

The Blooming Bell

January 2015



**Bell County
Master Gardener
Association**



Above: Salado Sculpture Garden part of Keep Salado Beautiful pocket gardens. See story on page 5.

Photo by Susan Terry

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Welcome 2015!	2	3
4	5	6	7 New Class begins 1 pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Work Day 8 am General Meeting 10:30 am - Dr. Karen Clary on In- vasives	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Work Day 8 am Board of Direc- tors Meeting 9 am	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Upcoming Dates: Home and Garden Show Feb. 20-22, 2015

Remember to record volunteer/education hours. ²

The President's Corner

January, and the start of a new year. Now that the holidays are over and the joy's of celebrating with family and friends are past, it is time to reflect on how to make 2015 a better year than the last one. That might be hard to do since the Master Gardeners had quite a 2014. Thank you all for the great accomplishments of the past year.

Now we need to charge full steam ahead with the State Conference work. We have a great start on this project and we need to keep the momentum going. I know it seems like we have been working on this forever, but we are in the home stretch and the next four months will be gone in no time. The next big step is to start thinking about the arrangement of the Expo Center and how we plan to set up the various events and how the crowds will flow in and out of the events areas. Another big area is to determine manning requirements over the three day period. Don't forget that we have several committee meetings coming up and they are open to everyone. The more you know about what is being planned, the easier it will be for everyone to help with the conference. Everyone needs to be thinking about which events, and areas they would like to work in. We will need everyone's help all three days to make this event happen. We are planning work rosters right now, so you can sign up to help at any time.

We have other projects ongoing for this year. Recurring events in January are the Grounds Keepers Conference on the 13th, the Irrigation conference on the 14th, and the Crops Conference on the 20th. All those who signed up will be getting an e-mail reminder, if you have not gotten one already. We are still accepting volunteers to help on the 13th and 14th. It's a good way to get volunteer hours.

Thanks again for your awesome efforts in 2014, I know we can make 2015 even better. See you all at the General Membership meeting on the 14th.

- Gary

Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

Mealybugs

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County
AgriLife Extension Entomologist

Mealybugs are a type of unarmored scale insect. They are sexually dimorphic (males & females look different). Males have wings while females remain wingless and nymph-like throughout their life. Females are oval, soft-bodied and covered with a white waxy powder.



Mealybugs are pests of ornamental crops both outdoors as well as indoors in greenhouses or on houseplants. They are often active during times of warm, dry weather. Infestations usually start at the base of stems and then spread from there as populations increase.

These insects have piercing-sucking mouthparts which they use to penetrate plant tissue and suck out juices. This can lead to chlorosis (yellowing of the plant), wilting and distortion. With larger infestations, the insects may cause stunted growth, premature leaf drop or death of the plant. Mealybugs are also known for secreting honeydew, a sweet, sticky substance on which a fungus called *sooty mold may grow.

*Sooty mold is a fungus that grows on honeydew excretions. Sooty mold can indirectly harm the plant by covering plant surfaces and reducing the amount of sunlight that reaches plant tissues, resulting in reduction of photosynthesis.

Since all but male mealybugs are wingless, adult females have to be placed near a host plant for them to infest it. They can crawl short distances to plants. Immatures can be blown to new locations by the wind, move by water or be transported by animals.

Tips for mealybug management:

- Conserve beneficial insects; there are many insects that will feed on mealybugs or parasitize them
- Use high pressure water sprays to dislodge the insects from the plant
- Insecticidal soap
- Horticultural oils
- Insecticides labeled for mealybug control
- For severely infested plants, it may be best to throw the plant away and buy a new one

For more information or For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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EXTENSION

