humidity, this is a good thing for germinating seedlings. At no time during this phase do you let the soil dry out. After germination, I will put a light source on them as well as put them outside when it warms.



Flat with six packs

The flat I'm using will handle 12 six packs for a total of 72 possible plant. The seed pack claims at least 85% germination,

so I should get a little over 60 plants. I'll fill the cells with a seed starting mix, commercial mix for now, wet the soil then plant the seeds about 1/4 inch down, cover the seeds, then place the plastic dome over the flat and see what happens. If all goes well, I should have a bunch of seedlings popping up in a week or so, stay tuned.



Seed Starting Mix



Flat with Plastic Cover

Retiring President and Vice President encouraging the new Executive Group



**Left to right: retiring vice-president, Wil Rolfe, and retiring president, Jackie Skinner
2019 Executives: Patti Schlessiger, Secretary; Debra Bacon, Vice-President, Rachel Garrison,
President, and Bernadell Larson, Treasurer.**

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



Years of Service Awards

Back row left to right:

10 years -Vickie Killeen
5 years - Raeann Reid
5 years—Barbara Banks
15 years—Patty Zohlen

Front row left to right:

5 years Dee Dunton
10 years—Imelda Horne

Meet the New Executive Group

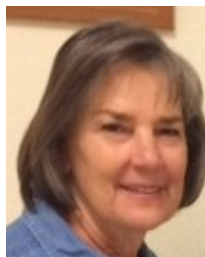


Rachel Garrison, President. A native Texan, I was born in the Rio Grand Valley and from age 6 was raised in San Antonio. After marrying my high school sweet heart, I've had the opportunity to widen my horizons and live in many different places including Houston, Marble Falls, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Ohio. Retirement brought us back to Texas to the Boerne area almost 3 years ago. Between raising 4 children, volunteering in a myriad of their school and sports activities, volunteering at church, working some part-time and full-time jobs, and moving from place to place, I've had little time for gardening until recent years. I always enjoyed growing various houseplants, but never ventured outdoors to develop gardening skills. Around 2006, an acquaintance told me about her involvement in Master Gardeners and I knew that it was something I'd like to do when life settled down a bit. With a husband, 4 children, 19 grandchildren, and a 100 year old mother, all requiring some of my time, things haven't exactly settled down! A couple of days prior to the start of HCMG classes 2017, a friend mentioned that she was going to attend and I jumped at the chance to carpool to classes with her. The unique hill country environment provides many gardening challenges and I am enjoying learning from so many experienced gardeners. I love HCMG, and even though I'm actually a novice gardener, I look forward to the challenge of being your president and ask for your patience as I learn the ropes.



Debbie Bacon, Vice-President. I am not a native Texas, but I got here as fast as I could (which was in 1977). I moved to the Hill Country 9 years ago and retired from Regional Sales Management in 2012. My parents loved to garden; Dad had his vegetables, and Mom was the flower lover. I joined the HCMG Class of 2014 in an attempt to Stop killing so many plants, Meet fellow gardeners. The first goal is still a work in progress, but I have met a wonderful group of people! I enjoy mentoring MG students: I am the logo wear coordinator; and I have served on various committees. I am looking forward to the next chapter of participation in HCMG!

Bernadell Larson, Treasurer. My husband, Stu Thompson, and I purchased land in the Hunt area Labor Day weekend



in 1996 and were weekend campers until moving here full time in late 2004. Being an outdoor person, I thoroughly enjoyed working in my yard in Houston. Family and friends were concerned how I would adapt because almost none of what grew in Houston would grow here. I was not deterred-I would just find something else. A Hunt neighbor told me about the master gardeners and I signed up right away, and became a Master Gardener in 2006. Enjoying the outdoors and wanting to take care of it, my husband and I built our house using LEED principles. We were part of the LEED Residential pilot project and were awarded a LEED Silver in 2008. (The first LEED award in the CentralTexas Hill Country. One of the requirements was water conservation, which complimented native and adaptive landscaping. We were one of the first in the area to install a whole house rainwater harvesting/catchment system and rely totally on rain for our water needs. This presents some challenges, but we made it through the 2010-2011 drought and did not run out of water. I retired from ExxonMobil in 2004, where I had several positions. One of those was financial accounting for the department that ensured the refining department made enough product for ExxonMobil to market. Hopefully, some of that training will come in handy in my new position of HCMG Treasurer.

