

# *The Blooming Bell*

**January 2016**



**Bell County  
Master Gardener  
Association**



Photo by Diane Calderwood.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	<b>6 Grounds Planning Meeting 8 am</b> <b>Hamburger</b> <b>Wednesday 10:30 am</b> <b>New Class</b> <b>Orientation 1 pm</b>	7	8	9
10	11	12	<b>13 Work Day 8 am*</b> <b>State Awards Meeting 9:30 am</b>  <b>General Meeting 10:30</b> <b>Social time 10 am</b>  <b>First day of new class</b>	14	15	16
17	18	19	<b>20 Work Day 8 am*</b>	21	22	23
24	25	26	<b>27 Work Day 8 am*</b> <b>BOD Meeting 9 am</b>	28	29	30
31						

\* in the event of rain or 40 degree temperature or below, there will be No Workday.

Remember to record volunteer/education hours.

New year image by:Anoop Krishnan.

## The President's Corner

We are about to start a new year. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Years Day. 2015 was a great year for us. You folks accomplished so much that benefited Bell Co. It makes 2016 a bit of a challenge to outdo last year. But knowing how hard all of you work and the amount of volunteer hours you spend on behalf of our organization, I know we will surpass last years accomplishments and make it another great year.

Registration is open for the 2016 State Conference that will be held in McKinney. I hope many of you will be able to attend this event. There is a flyer published in this edition that has the preliminary information on the conference. Keep in mind that the 2017 conference will be a ship cruise to Mexico. That's one worth planning for.

I would encourage everyone to attend the membership meeting on the 13th of January for the installation of the new members to the Board of Directors. We will be working the Irrigation conference that morning but we should be through well before the meeting is to start.

Don't forget that membership fees are due by the end of January and everyone needs an up to date background check.

See you at the meeting.

Gary

## My Visit with Judy

- Gail Koontz

I had a delightful visit with Judy Herrmann on December 7 at The Meridian Health Center as I delivered her 10 year pin from our Christmas Party and Awards Presentation. She spoke of many of you who had come by for a visit. She is definitely feeling better and more receptive to visits or phone calls. She and her husband are in Room 315. Her cell is 254.458.2446. Obviously she cannot text nor can she respond to voice mail. If you have a few extra minutes in the coming days, drop by and visit her or give her a call. She loves all of you and misses you. I visit on a regular basis as I have several dear friends from my church who are there.

I wasn't sure how she would respond when I asked if I could take a picture of her with her pin. She graciously replied, "Yes. And perhaps it might appear in the Blooming Bell?" So here we are.





# Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

## Fungus Gnats

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife Extension Entomologist

Fungus gnat adults are small, black, long-legged flies with long antennae. Most adults are about 1/16 of an inch but some can get up to 1/2 an inch. They are weak fliers and generally remain near potted plants, growing media, foliage or leaf litter.

Larvae, or immatures, have a black head capsule and long whitish body without legs. They feed on organic matter such as mulch, compost, grass clippings, plant roots and fungi. When conditions are very moist, fungus gnat larvae can become abundant and may leave slime trails on media that looks similar to trails left by snails or slugs.



While these gnats are a nuisance they are fairly easy to manage. Indoors, it is a good idea to use yellow sticky cards as a monitoring tool. Potato pieces may also be used as a monitoring tool for fungus gnats. Imbed a peeled potato cube into media and inspect the underside of the potato and the media directly below it twice a week for fungus gnat larvae.

To manage fungus gnat populations, work on reducing excessively moist conditions. Avoid overwatering and make sure that there is good drainage. The surface of container soil should be allowed to dry before watering again.

If using compost, make sure that items have been fully composted. Compost piles should be turned regularly and kept away from doors or windows. Inspect all doors, windows, vents and screens for a good seal to reduce the number of gnats that may enter a structure.

In homes, insecticides are rarely needed to manage fungus gnats. If they are needed, *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israelensis* or the nematode *Steinernema*

*feltiae* can be applied in containers to control larvae. Either spray on the media or apply as a soil drench. Biologicals work best when they are applied early in an infestation. If a population is already large, they may not provide the control desired.