Keep Salado Beautiful Pocket Gardens

- Susan Terry

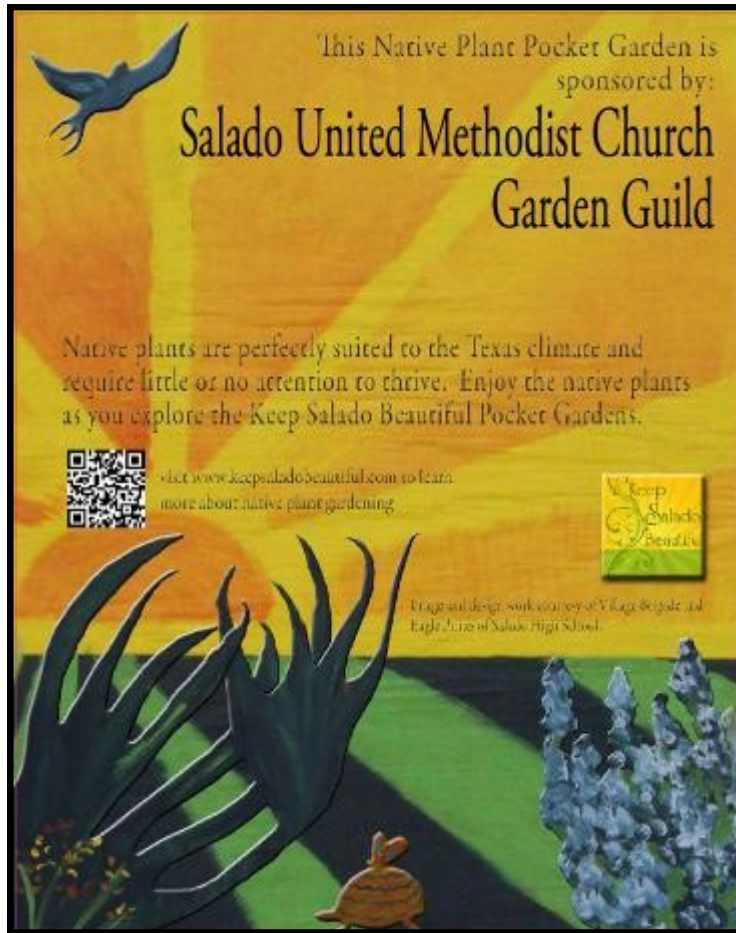
A visit to Salado, whether you come for shopping, history, or a dip in the creek, is always better if you take time to visit our gardens. KSB, with the collaboration of partners including Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, have developed a series of *Pocket Gardens* in key locations throughout the Village. Pocket Gardens are small green spaces that say "Welcome, have a rest." They are developed with KSB assistance, showcase native plants, and most are maintained by property owners. They can be found at:

- o College Hill
- o Library
- o First United Methodist Church
- o St. Joseph's Episcopal Church
- o Green Bridge
- o Tourism Center -New Demonstration Gardens
- o Educational Center at Thomas Arnold Elementary—an educational garden for students hands-on participation and Monarch Waystation

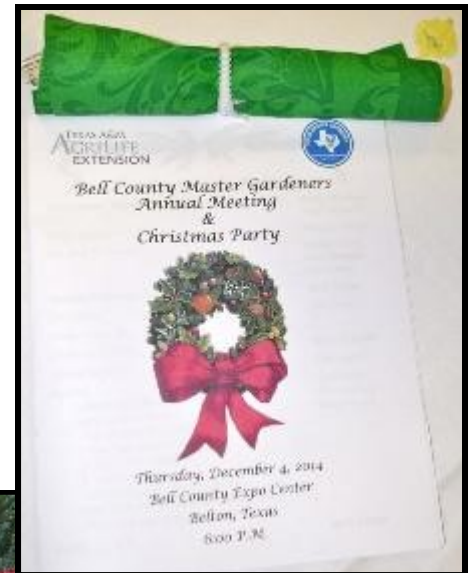
- o Sculpture Garden – collaboration with Public Arts League, outdoor display of original art in a native garden

To educate visitors about each unique garden and about the Salado Gardens project, KSB harnessed the creativity of Salado's High School students to design original sign-art for each garden.

A tour of the Salado Gardens will be offered at the State Conference.



2014 Christmas Party



Awards for 2014

- Bernie Hurta

Lifetime Awards

Bob Gordon

Charles Newsom



Golden Trowel Awards



Randy Brown

For being very involved in the workings of the Killeen Municipal Court Gardens. From putting in the garden beds, to planting, watering, harvesting, and teaching the students, he's done it all. He is always so proud of the Killeen Gardens and all the people that participate in that project. Randy is also 1st VP on the Board of Directors and does a lot of the photography for the Association.



Karen Colwick

For being very active in the Bell County Master Gardeners Association. Her service to the community and to the Association include: served as the State Board of Director's Secretary, is a Propagation Specialist, teaches propagation to the New Class interns, participates in State Conference committees, took part in the JMG program for St. Mary's in Temple, and does rain harvesting presentations for the Speaker's Bureau. Karen is always ready and willing to volunteer and help out.



