Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association
AgriLife Building, Burnet, Texas
General Meeting
May 12, 2026

Present: In person 54/ Guests 0 /Via Zoom 23

Proceedings: *Meeting called to order* at 2:08 p.m. by Kerry Nyquist, President.

Penny McCullogh introduced our speaker, Martelle Luedecke. She mentioned that Martelle is the 2026 recipient of the Burnet Chamber of Commerce, Thomas C. Ferguson Citizen of the Year Award. Martelle presented "Photography as a Conservation Tool."

Break at 3:00 p.m.
Meeting called back to order at 3:21 p.m.

Kerry thanked Martelle and welcomed visitors. He mentioned that members earned 1 Advanced Training hour for the presentation today.

April Meeting Minutes were approved as emailed and posted online.
April Financials were approved as emailed and posted online.

Kerry presented financials with acknowledgment of Treasurer Brenda's ongoing transition to QuickBooks. He reported the purchase of QuickBooks for an annual fee of $380 to improve continuity and transparency, replacing prior Excel spreadsheets. April opening bank balance was $100,195.72 and ending balance was $99,022.11. The Edward Jones investment account stands at $21,015.68. Restricted funds for the Marble Falls Garden total $30,484.05, and unrestricted operating funds total $47,522.38. For April, deposits minus expenses resulted in a positive cash flow of $7,045.00. Kerry directed members to the "Statement of Activity Year-to-Date Comparison" on the website and stated financials will stand as presented, with monthly refinements to reporting format communicated to members.

<u>Projects</u>
***Certification Class* – Kerry shared that Joan Altobelli could not attend but wrote a letter to read to the members. On Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 17 Master Gardener Associates met or exceeded the classroom hour requirement for Highland Lakes Master Gardener course. Joan thanked leadership, mentors, speakers and membership that made the class possible.**
Completed 50 hours and 10 hours of Advanced Training:
Diane Weidert
Cindy Landry
Vicki Graham

***Lawn and Garden Show* - Roxanne Dunegan shared that the 2027 Quilt is complete and displayed for the members to get a sneak peek. The 2027 quilt will be displayed at the Farmers and Craft Market. Beginning on Saturday, the quilt will be displayed, and she is looking for volunteers to sit with the quilt and accept donations. It is a log cabin design, and it is the largest quilt made by the team. Coleen Catlett, Lorna Bernard and Connie Stein are on the Lawn and Garden Show committee, and they would like one more person to fill a volunteer coordinator position.**

County Fair **– Roxanne Dunegan requested volunteers and mentioned signup sheets are in the back of the room on the table.**
Roxanne shared that everyone who enters the fair can earn one volunteer hour per category. There are 19 categories. The fair is June 12-13, 2026.

The Garden **– Kerry shared that the garden is currently in harvest mode and in need of volunteers.**

The Kings Garden **– Kerry shared they had their largest harvest day of 284 pounds. They have a Facebook page, and he encouraged members to go take a look.**

Mustang Ace **– Debbie Sayre announced that they are finished and the kids are checking for the opportunity to harvest. They will be meeting with the Spicewood Elementary School Mustang Ace coordinator and the coordinator for the whole district. They will let us know if the grant will be funded to continue for 2027.**

Green Thumb **– Kerry added that Friday, May 15, 2026, will be a tour of the Kings Garden from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. June 18, 2026, is Organic Hydroponics 101 with Lonestar Lettuce Growers: The Future of Fresh at the AgriLife Building from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. He encouraged everyone to look at the schedule that runs through October.**

<u>Committees</u>
Membership Committee **– Carolyn Stephens reported that we have 102 Certified Master Gardeners. There were 17 in the certification class. She shared the members that have met their hours for the year:**
Carolyn Crouchet
Penny McCullough
Terry Rhodes
Patty Young
Chris Northrup
Lorna Bernard
Princess Aschermann
She added that travel time is included from the time you leave your house to volunteer at a project. When at a meeting, you can earn 1 hour of Advanced Training, 1 hour of Volunteer time for the business meeting and 1 hour of Volunteer time if you bring snack. Travel time to the meeting does not count toward volunteer time. Please do not use "other" to record your hours. The newsletter has advanced training opportunities, in addition to the website. Webinars must be viewed live to count as advanced training. Please contact Carolyn if you have any questions about entering hours.

Scholarship Committee **- Lyda Woodul reported that the Scholarship Committee met and she thanked Linda Stoneking and Celia Manlove for joining the committee. Five applications were received, and three scholars were selected for equal scholarships: students from Marble Falls and Burnet High School, and an ongoing college scholar, Riley Arrington, attending Tarleton State University, Sam Houston State University, and Sul Ross State University respectively. She confirmed Dr. Ray will represent the Association at Burnet High School's ceremony on Thursday evening and requested member ideas or contacts to support high school horticulture initiatives, particularly at Marble Falls High School. The scholarship recipients will receive $1,500.00. It was requested to increase the scholarship to $2,000.00 per applicant and the increase recommendation will be presented to the Board.**

Kerry announced that the Texas Master Gardener Conference, themed "Restorative Garden," will be held virtually on June 29, 2026, with a preceding half-day leadership session. He advised members to consult the Texas Master Gardener website for eligibility details; the registration deadline is June 24.

Kerry encouraged use of statewide resources, noted recognition including Lavona Fry and Colleen Catlett is recognized, as well. Lyda asked if we could invite Lavona to a meeting for recognition, Kerry acknowledged that some accommodation could be made.

Kerry reported the new Facebook page, "Highland Lakes Master Gardeners of Burnet, Texas," is active, with plans to deactivate or merge the old page due to lost credentials. The Association website's welcome page links to the new Master Gardener page, the King's Garden page, and the Farmers & Crafts Market page managed by Jenny McCoy.

He asked project coordinators to submit photos to Facebook admins Donna Cagle (Master Gardeners) and Jenny McCoy (Farmers Market), and noted Chris Northrop likely manages the King's Garden page. He confirmed Samantha continues as website administrator and has updated the directory; a printed directory is available at the back table and online, with corrections to be provided to Kerry or Correspondence Secretary Rachael.

Virginie Lamb thanked everyone for bringing snack. April Cothran won the drawing and she received a Zebra Tomato Plant.

Kerry announced the next meeting is on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, featuring James Green, "Native Shrubs."

Meeting Adjourned 4:26 p.m.
Minutes submitted by the Recording Secretary April Cothran