

The Blooming Bell

January 2013



**Bell County
Master Gardener
Association**




Photo from freedigitalphotos.net by chanpipat.

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January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Work Day 9 am General Meeting on Olive Trees 11 am Class of 2014 begins, 1 pm	9	10 Work Day 9 am	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther Day	21	22 Board Meeting 9 a.m.	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

NO HAMBURGER WEDNESDAY THIS MONTH

Upcoming Dates: March 29th, Spring Plant Sale

Please turn-in your service and education hours for last month.

The President's Corner

Happy New Year! 2013 was an eventful year. We completed our building, held two plant sales, started a paver campaign, participated in youth fair, the home and garden show, senior expo, numerous school programs & science fairs, we taught a for-credit course at a local school, one of our master gardeners was featured on KLRU, classes were held at Ft. Hood, we were featured in Tex Appeal Magazine, we continued our association with the city of Temple helping with municipal landscaping and cleanup at Whistle Stop Park, a new class of interns joined, presentations were given to local organizations, many home calls were made, and the municipal gardens provided over 3,000 pounds of fresh produce to local charities. ETC. Wow, thank you Master Gardeners for the many hours you have given to our association and Bell County during 2013.

2014 begins with several projects underway. Plans are being made for the 2015 State Conference. If you are not a member of a committee, please volunteer. There is an opportunity for everyone to be involved.

The bylaws have been updated. Questions and discussion of the changes will take place at the January meeting. The bylaw committee has been meeting since last spring to bring our association up to date and in compliance with state requirements and our local practices.

Another project is also coming to completion. Frances Idoux and her committee will present a completed history and gardening book to the association within the next month. It is now at the printer. The book is wonderful, it contains the history of our organization, every published article written by our association members and many color photographs. The first printing will be about 50 copies. I expect master gardeners as well as people within the community to want a copy of the book.

The Home and Garden show and the youth fair are on the horizon. Our new group of interns start class on January 8th. The date of the spring plant sale is March 29th. Several school and public programs are already on the calendar.

The program for the January meeting will be presented by a representative from the Olive Ranch. This is a new topic for us. I hope you can attend this first program of the New Year.

See you at the January meeting.....Laura

Silent Auction Results

- Don Wyatt

Thank You Ilene Miller and your Christmas Party committee for doing such a great job on the Party and Silent Auction. The silent auction took in \$997.00.



Photo by Randy Brown

The Artemisias

“Herbs” of the Year

- Beverly Wickersham

The *Artemisia* genus is a member of the Compositae/Asteraceae family. It includes a variety of herbs that are valued for their ornamental, aromatic, medicinal, and culinary qualities and usage. The term “wormwood” frequently used in the common name of a specific herb refers to that herb’s use over the centuries in liqueurs and medicines.

- A. Common Wormwood (*A. absinthium*) This best known *Artemisia* was once used as an ingredient in the liqueur absinthe. The plant will grow up to 4 feet in poor, gravelly soil in full sun. Its dried silvery-gray foliage is useful in arrangements and wreaths. It can be used with other Wormwoods in moth-repellant bags. Plant in full sun to partial shade in ordinary but well-drained soil. The toxic substance absinthin will leach out of the leaves and may inhibit the growth of nearby plants.
- B. “Silver King” *Artemisia* (*A. abula*) Commonly known as the “Ghost Plant” because of its lacy, silver foliage. It Grows to about 2 feet when flowering. This plant is winter hardy and is popular for use in wreaths or other types of floral arrangements. The dried silvery branches do not shatter after drying.
- C. Annual Sweet Wormwood (*A. annual*) May reach up to 8 feet in height with a spread of 4 feet. All parts of the plant are extremely fragrant. The dried foliage is used in arrangements, wreaths, and potpourri. This annual plant self-sows, so put it in a sunny place that will welcome additional Wormwoods, although mulching the soil usually stops any unwelcome plants.
- D. Roman Wormwood (*A. pontica*) Although this plant grows only 1 foot high, it is excellent as a dense border plant or cover for a hillside. Prefers full sun and ordinary, well-drained soil.

