Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association
Burnet Agrilife Building and via Zoom
General Meeting
March 9, 2026

Present: 63 In person/Guest 2/via Zoom 18

Proceedings: *Meeting called to order* at 2:06 p.m. by Kerry Nyquist, President.

Penny McCullough introduced our speaker, Reno Lamb. He presented "The Best Fire is the one you never have."

Break at 3:00 p.m.
Meeting called back to order at 3:19 p.m.

February meeting minutes were approved as amended with one correction to Donna Ashman's name. They will be reposted.
February Financials were approved as emailed and posted online.

Brenda Goble gave the Treasurer report and noted that a memorial donation of one hundred dollars was made in honor of David Burke by his niece, and another fifty dollars was also donated in his honor. Kerry shared that Brenda sends thank you notes for all donations, including recent donations of fertilizer for the Marble Falls garden. It was requested that any donations received at the Kingsland garden also be reported so that proper acknowledgements can be sent.

<u>Projects:</u>

***Burnet Middle School Plant Sale* – Carolyn Crouchet announced that the Burnet Middle School Plant Sale is on March 10, 2026, starting at 7:00 a.m. The program has expanded this year, serving between 170 and 180 students. Most plants are priced at three dollars, with all proceeds benefiting the kids' programs. A second sale will be held in approximately three weeks, with the exact date to be announced via email.**

***Hill Country Lawn and Garden Show* – Roxanne Dunegan announced that the show is filled with vendors. Lorna and Colleen provided an update on the silent auction, noting many donations have been received, including Texas Rangers tickets, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center tickets, Tito's Vodka Basket, Wedding Oak Basket and a push mower. They requested that any further donations be dropped off this week. Three extra shirts are available for purchase. Val Klaudt will be managing sign placements and recruiting members for 20-minute speaker presentations. The media campaign has begun, and an interview will be recorded with K-Bey on March 17, 2026. A question regarding plant drop-off was answered; plants should be brought on the morning of the show. Please talk to Val Klaudt if you are interested in speaking. Kerry added the donation quilt and the plant sale are also happening.**

Burnet County Area Fair **– Roxanne reported that the fair will take place on June 12-13, 2026. A volunteer sign-up will be available next month. She encouraged members to volunteer and enter items into the fair's nineteen categories. More information can be found at BurnetCountyAreaFair.com.**

Kings Garden **– Marylynne Norman mentioned the new class members planted tomatoes and peppers. Keith Altwood will be the speaker at the "Green Thumb" event at the Kingsland Library on March 19, 2026, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. The garden is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Additionally, the garden had a chipper and mulch donated.**

Farmers and Craft Market **– Patty Young announced the Farmers Market will run from April 18 through November 21, 2026, on Saturdays. Shifts are from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. She recognized Jenny McCoy for her work coordinating vendors. A request was made for new members to consider taking on coordinator roles. The Co-Ordinator's are looking for some new people to take a leadership role.**

The Garden **– David Waldo reported a successful planting party was held that morning. He requested additional volunteers for workdays on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Donations of plants are still being accepted. Talk to Julia to drop off your plant starts.**

Mustang ACE **– Debbie Sayre reported that the first six-week session with the Spicewood Elementary students would conclude on March 10, 2026. After spring break, a new session will begin with kindergarten and first-grade students. She requested more help for the upcoming sessions.**

Green Thumb Program **- Sherry Ytreeide, Jana Barner, and Kathy Forisha were announced as the Green Thumb program committee members. Sherry shared that the 2026 roster for the Green Thumb program is published and available. She announced there will be two tours of the food pantry gardens, which will be open to the public to encourage volunteering and community awareness. Attending these presentations provides one hour of advanced training for members. The flyer for these events will be available on the association website.**

AVIR Burnet Nursing Home **– Ann McClanahan requested volunteers for the Monarch Waystation Butterfly Garden. A cleanup day is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2026, starting at 8:30 a.m. Bring your gloves and hand tools.**

Seed Library **– Samantha Melvin will lead a seed inventory on Friday, March 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. and has requested volunteer assistance.**

Certification Class **– Joan Altobelli asked the current associates to stand and be recognized. She reported that the class is in its fourth week and thanked the Master Gardeners who have been stepping up to teach. Joan also congratulated Samantha**

Melvin on being selected as the artist in residence for spring at the Wild Basin Preserve in cooperation with St. Edwards University. Virginie thanked Diana Castello for hosting and the members who assisted the propagation class she taught the previous week, noting that leftover cuttings of fig and elderberry were available.

Committees:

***Scholarship Committee* – Lida Woodul shared the committee has notified schools that the application is available online and is awaiting submissions from graduating high school students or current college students in agricultural fields.**

Kerry mentioned members that would like T-shirts are advised to see Mena to place an order. An order for new name tags will also be placed. A certificate of recognition for over 250 volunteer service hours was presented to Dana Tiller. Tony Grigsby was presented with her official badge.

Virginie Lamb thanked everyone for bringing a large assortment of refreshments. She awarded a blue bonnet plant to Laura Kouns, the winner of the drawing. She presented Jeanne Valenta plants as last month's winner.

Kerry announced Ryan Rowney as the new coordinator for the AgriLife Building beautification activity. Members were encouraged to assist him to earn volunteer hours.

The next general meeting will be on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at the same time and location, due to a scheduling change for the building. Willard Horn will present on the topic of night pollinators.

Meeting Adjourned 4:03 p.m.

Minutes submitted by the Secretary, April Cothran.