Patti Schlessiger, Secretary. As a young girl growing up on a farm in in south Texas, one could find me often playing in the vegetable garden, corn fields, orchards, cotton or grain fields. The most fun I remember is making mud pies. They weren't as good as my Mama's pies, but were so much fun to make! I guess you could say dirt was in my blood from an early age. Working at the AgriLife Office, I became acquainted with the master gardeners as we assisted them in many ways. They all seemed so friendly and enjoyed what they were doing. I knew once I retired I wanted to be part of this amazing group. I wondered what I could do to fill my days after retirement. Becoming a Master Gardener has helped with answering that question. I have made so many wonderful friends through being a master gardener. Helping the community solve their plant questions has filled my desire to solve things. Guess I should have been a private investigator! Playing in the dirt has renewed wonderful childhood memories. I can't imagine another group I would rather belong to than the Hill Country Master Gardeners.



Volunteer of the Year 2018—Linda Proffitt



Volunteer of the Year 2018, Linda Proffitt (center)
2017 Volunteers of the Year, Raeann Reid (left) and
Pam Umstead (right) presented the award

Raeann and Pam did such a great job of presenting the award, I've included the presentation for you.

"There was a phenomenal volume of nominations this year, almost all of them for this one individual.

Comments included:

- Having her as my mentor made my first year in HCMG rich and meaningful. She embodies the essence of what being a Master Gardener truly is.
- Since her certification she has volunteered her time and talent selflessly for so many events. She has volunteered at HCMG information booths and worked diligently with the horticultural youth programs.
- She has accomplished many things for HCMG, and she always does it graciously and with a smile.
- She makes participation on her committee fun and makes us look like absolute rock-stars...
- She has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the organization by her extraordinary efforts.
- And she makes some mean chicken and dumplings, too!"



Perfect Attendance Award

Mr. Perfect and the Perfectettes

Photo Credit:
Vickie Killeen

Wil Rolf (left) presents the award to

Left to right: Pat Wolters, Jackie Connelly, Jackie Skinner, Caroll Edwards, and Nina Wagner



Above: AgriLife agents, Beth McMahon (left) and Roy Walston (right) award Jackie Connelly and Jackie Skinner the **Gold Award**.

Right: **Recipients of the Silver Award**
From left to right: Beth McMahon (presenter) Pam Umstead, Anne Brown, Judy Beauford, Shirley Smith and Roy Walston (presenter).

Photo Credit: Vickie Killeen



Below: **Recipients of the Bronze Award**
Left to right front row: Bernadell Larson, Debbie Bacon, Caroll Edwards, Janice Walker, Lydia Jones, Linda Proffitt



Left to right back row: Vickie Killeen, Janell Dahms, Melayne Arnold, Sue Hall, Debra Bass, Pat Wolters, Donna Bellis, Raeann Reid, and Patti Schlessiger

Recipients not pictured: Shanna Ciano, Kim Courtright, Kathy Lewis, Sandy Lewis, Allen Noah, Duane Robinson, Debra Rosario, Chris Seifert and Patty Zohlen

President's Volunteer Service Award Program

recognizes US citizens who have achieved the required number of hours of service. Hours are measured over a 12 month period and awards are deigned based on accumulative hours. Our period is from Nov 1 thru October 31 each year. Recipients receive a letter of congratulations signed by our current President of the United States, a certificate and a service pin.