Jerry Lewis

For being very active in the Bell County Master Gardeners Association. His service to the community and to the Association include: two years as 2nd VP on the BOD, works at the Killeen Municipal Court Gardens, Home & Garden Show, New Class Coordinator, teaches the New Class, and answers questions for the Ask A Master Gardener.

Green Thumb Awards



Terry Bradburn

For being a very detail oriented person; he does a great job on every activity. He is very active in various activities within the Association such as: New Class Committee, plant sales, Killeen Municipal Gardens, and the state conference. He has worked tirelessly on the state conference since the beginning.

Beverly Chenoweth

For being dependable and a hard worker for the BCMGA. For the past ten years, she has been active in various activities within the Association such as: New Class mentor, Christmas party committee, Home & Garden Show, plant sales, plant swaps, and yard tours. Also, for her work on the landscape at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Temple. She is very gracious and gets the job done.



Vernon Chenoweth

For being a dependable and hard worker for the BCMGA. For the past ten years, he has been active in various activities within the Association such as: New Class mentor, Home & Garden Show, plant sales, plant swaps, and yard tours. He also works on the landscape for St. Luke's Catholic Church in Temple. Whatever the job is, he gets it done.



Jan George



For being very active in the BCMGA. She is always willing to volunteer and help everyone. She does the plant sales, has provided refreshments for many monthly meetings, and is very involved in the 2015 state conference. She is a "take charge" type of person.

Charlotte Jones

For being a very hard worker. She is willing to volunteer and take on various activities within the Association. Her activities include: New Class Committee, New Class Field Trip Coordinator, Youth Fair, plant sales, and the 2015 state conference. She has taken on various tasks for the upcoming state conference to make sure everything runs smoothly from beginning to end.



Gladys Newsom



For being a very hard worker that takes on jobs not many Master Gardeners are willing to do. She has spent many hours on service projects on the Extension grounds. The first project was the Brick Memorial project in front of the multi-use education building. This project involved leveling the area, adding crushed granite as a base, installing a drain, and then the installation of the bricks. The work was detailed and time consuming. The result was a beautiful entrance memorial. Gladys will do whatever it takes to get the job done.

More Awards for 2014!

New Master Gardeners of the Year

Jean Flores

For being dedicated to the BCMGA from the beginning of the class. Jean has always been willing and ready to work with the Master Gardeners. She is knowledgeable and enthusiastic. She has worked the plant sales, plant swap and taught Vermiculture to the master Gardeners. She has no problem taking the lead on projects and does a great job.



Walter Ponder

For being dedicated to the BCMGA from the beginning of the class. Walter has stepped up and worked on various activities around the Extension Center. He is an exceptional person, a very hard worker and is always willing to volunteer and help everyone. He took on the jobs of Director of the Grounds Committee, New Class Committee member and New Class Field Trip Coordinator. He also helps with school activities. He always does a great job.

(not pictured) **700+ Hours of Service**, Mary Ann Everett and **400-499 Hours of Service**, Ursula Nanna



300-399 Hours of Service

Left, Don Wyatt and Jerry Lewis. Gail Christian (not pictured).

200-299 Hours of Service

Right, Gary Slanga, Jan George, Bernie Hurta. Terrie Hahn and Larry Moehnke (not pictured).



100-199 hours of service

Below, Peg Fleet, Vernon and Beverly Chenowith, Pat Allen, Mary Beth Bradburn, Randy Brown, Bob Gordon, Edie Campbell, Carla Harmon, Terry Bradburn, Charlotte Jones, Mary Lew Quisenberry, Carol Runyan and Fran Carlson. And not pictured, Louann Hight, Kim Pringle, Betty Nejtek, Laura Murphy.



Still Celebrating!

Friends of Master Gardeners



Allan Colwick, Cliff George, Ed Hurta and, not pictured, Tom Christian.