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](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)



Photos from: [http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/hortupdate\\_archives/2004/jan04/Fungusgnat.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/hortupdate_archives/2004/jan04/Fungusgnat.html)

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# This and That

## Pecan Judging

- Gail Christian



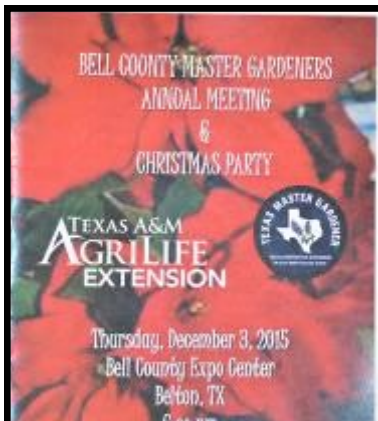
## December Board Meeting

- Randy Brown





# Time to Celebrate



The photos on the "Celebration" pages were taken by Randy Brown and Daisy Klassy.



# Time to Celebrate





# Time to Celebrate

- **Bernie Hurta**

**Life Members** are members who have distinguished themselves through long and meritorious service for the betterment of the organization. They receive a badge, no longer pay dues, and continue to serve the association to remain certified.

This year we have three recipients, pictured below:

**Gary Slanga, Mary Lew Quesinberry, and Jeanette Karr**



at the Killeen Community Garden , the 2015 State Conference, Extension grounds, plant sale and memorial for Ursula Nanna. David has shown exceptional energy, enthusiasm, and commitment.

**Gail Koontz**, for her work on the 2015 State Conference, Bell County Youth Fair, Extension grounds, Class Reporter for the Blooming Bell, Fall Plant Sale, and the many youth activities she took part in. Gail has gone above and beyond the average intern in time, energy, helpfulness, and willingness to volunteer.

**Kathy Love**, for all her work on the 2015 State Conference, The Bell County Youth Fair, Fall Plant and Garage Sale, 2015 Class T-shirt Committee as designer, Blooming Bell and area newspapers article author, and created signs for the plant sale and the 2016 New Class. Kathy is a creative hard worker who is always ready to lend a hand.

**Wayne Schirner**, for his work on the 2015 State Conference, Extension grounds , Home & Garden Show and Killeen Community Garden.

He has taken the vegetable specialist class and is already giving presentations. Wayne is a great example of what our BCMGA members should be.

## **The New Master Gardeners of the Year Award**

is usually given to one or two of the New Class Interns for their contributions to the class and the Association. However, the 2015 class was an extraordinary class with most of its' 24 members contributing much to the Association. This year, there are 4 awardees.

**David Carpenter**, for his many hours of work





# Time to Celebrate

Six **Green Thumb Awards** are given each year for service to the Association. You may win this award more than once.

**Marybeth Bradburn**, for her work at the Killeen Community Gardens, the 2015 State Conference, the New Class Committee and her involvement in the many aspects of the Association. Marybeth is a hard worker who always ready to help out.

**Gail Christian**, for her work for the 2015 State Conference, teaching the volunteer hours system, keeping up with the membership list, treasurer duties and being the most helpful person in the BCMGA. If you need information, you ask Gail.

**Mary Lou Edmondson**, for her work as New Class mentor, propagation class instructor, Home & Garden Show worker, and plant sale worker. Her knowledge of plants is profound. Mary Lou is a kind-hearted person who is always ready to help out.

**Daniel Perry (not pictured)**, for all his work at the Killeen Community Garden and his outstanding mentorship to the students working at the garden. Daniel is a hard worker and always ready to help out.

**Walter Ponder**, for his work as the Grounds Committee Chairman and all the work he has done on the Extension Office grounds. He also worked on the 2015 State Conference, Plant Sales, McLane Children's Hospital garden, Home & Garden Show, New Class Committee and New Class Field Trip committee. Walter is a wonderful hard worker who is always ready to help out.

**Susan Terry (not pictured)** for all her work on the 2015 State Conference and as Outreach/Education Coordinator. She does an excellent job coordinating speakers for the organizations that want horticultural presentations. Susan is an efficient hard worker who is always ready to share her time and talents.

Three **Golden Trowel Awards** are given each year for service to the Association and the Community. You may win this award only once.



**Terry Bradburn**, for all his extensive work on the 2015 State Conference, Killeen Community Gardens, Home & Garden Show and Plant Sales. Terry is a very efficient hard worker who is always ready to volunteer.

**Terrie Hahn**, for all her wonderful work creating the Blooming Bell each month for the past five years, teaching herb classes to the interns and the community, and working on the 2015 State Conference. Terrie is a hard worker who is always ready to help out.

**Jan George**, for her extraordinary organization of the Fall Plant Sale, her work at the 2015 State Conference and her involvement in many aspects of the Association. Jan is an enthusiastic, hard worker who is always ready to help out.