Adult level is

Bronze 100-249

Silver 250-499 and Gold 500+

Hill Country Master Gardener Christmas Party



Clockwise

Jackie Skinner
Kerry Brittain
Bob Huff
Debbie Bacon
Bernadell Larson
Patty Zohlen
Wil Rolfe

Photo Credit:
Vickie Killeen

Clockwise

Carol Brinkman
Tommie Airhart
Friend of Brian
Strickland
Brian's wife
Brian Strickland
Nancy
Rodriguez
Donna Guthrie



Clockwise

Caryl Hartman
Dee Dunton
Connie
Townsend
Patti
Schlessiger
Anne Brown
Debra Bass
Janice Walker
Pam Umstead



Photo Credit
Pat Wolters



Clockwise: Fernando Gonzales, Susan Roberts, Janell Dalms, Betsy Scheffe, Karen Buck, Edna Platte, Rachel Garrison, & Dave Garrison



Clockwise: Jerry Christensen, Barbara Banks, Linda Proffitt, Rose Marie Mazanke (who led us in the singing of Silent Night), Jackie Connelly, & Melayne Arnold



Left to right: Imelda Horne, Guest, Shirley Smith, Judy Beauford and Shari Worsham
Photo Credit: Pat Wolters



Christmas Party

1. Clockwise: Rachel Garrison, Vickie Killeen, Debbie Bacon & Anne Brown
2. Left to right: Patty Zohlen, Pam Umstead & Melayne Arnold
3. Left to right: Caroll Edwards & Lydia Jones
4. Left to right: Donna Bellis, Diane McMahon & Jeanette Masek
5. Left to right: Wil Rolfe & Bob Huff
6. Left to right: Susan Roberts, Janell Dalms, & Betsey Scheffe





Many years ago (the late 80's to be exact), when I was struggling to understand my value as a groundskeeper at the Nimitz Museum, I was reading a copy of Chuck Swindoll's Improving your Serve, in which he shared a story of the Keeper of the Spring. I was so encouraged when I read it, and it helped change my perspective about the meaning and purpose of my Christian walk with the Lord. I am submitting this story with the hope that it will encourage other Master Gardeners to keep up the good work, when facing adversity, discouragement, or even when there is a lack of acknowledgement or appreciation for the work being done, as a volunteer.

*Serving the ONE Master Gardener,
Dennis Davidson HCMG 2018*

KEEPER OF THE SPRING

The late Peter Marshall, an eloquent speaker and for several years the chaplain of the United States Senate, used to love to tell the story of "The Keeper of the Spring," a quiet forest dweller who lived high above an Austrian village along the eastern slopes of the Alps. The old gentleman had been hired many years earlier by a young town council to clear away the debris from the pools of water that fed the lovely spring flowing through their town. With faithful, silent regularity he patrolled the hills, removed the leaves and branches, and wiped away the silt from the fresh flow of water. By and by, the village became a popular attraction for vacationers. Graceful swans floated along the crystal clear spring, farmlands were naturally irrigated, and the view from restaurants was picturesque. Years passed. One evening the town council met for its semiannual meeting. As they reviewed the budget, one man's eye caught the salary figure being paid the obscure keeper of the spring. Said the keeper of the purse, "Who is the old man? Why do we keep him on year after year? For all we know he is doing us no good. He isn't necessary any longer!" By a unanimous vote, they dispensed with the old man's services. For several weeks nothing changed. By early autumn the trees began to shed their leaves. Small branches snapped off and fell into the pools, hindering the rushing flow of water. One afternoon someone noticed a slight yellowish-brown tint

in the spring. A couple days later the water was much darker. Within another week, a slimy film covered sections of the water along the banks and a foul odor was detected. The millwheels moved slower, some finally ground to a halt. Swans left as did the tourists. Clammy fingers of disease and sickness reached deeply into the village. Embarrassed, the council called a special meeting. Realizing their gross error in judgment, they hired back the old keeper of the spring . . . and within a few weeks, the river began to clear up. Fanciful though it may be, the story carries with it a vivid, relevant analogy directly related to the times in which we live. What the keeper of the spring meant to the village, Christian servants mean to our world. The preserving, taste-giving bite of "salt" mixed with the illuminating, hope-giving ray of "light" may seem feeble and needless . . . but God help any society that attempts to exist without them! You see, the village without the keeper of the spring is a perfect representation of the world system without the salt and light of God's servants (Matthew 5:13-14). Catherine Marshall, Mr. Jones, Meet the Master (New York: Fleming H. Revell, 1951), 147, 148.

