

# The Blooming Bell

July 2016



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**Bell County  
Master Gardener  
Association**



Photo by Charles  
Newsom.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 	5	6 Work Day 7:30 am*  Burger Wednesday 10:30 am	7	8	9
10	11	12 Botanic Garden Meeting 6-8 pm	13 Work Day 7:30 am* General Meeting 9 am Topic is Greenhouse History Social time starts at 8:30 am	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Work Day 7:30 am*	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Work Day 7:30 am* BOD Meeting 9 am	28	29	30
31						

Upcoming events: Plant Sale is September 10.

\* in the event of rain, there will be NO Workday.

Remember to record volunteer/education hours.

Photo by Frances Idoux

## The President's Corner

Another project is well under way. We now have a green house. Thanks to the hard work of Charles and Gladys Newsom, Wayne Schirner, Johnny Jones, Gena Winston and Don Wyatt. They put the house together in just two (very hot) days. We also had help from the folks who sold us the greenhouse, Andrew and his son Michael. Without their help, the project would have taken much longer and we probably would have had a lot of left over parts (Where do you suppose this piece goes???).

We are now in the process of putting the finishing touches to the greenhouse.

The vegetable beds are producing huge amounts of cucumbers and tomatoes. Please go by and help harvest some of the produce so it does not go to waste. Next month promises to be just as hot and dry as the last three weeks of this month, so as the plants in the vegetable beds begin to fade, please remove them so the area continues to look good.

We are in the process of evaluating air-conditioning for the Education building. We will be trying out two portable units to see how well they work at the next

monthly meeting. Not much can be done with a building that has four large garage doors in it. We hope it will help to remove some of the humidity and cool a few degrees to make it more tolerable.

Thanks for all the hard work that you continue to provide for our organization. It is truly one of the better groups in Texas. - Gary



## Groundbreaking at The Gardens

*Gail Christian sent this from the Texas State Master Gardener Newsletter. Catching Gary unaware!*

The groundbreaking ceremony at The Gardens at Texas A&M was quite an affair! Texas A&M officials were there in abundance: the President, Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Board of Regents, as well as the mayor and members of congress. Many gave remarks at the ceremonies; they were clearly excited and proud that this garden dream is becoming a reality. It was like a pep rally that centered around gardening. The groundbreaking itself involved trowels and pretty flowers. Now the heavy equipment has moved in and the construction has begun.

The Gardens at Texas A&M University project is a planned transformation of a 46-acre area of West Campus that will include an outdoor classroom, amphitheater, demonstration gardens and nature trails.





# Remembering Robin Pohl

Robin Marie Pohl, age 37, from the Bell County Master Gardener Class of 2009, passed away on June 8, 2016 in San Antonio.

*Diane Calderwood* - I first met Robin when she started the Master Gardener Class in 2009, at the time she was childless and married to a really TALL guy, who was deployed during the class. I'll always remember the story she told of their meeting...it was a blind date and when she answered the door all she saw was a Belt Buckle!! LOL I've always LOVED that story. She was a spunky, fun, talented person. Everyone loved being around Robin. She lifted you up with her humor and her joyous spirit. Last year, I asked Robin to help me with a t-shirt design for a leukemia/lymphoma walk team in memory of my niece who recently died. Robin was SO gracious and helpful as we worked through the design. I knew that Robin had previously suffered with breast cancer, but I sadly had no idea that she was still sick. She never told me that her cancer had come back! She was focused on helping me deal with my grief, helping me find the perfect design for our team...I now realize how giving and truly unselfish she was. I am sad that I did not have the chance to laugh with her in person again and give her a hug, but I am SO grateful that I had the chance to know Robin. She was a very special soul and I will never forget how she touched my life. Heaven will be a weedless place with Robin and her green thumb there!



*Terrie Hahn* - Though many of you didn't know Robin, you would know her work. Robin was the talented artist who came up with our logo design for the State Conference we hosted last year. She was living in San Antonio at the time and as we emailed back and forth trying to get a logo that embodied everyone's ideas, and it was a long involved list of ideas, she never told me that she was dealing with cancer again. She kept on tweaking the design until it was just right. Gary first contacted Robin on November 3, 2013 and in 6 days she had the first draft of the logo and kept working on it until the final copy was approved, after 13 versions, on March 25, 2014. She also came up with a design that we could use for our Association if we ever needed one. I think this shows her talent and her pride in being a Bell County Master Gardener. She was dedicated to our Association from afar even while she was dealing with her illness. She truly will be missed.