- E. Beach Wormwood (*A. stellerana*) Common names are “old Woman” and “Dusty Miller.” This plant grows to about 12 to 18 inches and has large, deeply cut silver leaves similar to those of chrysanthemum. It thrives in sandy dry soil and full sun. This plant is a showy addition to a raised bed.
- F. Southernwood (*Artemisia abrotanum*) This hardy perennial can grow to five feet high with a spread of 4 to 5 feet. The fragrant, feathery foliage may have yellow flowers in late summer. If the plant becomes shabby in winter, leave the old growth on through the winter, but cut it back to 18 or more inches in late spring to stimulate fresh shoots. Plant in ordinary but well-drained soil or in a container. This is a good companion plant for roses.
- G. Mugwort (*A. vulgares*) Set out plants in full sun in the spring after the last frost. This plant can reach a height of 8 feet and has small creamy-white (or darker) flowers. It is easy to grow but can be invasive and may need root pruning occasionally as well as overall pruning to improve the plant’s appearance. This most toxic of all the artemisias has been used in cancer treatments and as a remedy for skin problems.

Plant one, a few, or all of the Artemisias for a grand gardening adventure.

Sources: *Southern Herb Growing* by Madalene Hill and Gwen Barclay; *The Herb Bible* by Peter McHoy and Pamela Westland

Photo by Terrie Hahn



Master Gardener First Responder Specialist Course

- Mary Ann Everett

This is the second in a series

In June of this year, Louann Hight and myself attended the first National Plant Detector Network Specialist Course at TAMU. Dr. Kevin Ong was the innovator of this course, and as I had attended several of his talks in the past and really enjoyed his style of teaching, I talked Lou into attending along with me. I don't think I was disappointed with the outcome, and the finale was a tour of the plant disease lab on the TAMU campus. It is amazing how much these 'detectives' can do in such a cramped area, but this they do.



Above: photo of Rose Rosette Disease from the American Rose Society; below: Witches Broom showing on a shrub rose from Missouri Botanical Garden.

Rose Rosette Disease was first reported in Manitoba, Canada in 1940 and reported in the U.S. shortly afterward. It has now become common in many parts of the U.S. and has become more common in the Dallas/Fort Worth area in recent years.

The disease is limited to plants in the genus *Rosa*. Its main host is the multiflora rose, *R. multiflora*, which was planted as a hedgerow for erosion control and as a natural fence in the first half of the 20th century. Rose Rosette Disease is caused by a virus, transmitted by eriophyid mites. This is the primary transmission. However it can also be transmitted by grafting. *Phyllocoptes fructiphilus* is the mite vector, which is very small (cannot be seen without a microscope). It can crawl for short distances, but can be dispersed long distances by wind, on other insects, or movement of plants. It will feed in protected areas on young tissues. It can have several generations a year.



Rose Rosette Disease affects all rose varieties, typically killing them within months up to a few years. The symptoms are variable.

Symptoms

Some of the symptoms are witches broom, as seen above; increased thorn production, which are often

Continued on next page...

Specialist Class...continued

softer, more pliable thorns; thickened canes, diminished leaf size, deformed/distorted leaves and flowers; increased red coloration to tissues, as seen in above picture; shoot elongation; death of tissues. Sometimes the increased redness does not occur on some ornamental roses.

Notice in the left picture below the increase in thorn production. The picture on the left also shows deformed and distorted leaves and flowers. It could cause some to think this could be caused by herbicide damage.

Control/Management of Rose Rosette Disease

While there are miticides on the market, the long term control of these mites is not really practical. Just a note that the miticide may reduce the probability of transmission, but it will not stop the virus, if it is already in the plant. If you suspect this disease on your rose, you will need to remove the entire plant, including the roots. Bag and discard. Do not compost. If there are any wild roses in the vicinity of cultivated roses, they should be removed.

In Conclusion

Dr. Kevin Ong, director of the Plant Pathology Lab, TAMU, has written an update, August 2013, entitled **Rose Rosette**

Disease: Demystified, publication number E-PLP-010. There is still a lot they do not know about this virus, and there are many university labs doing research on it. One thing for sure, watch your roses. If you suspect this disease, you should remove the entire plant, roots and all, bag it and dispose of it. This is not the end of the roses, but it does pay to be vigilant.