# Time to Celebrate

## "Friends of Master Gardeners"

are spouses, family members or friends of Bell County Master Gardeners who help us out. (A lot of the following friends helped us at the conference) We want to show our appreciation by honoring them with a certificate.



The "Friends"

are: Kathy Abilez (Elaine Passman's daughter), Angelia Carpenter, Tom Christian, Allan Colwick, Phil Everett, Cliff George, Len Gulig, Bill Hillyard, Ed Hurta, Ron Jones, Stan Passman, David Quesinberry, and Gene Terry. (Several Friends were sick and are not pictured or had their spouse pick up their certificate.)

Receiving their **100-199 Service Hours Certificates** were: Pat Johnson, Carol Runyan, Fran Sheppard, Gail Koontz, Melinda Arriola, Gail Garner, Ray Machovsky, Laura Murphy, Jane L. Van Praag, Mary Lou Edmondson, Frances Idoux, Wayne Schirner, Jean Flores, Arthur Carr, Bob Gordon, Betty Nejtek, Terri Gulig, Bette Gilmore, Vivian Rush, Mary Lew Quesinberry, Beverly Chenoweth, Gail Pierce, Jeanette Karr and Sophia Gomez.





# Time to Celebrate

**Receiving their 200-299 Hour Certificates were:** David Carpenter, Walter Ponder, Terrie Hahn, Kathy Love, Larry Moehnke, Carla Harmon, Jerry Lewis, Edie Campbell, Ilene Miller, Louann Hight, Pat Allen and Susan Terry (not pictured).

**Receiving their 300-399 Hour Certificates** were: Gary Slanga, Bernie Hurta, Marybeth Bradburn, Randy Brown, Don Wyatt and Peg Fleet.



Karen Colwick, Jan George and Terry Bradburn received their **400-499 Hour Certificates** and



Charlotte Jones received her **500-599 Hour Certificate.**

Mary Ann Everett received her **600-699 Hour Certificate.**

And Gail Christian received her **700-799 Hour Certificate!**

# Time to Celebrate

## 15 Year Badges/Pins

### **Class of 2001**

Jeanette Karr

Kim Pringle



Mary Ann Everett received her **15 Year  
State Pin!**

## 10 Year Badges/Pins

### **Class of 2006**

Joyce Richardson

Werner Hahn

Terrie Hahn

Judy Herrmann



## 5 Year Service Badges/Pins

### **Class of 2011**

Carla Harmon

Peg Fleet

Karen Colwick

Larry Moehnke

Kathleen Brown

Sophia Gomez





# Announcements

## BCMG Dues are Due!

### - Gail Christian

Dues for 2016 are now due by the end of January. If you were not in the last two Master Gardener classes, you probably need a background check. The State requires all Master Gardeners to have a background check every three years, whether they are active or inactive. Please return the completed background form with your check, or the check will be returned to you. If you are not sure, send the form and we will shred it if it is not needed. The form is on both web sites. Send me an e-mail if you can't download it and I will send it to you as an attachment. It is also available at the Extension Office.

## Grounds Workdays

### - Walter Ponder

Here is the Workday schedule for January:

8:00 a.m. January 6, 2015 Grounds Planning

10:30 a.m. January 6, 2015 Burger Wednesday

8:00 a.m. January 13, 2015 Workday

8:00 a.m. January 20, 2015 Workday

8:00 a.m. January 27, 2015 Workday

There will be no work days if it is raining or the temperature is 40 degrees or below.

## January Meeting

### - Mary Ann Everett

Gail Koontz will be speaking about the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug at the January General meeting at 10:30 with social time at 10 a.m. And new members to the Board of Directors will be installed.

## Winter Herb Party

### - Kim Pringle

Please join the Herb Study Group for our annual Herbal Tea on Thursday, January 28, 2016 from 10:00 am to noon at the home of Suzanne Boyer, 710 Chatham Rd. Belton, TX 76513. Kindly RSVP with call or text to Suzanne at 254-493-2377. Please bring your favorite tea cup and an herbal dish for brunch.

The 2016 Herb of the Year is Chili Peppers. Please do a little research to share with the group.

Just a reminder that the Herbal Forum at Round Top is March 18 and 19, 2016.