Fifteen Year State Pin



Ilene Miller

Ten Year Service Badges/Pins



(Class of 2005) Beverly Chenoweth, Vernon Chenoweth and Betty Nejtek (not pictured)



Five Year Service Badges/Pins

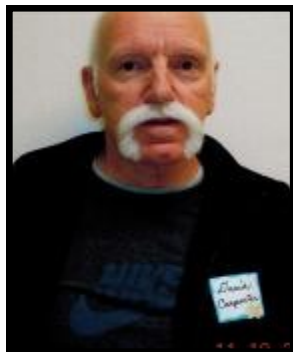
(Class of 2010), Bette Gilmore, Jerry Lewis, and not pictured, Ray Machovsky and Barbara Salys

All photos and captions for the Awards pages are by Randy Brown.

Introducing the Class of 2015

David Carpenter

I was born in east Tennessee and lived there for 22 years before the army. I was drafted



and spent the next 23 years moving around the world.

I live in Harker Heights now.

What I'm hoping to get out of the class is to learn more about the difference be-

tween native plants that grow in the state and anything/everything else I can learn.

I have worked in a lot of gardens in different states with different types of soil. I don't have a lot of garden book knowledge-just a lot of working knowledge.

James R. Cook, Jr.

I grew up in Greensburg, Louisiana and joined the military at the age of 17. I have



lived in multiple locations and retired in May, 2013 and settled here in Temple.

As a child, I was raised on a truck farm. I don't have any formal training

in gardening; however, I have a burning desire to learn how to feed the local community (emphasis on organic food).

I was a 4H member in 5-8 grade in grade school and am interested in supporting 4H groups and activities.

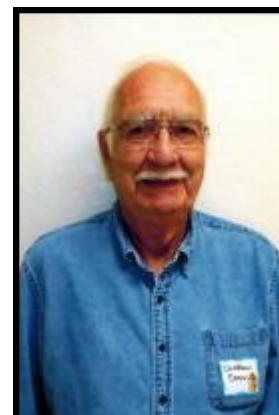
Arthur (Art) Carr

I spent my younger years in the Midwest (Indiana/Michigan). I graduated high school in Lebanon, Missouri and from there went off to the U.S. Navy for nine years.

My wife and I reside in Belton.

I am a novice gardener who likes to play in the dirt. I hope to become a more knowledgeable gardener and learn what grows best in this area and how to best prepare and maintain the soil.

I am retired from Lockheed Martin.



Jo Ann Eubanks

Born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas and moved to Port Arthur, Texas when I was 12. I graduated from Lamar University in Beaumont with a BBA and an MBA. I've lived and taught in upstate New York, Vermont, Texas and North Dakota. My husband and I have six children and 12 grandchildren. I have been retired for three years.



I chose to take this class, because I have a love of gardening and want to know how to improve my gardening skills.

Class of 2015

Anne Grimmett

I was born in Midland, Texas and grew up in Midland, Roswell, New Mexico and Shreveport, Louisiana. I attended college in Natchitoches, Louisiana and graduated from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. I went back to school and got another degree at the University of Mary Hardin Baylor. I have lived in different parts of Texas but mostly in the central Texas area. My husband and I moved from Georgetown last year to some land across from Mother Neff State Park, near Moody. My children grew up in East Bell County and are both Aggies who married Aggies. So it appears we have a new tradition.



I became interested in gardening when we moved to the Temple area and had vegetable gardens. I enjoyed canning vegetables. In Georgetown, I became interested in native plants first as a way to prevent deer damage and later with a water conservation focus. My husband is a Master Gardener and had square foot gardens in our backyard. They were amazing. I retired last summer from Jarrell ISD where I worked as a Curriculum Director. I am very involved with prison ministry at the Hobby Unit in Marlin and am enjoying getting to know people in the Moody area.

Anita Hardin

I became interested in gardening when, after many days of rain, I decided to rake my front lawn and discovered a lone green plant growing under a pile of brown leaves. This sparked my wonderment and interest. What made that plant grow and appear healthy? I had to find out. So, I can say that plant is one of the reasons I'm taking this class.



Gail Koontz

I was born in Haskill, Texas and grew up in Know City. I graduated from Knox City High School and went to Abilene Commercial College before moving to Temple. I worked in Human Resources at Wilsonart for 28 years. I am retiring this year after 18 years as a Pastor's Assistant at First Baptist Church in Temple. I'm married to Arch Koontz and have a son, Jeff who is a pilot for American Eagle.