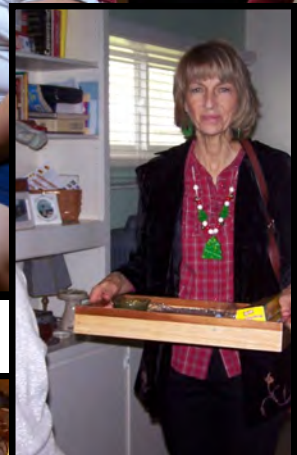
[Above photo from American Rose Society; bottom photos from Missouri Botanical Garden](#)



Herb Study Group's Christmas Tea Brews Up a Good Time

- Terrie Hahn

The now retired BCMG Herb Study Group held their annual Christmas Tea December 19th at Kim Pringle's home in Temple. It's potluck with herbs included in everything, of course. Pictured are Frances Idoux, Laura Murphy, Brenda Smith, Susan Firth, Nancy Blansett, Joyce Richardson, Carol Runyan, and in back, Kim Pringle, Dee Coffeen, Suzanne Boyer, Beverly Wickersham and Crystal Fisher. Several others attended, but had to leave early. Beverly gave a talk on Artemisia, the Herb of the Year. Check out Kim's announcement about the Herb Forum on page 17 if you're interested in Herbs, and Beverly's article on The Artemisias on page 4.



Photos by
Crystal
Fisher and
Terrie
Hahn.

BCMG Christmas Party Fun



Photos by Randy Brown



Fun!



Photos by Randy Brown

And More Fun!



Photos by
Randy Brown

State and Golden Trowel



Awards Given

- Bernie Hurta

At the BCMG Christmas Party in early December, AgriLife Extension Agent, Lyle Zoeller awarded (above)

Mary Lew Quesinberry, Jann Dworsky and Frances

Idoux a 3rd place Texas State Master Gardener Award for educational articles written for local newspapers. Above right, Bob Gordon and Charles Newsom received their Texas State Master Gardener 15 Year Certificates.

Receiving the Golden Trowel Award this year was Laura Murphy (right) for being a leader with integrity. She has kept everyone on an even keel with her steady, calm, intelligent and hardworking ways. Laura has been instrumental in getting the old greenhouse and hardening house replaced with a building that will be very helpful as a location for education for the public as well as for the Association. She is always thinking of ways to bond the community with the Master Gardeners. Our organization is better known to the community because of Laura's dedication.

Also receiving the Golden Trowel was Louann Hight (right) for the numerous hours she has put in and her dedication to the success of the Home and Garden Show, the Plant Sale Committee, Speaker's Bureau, Garden Tours, and the Nominations Committee. She is always willing to lend a helping hand. Louann is dedicated to the success of the Bell County Master Gardener Association.



Carla Harmon (left) received the Golden Trowel Award as well for her outstanding organizational ability, leadership, and study of plant materials best suited for our Bell County community. She is selfless in her duties as plant sale chairman. She is always kind and considerate and she encourages input from others in the planning stage of the sales. In addition to providing revenue for the organization, Carla makes sure the visitors to our sales have educational opportunities as well as access to healthy plant material.

Photos by Randy Brown





Lifetime and Green Thumbs

Lyle presented Ursula Nanna (left) and Mary Ann Everett (right) with the Lifetime Member Badges.

Green Thumb Awards were given to (shown below left) Peg Fleet, Bernie Hurta and Gail Pierce. Not shown receiving their Green



Thumb Awards were Judy Hermann, Ray Machovsky and Larry Moehnke. Below the recipients of the new award, Friends of the Master Gardeners are pictured. Left to right are Richard Hight, Gail Garner receiving the award for husband, Donald, Larry Albro, Phil Everett and Allan Colwick. Not pictured are Tom Christian and Guillermo Gomez.



Photos by Randy Brown

Plenty of Hours Put In

Clockwise from right: Ursula Nanna receiving her 400-499 Hour Certificate and Laura Murphy receiving her 300-399 Hour Certificate; Mary Ann Everett and Don Wyatt receiving their 500 + Hour Certificates (B.A. McDevitt not shown); Gary Slanga, Louann Hight, Jerry Lewis and Bernie Hurta with their 200-299 Hour Certificates (Gail Christian and Ray Machovsky not shown); for 100-199 hours: Terrie Hahn, Fran Sheppard, Beverly Wickersham, Bette Gilmore, Peg Fleet, Brenda Albro, Carla Harmon, Karen Colwick, Vernon and Beverly Chenoweth, Edie Campbell, Carol Runyan (not shown, Linda Young, Larry Moehnke, Sophia Gomez and Candace Mullen).

Below are the 5 Year Pin recipients: Robin Pohl (still a BCMG while living in San Antonio) Beth Buhl, Laura Murphy, Michael Miller, Jann Dworsky and Nancy Kozusko. Missing are Bernard McDevitt and Margaret Leigh. 10 Year Pin goes to Carol Klement. 15 Year Pins to Mary Ann Everett and Candace Mullen.