Taken from Improving Your Serve by Charles R. Swindoll. Copyright © 1981 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc. Used by permission of Thomas Nelson. www.thomasnelson.com

HCMG Monthly Business Meeting December 5, 2018

Call to Order: Jackie Skinner called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance: Diane McMahon lead the pledge.

Invocation: Patty Zohlen gave the invocation.

Verification of Quorum: Patti Schlessiger verified a quorum was present.

Treasurer's Report: Bernadell Larson/
Approval of Treasurer's Report. Bernadell handed out report and went over the status of the accounts.

Approval of November 2018 Minutes:
Melayne Arnold made a motion to accept, Anne Brown 2nd the motion and all approved.

Old Business-There was no old business.

New Business

- New Street Banner for Student Recruitment
- Lydia Jones reported the new Educational banner will be hung on Junction Hwy. from January to February.

Announcements

- 2019 Membership Dues (\$20)
- We have a new flag! - Bernadell Larsen and husband donated the new flag which was used in the pledge today.
- Demonstration Garden-The new irrigation system is installed in front of the Extension Office. Thanks to Jackie Skinner and Kerry Brittain for their work on this project!
- No General Work Day in December; watch for announcement in January E-Minder
- No January 2019 Meeting
- CEU Program for February 13, 2019 – Carol Bailey, "There Was No MiracleGro® In the Garden of Eden"
- **Merit Awards for 2018:** Jackie Connelly handed out the awards with the help of Roy Walston and Beth McMahon. List of those that received awards.

Volunteer of the Year Award

Pam Umstead and Raeann Reid presented Linda Proffitt with this award and read all the comments from several members who nominated her.

Master Gardener Certification

Jeannette Masek Peterson received her certificate for completing her requirements as an intern

Years of Service Awards

- * 15 Years: Patty Zohlen
- * 5 Years: Gayle Anderson, Barbara Banks, Dee Dunton, Kara Grant, Debra Foley, Allen Mace, Linda Meyers, Raeann Reid, Jan Sewell, Susan Toensing

Volunteer Service Awards

- * **Gold:** Jackie Connelly and Jackie Skinner
- * **Silver:** Anne Brown, Judy Beauford, Shirley Smith, & Pam Umstead
- * **Bronze:** Melayne Arnold, Debbie Bacon, Debra Bass, Donna Bellis, Shanna Ciano, Kim Courtright, Janell Dalms, Carol Edwards, Sue Hall, Lydia Jones, Vickie Killeen, Bernadell Larson, Debra Rosario, Lydia Jones, Vickie Killeen Bernadell Larson, Kathy Lewis, Sandy Lewis, Allen Noah, Linda Proffitt, Raeann Reid, Duane Robinson, Debra Rosario, Patti Schlessiger, Chris Seifert, Janice Walker, Pat Wolters, & Patty Zohlen

Perfect Attendance: Jackie Connelly, Carol Edwards, Jackie Skinner, Nina Wagner, Pat Wolters

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted:
Patti Schlessiger, Secretary

Hill Country Master Gardeners 2018 Executive Committee

Jackie Skinner
President

Wil Rolfe
Vice President

Patti Schlessiger
Secretary

Bernadell Larson
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 Walters

Associate Newsletter Editor
Patti Schlessiger

Special thanks to
Judy Beauford for
proofreading

Event Page Editor
Raeann Reid

Webmaster
Debra Rosario

Submissions to

Newsletter.editor.hcmg
@gmail.com



Gillespie
County
Pecan Show



HCMG volunteers begin work of weighing and shelling pecans for the Gillespie County Pecan Show.

Left to Right: Linda Proffitt, Chris Davis, Rachel Garrison, Raeann Reid, and Gillespie County agent.

**Newly Certified
Hill Country
Master Gardener**

President and Mentor,
Jackie Skinner presents the
Hill Country Master
Gardener Certification to
Jeanette Masek at the annual
Christmas Party