Becoming a Master Gardener has been my dream for 10 years. After research, I discovered it would be hard to do and work a full time job. So, retirement is weeks away, and I am ready to get started.

Class of 2015

Sheila Lucky

I was born in Columbus, Texas. My father was in construction, so we lived all over the State. I ended up in Belton where I graduated high school. I now live in Temple.



I have a vegetable garden, lots of house plants and some fruit trees. I hope to learn about gardening and plants. I am retired, but still working and probably will be until I die.

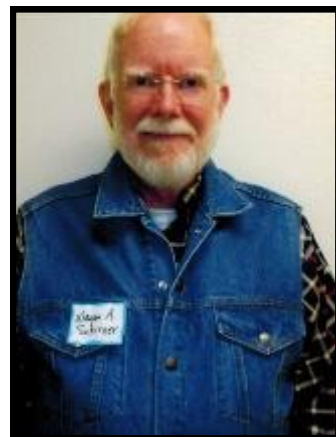
James Main

I was born in Temple in 1988 and was raised by my parents, Mike Main and Jill Burleson Main. The first seven years of my life, my parents ran an organic garden in a pecan bottom on Pepper Creek which they named "Red Tail Farm." My father ran cattle on 64 acres near the Leon River as well as the garden on the 24 acre pecan bottom in between Temple and Belton. He and my mother grew mainly tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and sweet corn. We hunted often and would usually slaughter one domestic hog a year. When my father died, I began to pick up the land management responsibilities. Now I manage the land that my sister and I inherited and want to learn more about Native Forage Management and trees, as well as vegetable gardening. I study automotive technology, and I enjoy training dogs and horses.



Wayne A. Schirner

I was born in and raised in Indianola, Iowa. I got my BA in mathematics and physics from Simpson College in 1967 and my MS in mathematics from Michigan State University in 1969. I was an engineer in Minuteman Missiles System for 7 years (it doesn't take a rocket scientist, but I was one!). I graduated in 1979 from the Medical School at College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Des Moines, Iowa. I joined the U.S. army and served 25 years in a variety of assignments. I retired in 2004 at Fort Hood, but served 10 years as a civilian physician at Fort Hood. I retired in September 2014.



I've been a resident of Belton for 16 years. I have a life long interest in gardening and I really want to grow blueberries in Bell County.

Class of 2015

Jane Van Praag

I live on our small family farm just south of Bartlett where I was in fact born 75 years ago. As a farmer's daughter, I learned by doing while helping with chores, especially in the garden. For some years, my mother was a wholesaler of bulb flowers to Central Texas florists and I helped her with that endeavor too. However, I never quite realized how dependent I was on my parents' knowledge about growing vegetables and ornamentals until my inheritance after they passed on. Endeavoring to be a good steward of the land, I have taken most of the courses offered at Selah (the Bamburger Ranch), joined Useful Wild Plants in Austin where I was an active member for several years, and most recently am taking Texas AgriLife workshops in Williamson County.



Most of my adult life, as a single parent of three sons and a daughter, it was necessary for me to work outside the home: a few years in the private sector, but primarily within federal and state governments. Eventually I earned BA degrees in anthropology and archaeology and retired in 2004 from The University of Texas at Austin. In the intervening decade, most of my free time has been given to community and political activism, but my intent now is to focus on maintaining and enhancing our property. My aim in becoming a Master Gardener is to expand my abilities both for my own fulfillment and to share with my grown children and anyone else with horticultural interests.

Faye Zook

I've lived my entire life in or near Belton. I lived on a small family farm near Nolanville my first ten years before moving to Belton and have lived here since, except for a fifteen year interlude in Temple.



My gardening experience started early while still on the family farm. Although fond memories now, I considered it mostly drudge at that time. I've dabbled in growing flowers and grass - nominal experience with vegetables and trees.

I've always loved getting my hands in the dirt and watching plants grow. I want to learn the most successful methods of growing plants in this area, as well as, dealing with pests and diseases. I also want to learn various propagation methods. Another big plus is the chance to connect with like minded people who love to garden.