Photos by Randy Brown



New Master Gardener Awards Go To:

- Bernie Hurta

Pat Allen

for always being willing to volunteer with a smile on her face. She is conscientious, dependable, and serious about her Master Gardening training. She has helped plant flowers for the City of Temple and she helped Mary Lew Quesinberry get her yard ready for the C. T. G. videotaping. She worked on several other projects and events even before she finished her MG training.

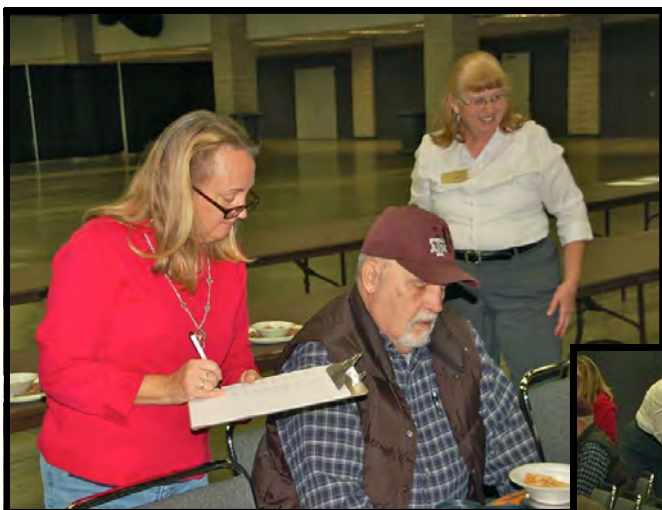


Gail Garner

for working faithfully on the Grounds Committee and the Plant Sale Committee. She works hard and even comes to "called" work days other than Wednesdays. She is not afraid to pick up a tool and get busy. Her desire to learn the techniques and procedures is unmatched. Her time and desire to make the plant sales efficient and effortless for the customer is very strong. She is easy to work with and truly wants what is best for the Master Gardener Association.



BCMG's Helping with the Pecan Show



Photos by
Randy Brown



Q & A

Editor's note: Let's learn from one another. Submit your questions and answers to me at moompie45@hotmail.com or call me at 512-863-9837.

Last month's Question from:

- Terrie Hahn

There seems to be an abundance of Live Oak acorns this year, but most of them are quite small. Does this mean the trees are stressed, since they're small? Or does it mean that the trees are doing well, since there are so many?



And the Answer is:

Acorn Production in Oaks

- Gary Slanga

What causes an over production of acorns in oaks? Good questions, sorry no real good answers. Some experts believe that oaks have a period every decade or so call a "mast" year. Mast is the term used to refer to the fruit production of oaks and certain other trees. During the mast year trees produce a flood of acorns that rain down in abundance.

Other scientists think that a drought will produce an overproduction of the nuts. According to Matthew Weaver, a regional urban forester with the Texas A&M Forest Service, we often see increased production in mast during a drought, especially like the one we had last year. The trees are trying to perpetuate their species so they expend energy in producing their seed.

Still other scientists believe there are evolutionary reasons for oak trees to produce larger crops of acorns occasionally. Small crops of acorns can be easily eaten up by predators such as deer and squirrels. So it is speculated that as a survival technique oaks will produce a bumper crop of acorns from time to time in order to overcome the ability of predators to eat all the mast up.

As to why they are smaller, that may be due to the large production which keeps each acorn smaller or the drought or both.

This month's Question is from:

- Terrie and Werner Hahn

We've heard a lot of conflicting information as to whether you should cut back those brown frozen perennials in your yard after the first freeze or the beginning of spring. We've read that you should cut back Plumbagos, Esperanzas and others after the first freeze. But other sources say to leave them all winter to protect the plant. We leave ours until early spring to cut back for the health of the plant, and we like how the skeletons of some of these plants look. Just wondered what other MG's are doing in their yards and if the plants are truly effected by cutting or not cutting back.