**CHECK OUT BCMGA FACEBOOK  
PAGE! GO TO**

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

# Upcoming Events

## - Pam Dragoo

Happy New Year fellow Master Gardeners! Here we are in a brand-new year starting out our gardening events. Right off the bat, most of the gardening events are in Austin or around the Dallas area.

I found several events through the **Texas Smartscape**. They are offering:

**Backyard Composting** will be offered on January 9, 2016 from 9 to 11 AM it's free.

**Organic Vegetable Gardening** which will be on January 12, 2016 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. This event is also free. They are offering **Success with Seeds** that will be January 14, 2016 from 7 PM to 8:30 PM this is another free event.

January 25 there will be a **Container Gardening** event and it will be from 6:30 PM through 8:30 PM and it is free.

On January 28 through February 25, 2016 there will be a **Master Composter Training**. It is a free event and it's held from 7 PM to 9:30 PM.

If you're interested in getting more information, you can check out their website [www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com).

In Austin, at the sustainable food center, there are several classes.

The next class is going to be a class preview night which is January 12, 2016 from 5pm through 7 PM.

There's a **Break It Down Essential Knife Skills class** on January 20, 2016 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM and **Caring for Fruit Trees** January 23, 2016 from 10 AM to 12 PM. They will be offering **Butchery for the Home** cook series package on January 26, 2016 that will run through February 2, 2016. On February 2, 2016 they will have **Understanding Meat**.

They will be holding several very interesting classes and on February 13 they get into **an Introduction to Food Gardening**. If you're interested in any of these classes you can go to their website at [sustainable-foodcenter.org](http://sustainable-foodcenter.org).

At Zilker botanical Gardens there will be a compost Saturday. It will be January 9, 2016 from 10 AM to 12 PM. It's at the Zilker Botanical Gardens located at 2220 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, TX. Zilker Park entrance fee is two dollars per adult one dollar per child ages 3 to 12 or the senior age 62 and over three dollars for non-Austin residents cash or check is accepted. You can get more information at the Texas A&M tag life extension service. Travis county, 512-854-9600, is going to have a Texas First Detector class on Saturday, February 6, 2016. "See something, say something"...

Finally here are some of events closer to home, the Harker Heights community garden located at 400 Miller's Crossing in Harker Heights. Citizens of Harker Heights and the surrounding areas can rent plots to plant fruit trees, vegetables, flowers, herbs. Members of the Garden Committee are given an exclusive combination to the garden locks to enter between sunrise and sunset. The garden provides access to water with the hoses, a compost tumbler and a shed for storing personal gardening tools.

They will also be offering gardeners education series. This is going to be held at the activity center at 400 Indian trails Monday from 6 PM to 7 PM. Topics will be **Spring Garden Planting and Square-foot Gardening** and that will be January 11, 2016. On February 8, 2016 they will be offering a class on **Trees of Central Texas**. It will be holding a **Seed Swap** Saturday, January 23, 2016 from 1 PM to 2:30 PM at the activity center on 400 Indian Trail. This free event allows the general public to bring in seeds, bulbs, and/or cuttings to share or swap (No hybrid seeds please). Please make sure that the seeds are clearly labeled and in an envelope, baggie, or container. Label should include the name of the plant, growing directions, and a picture of the plant if possible. It is not mandatory to bring something to swap. Baggies will be provided for take-home seeds. There will be gardening related vendors at the event to share information about gardening, their businesses, and to answer any gardening questions. For more information call 254-953-5466 or email [smylcraine@cu.harkerheights.tx.us](mailto:smylcraine@cu.harkerheights.tx.us).

You could also go to their website which is [ci.harkerheights.tx.us](http://ci.harkerheights.tx.us)



# ***What's Happening in Your Yard***

## **December Bloomers!**



**- Jann Dworsky**

These roses were picked from my backyard the week before Christmas!



**- Terrie Hahn**

Our Forsythia Sage, Soft Caress Mahonia and Roses were still all blooming after Christmas.



## Officers

President	Gary Slanga
First Vice President	Mary Ann Everett
Second Vice President	Bernie Hurta
Recording Secretary	Pat Johnson
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Allen
Treasurer	Don Wyatt

## Directors

Youth Programs	Gail Koontz
New Class	Fran Sheppard
Landscape	Carla Harmon Walter Ponder
Plant Sale	Kathy Love
KMCCG	Edie Campbell
Outreach	Susan Terry
Awards	Bernie Hurta
Webmaster	Louann Hight
AgriLife Agent	Lyle Zoeller

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***Please do not send PDF documents.***

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