I retired as of November 30, 2013. I gleefully turned in all of my security badges and said goodbye to 22 years of government employment. I was an auditor for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

** Several members of the class of 2015 will be have their bio's and photos in the February Blooming Bell.*

2015 BCMGA Class Schedule

1/7/2015	Chapter 1, Vegetable Gardening, Bob Gordon, Jerry Lewis, 4 hours
1/14/2015	Chapter 1, Overview of MG Program, Basic Botany, Jayla Fry, 4 hours
1/21/2015	Chapter 2, Soil Testing & Basic Soils, Understanding Soil Tests Results, John Pitts, 4 hours
1/28/2015	Chapter 6, Sexual/Asexual Propagation, Introduction to Propagation Lab, Judy Hermann, 3 hours
2/4/2015	Chapter 3, Landscape Design, Diana Kirby, Diana's Designs, 4 hours
2/11/2015	Chapter 7, Wildscape Gardening, Kelly Simon, Texas Parks & Wildlife, 3 hours
2/18/2014	Chapter 3, Plant Diseases, Dr. Kevin Ong Extension, 4 hours
2/25/2015	Irrigation, Gary Slanga, BCMGA, 1 hour Water Issues, Todd Strait, Clearwater Underground Water District, 3 hours
3/4/2015	Chapter 8, Turf Grass, Steve Chaney, Extension Agent, Tarrant County, 4 hours
3/11/2015	Chapter 3, Pesticide Safety, Lyle Zoeller, Extension Agent, Bell County, 2 hours Fruit and Nut Trees, Larry Womack, DeLeon Tree Nursery, 2 hours
3/18/2015	Spring Break, No Class
3/25/2015	Chapter 3, Composting, Vermiculture, EarthKind Principals, Louann Hight, Jean Flores, Karen Colwick, 3 hours
4/1/2015	Chapter 4, Garden Entomology, Wizzie Brown, Extension Program Specialist, IPM, 4 hours
4/8/2015	No Class-TMGA Conference Prep
4/15/2015	No Class-TMGA Conference
4/22/2015	Field Trip , TBA, 6 hours
4/29/2015	Chapter 6, Growing & Using Herbs, Betty Nejtek, Terrie Hahn, 4 hours

Total hours = 58

Announcements

BCMG Christmas Party Photos

- Randy Brown

The photos from the Christmas party have been posted on our Facebook Page. Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/BCMGA?ref=hl>

If you want to save a photo, click on the picture, right click on your mouse and click on "save image as" to desktop or file.

January General Meeting

- Randy Brown

The January General Meeting speaker will be Dr. Karen Clary from the Wildflower Center. She will give a presentation on the top 12 Invasive plants in Texas.

Winter Tea

- Terrie Hahn

Hello everyone,

The BCMG Herb group is having a Winter Tea on January 15th at 10 a.m. at my home: 321 Logan Ranch Rd, Georgetown.

For those new MG's who are unfamiliar with the BCMG Herb Study Group, here is the scoop. We used to meet once a month to discuss one herb-it's history, propagation, growth habits, uses. We met for five years led by Kim Pringle. After 5 years, we called it quits, but we still meet once a year for a Christmas Tea at which time we have brunch with dishes made with herbs, and we discuss an herb. We've always invited the entire membership in case anyone was particularly interested in herbs. Please join us! Bring along a brunch item that has an herb in it; and, if you'd like, an herb dug up from your yard for a swap; and string, yarn, etc for a nesting ball project; and any knowledge you have about the Herb of the Year, Savory.

It just so happens that January is National Hot Tea month too. Looking forward to seeing both old and new faces!

RSVP at moompie45@hotmail.com or 512-863-9837.

Q & A

This month's question:

- Terrie Hahn

I bought this perennial at the Rose Emporium and had the marker in the ground. The marker is now MIA and I can't remember the name of this plant. It lasted through the summer heat and the freezes we've had. I'm pretty sure this plant goes to zone 5. I've seen quite a few pollinators on it. Does anyone know what this mystery plant is?

And the answer is:

- Alison from the Antique Rose Emporium

This is *Ajania pacifica* also known as Silver Streak.



What's Happening in Your Yard

- Melinda Woods Arriola



Mahonia Holly on December 30th. And someone stopped eating to say hello to me as I drove through the park behind my house.



Officers

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First Vice President	Randy Brown
Second Vice President	Bernie Hurta
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Corresponding Secretary	Pat Allen
Treasurer	Gail Christian

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Awards	Bernie Hurta
Webmaster	Louann Hight
State Conference	Gary Slanga
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Please do not send PDF documents.

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