PROPAGATION CLASS—SPRING 2014

- Judy Herrmann

	TOPICS	PRESENTER
Jan. 29	Seeds; seeding of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant	Louann Hight
	Bulbs, Corms, and rhizomes; Bulb propagation by chipping	Ray Machovsky
Feb. 19	Pruning and propagating grapes	Gary Slanga
	Rose propagation by baggies	Nancy Kozusko
	Rose propagation by soda bottles	Wayne Baker
Mar. 19	Tiny seeds	Jann Dworsky
	Self-watering propagators	Myra Crenshaw
Apr. 16	African Violets	Carol Runyan
	Cacti and succulents	Karen Colwick

There are 2 classes on each date, each lasting for 75 minutes and starting at 9:30 am. Cost is \$20 for all classes or \$6 for one date. The class fee is used to cover the cost of the supplies and plant materials you will receive in class. Make checks payable to BCMGA and give it to Judy Herrmann (254-458-2446 or dr_herrmann@hotmail.com) to sign up for the propagation class. Class is limited to a total of 20 interns and master gardeners, with interns receiving first priority.

FACILITATOR—Judy Herrmann

MENTORS—Mary Lou Edmonson, Jan George, Karla Harmon, Louann Hight, Ray Machovsky, Nancy Kozusko, Wayne Baker, Gary Slanga, Jann Dworsky, Myra Crenshaw, Carol Runyan, Karen Colwick, Fran Shepherd, and Judy Herrmann

Announcements

Facebook Page for BCMG's

- Terrie Hahn



One of the new interns, Justin Hammonds, has set up a facebook page for BCMG's and a group page for the intern class. So any of you that are on facebook or just want to look at the pages, go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/BCMGA>

<https://www.facebook.com/Groups/453302588111883/>

BCMG Book Available

- Frances Idoux

The Bell County Master Gardener 16th Anniversary Book will be available soon. The cost is \$25.00. More information to follow.

Herb Forum Coming in March

- Kim Pringle

The 19th Annual Herbal Forum at Round Top is March 21 and 22, 2014. The theme is "Herbal Celebrations with Artemesia, Herb of the Year 2014." Anyone interested in more details or interested in making a reservation may contact Kim Pringle at kimberpringle@earthlink.net or (254)791-1564. Registration will commence in early January, 2014.

We have 24 beds reserved if you would like to spend Friday night and we usually have a pot luck dinner on Friday evening. The cost of the Forum last year was \$85 including lunch and the accommodations are about \$80 including breakfast. There are optional workshops for an additional fee. Of course, there is a big plant sale.

Missing Hours

- Bernie Hurta

Attention Master Gardeners: Record Your Hours!

Please record and turn-in your service and education hours every month. The revised by-laws state that to continue to be an active certified Bell County Master Gardener, you must record and turn-in your service and education hours. You cannot hold an office on the Board, receive your 5, 10, 15 year badges, or receive the Golden Trowel and Green Thumb Awards if you do not have at least the 50 service hours and 12 education hours required per year. Last year, we only had 62 people turn-in hours and we have more than twice that on our membership list. There are a lot more hours of hard work being completed by the Master Gardeners than what is being recorded. Let's record what we are doing!

Upcoming Workdays

- Brenda Albro

Can't believe this past year is almost gone. I do hope that all of you have had a safe and happy holiday. We are looking forward to getting back to work on the grounds and back to a regular routine.

Wanted to let you know that we are going to make some changes in our workday. Sophia and I are thinking that we can split up the workdays. We will have two days to work. Not everyone can come on Wednesday so we have opted to do a Friday workday as well. Sophia will head up the Wednesday morning group and Brenda will be there on Friday. We will have a plan in place so that everyone is on the same page. This also should allow us to get the work done and yet not work every Wednesday and Friday so those who want to can be involved in other areas as well.

We will also have our first Wednesday and Friday workdays beginning on Wednesday the 8th and Friday the 10th. Weather permitting we will begin at 9:00 am. We will send out emails to all MG with more dates very soon.

Thanks for your support and your help in 2013. We wish for all of you and blessed and wonderful 2014!
- Brenda and Sophia

Officers

President	Laura Murphy
First Vice President	Randy Brown
Second Vice President	Jerry Lewis
Recording Secretary	Myra Crenshaw
Corresponding Secretary	Peg Fleet
Treasurer	Gail Christian

Directors

Garden Tour	Margaret Leigh
Youth Programs	Mary Ann Everett
New Class	Fran Sheppard
Education/State Conference	Gary Slanga
Grounds & Maintenance	Sophia Gomez & Brenda Albro
Awards	Bernie Hurta
Webmaster	Louann Hight
KMCCG	Edie Campbell
AgriLife Agent	Lyle Zoeller

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Please submit articles for the Blooming Bell as Word Documents with photos separate as jpg files to Terrie Hahn at:

moompie45@hotmail.com

Please do not send PDF documents.

Banner photo by Terrie Hahn

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