# Building a Greenhouse

- Carla Harmon

Our greenhouse is up! We bought the greenhouse from Exaco. Andrew Cook and his son Michael from Exaco, came on Friday, June 10th to help us put the greenhouse together. We are very blessed to have had them help us. Their skills are beyond amazing!

Charles and Gladys Newsome, Wayne Shirner, Gary Slanga, Johnny Jones, Gena Winston from the new class, Barbara Dalby, Don Wyatt, and I were on site part of Thursday and all day Friday. The work was brain- tasking and brain-boiling. THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP! !!

Photos by Johnny Jones, Carla Harmon and Charles Newsom





# Greenhouse...continued





# BEND O' THE RIVER BOTANIC GARDEN

- Diane Calderwood

***The next public meeting will be Tuesday, July 12 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Temple Public Library. Food and drinks will be provided.***

The Steering Committee is working through the design process for the Bend O' The River Botanic Garden. As part of this process, we were invited to take a tour and spend a few hours with Dave Forehand, the Vice President of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. On Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 19 members of the steering committee were bused to the garden. We received valuable information from Dave regarding the creation of a master design plan and the daily operations of a garden of that size. (Our site is actually larger than the Dallas garden which sits on 66 acres.)



At the next public meeting, we will be reviewing the first draft of our Master Design Plan. This will be a plan for the basic "framework" of the garden. It is very important that we get the physical design elements in the right place before we proceed with the details within each



space. Some of those elements include Education Space (indoor and outdoor), Administrative Space,

Continued on next page...





## BOTANIC GARDEN...continued

Event Space, Entry & Movement  
(vehicular & pedestrian) and Collec-  
tions Space.

This is going to be a very long proc-  
ess. It took the Dallas Arboretum 17  
years of planning and fundraising (62  
million) and 2 years of building to cre-  
ate their new area for children, "The  
Rory Meyers Children's Adventure



Garden". As you visit gardens during your travels in  
the summer and fall, make a note of what you like and  
dislike in the garden, pick up brochures outlining mem-  
bership fees and special events. All this information  
will be useful to the committee as we continue to de-  
sign and plan our garden. [Photos by Sylvia Maedgen](#)





## The Veggie Guy

# Hot Weather Chores

### - Wayne Schirner

The hot weather has arrived, so planting options are significantly reduced in Bell County. Remember to refresh your mulch on plants still growing to help keep their root systems cool and to also help regulate water usage. Warm season greens are the only crop that can be planted throughout the month of July. Tomato transplants can be planted from mid-July to mid-August, so hopefully you have already started your transplants to give them 6-8 weeks of growth before planting. Transplants of peppers and eggplant can also be planted in the same time frame as tomatoes for a fall crop. Remember to rotate these three crops to different parts of your garden to reduce some of the common soil diseases that can make growing these crops challenging. These crops may also benefit from shade in the late afternoon, especially when the temperature is over 100F. They may also need extra water to reduce stress. Hopefully you harvested some rain after the great workshop presented by Karen Colwick on May 21st. As you finish harvesting crops from your spring garden, add compost to the soil after you pull those plants. That will help replenish nutrients that were consumed by those crops in prepa-

ration for replanting. It doesn't matter what kind of soil you have, compost will always make it better. As Master Gardeners, we are frequently asked "what are the best crops to grow?" My standard answer has been to grow what you like to eat. However, if you have limited space, you sometimes need to make a choice. How do you decide then? The book *High-Value Veggies* by Mel Bartholomew was published earlier this year, prior to his death in April, and can help you decide if it is better for you to grow a crop or purchase it from a farmer's market or grocery store. He explains how to calculate the return on investment (ROI) and has done the calculations for many common crops and ranks them based on ROI. The crops with the highest ROI are herbs (any variety) because they are so expensive to buy, even in small amounts. Cherry tomatoes, heirloom tomatoes, and hybrid tomatoes were all in the "top 10" list. If you are thinking about making the leap from home gardening to gardening for profit, this is a must read to help you decide what crops to grow. There are some crops with a negative ROI, meaning you can buy them more cheaply than you can grow them. Since "value" is about more than money, especially for home gardeners, there is a chapter on "Other Kinds of Value" and provides top 10 lists for things like Best Vegetables for a Childs Garden or Most Beautiful Edibles for an Ornamental Garden or Best Edibles for a Shady Garden, and many more. This book is available from [squarefootgardening.com](http://squarefootgardening.com) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com). If you would like to look at the book before you buy one, let me know and I can loan you my copy.

## The Best Summer Vegetable

### - Crystal Fisher

With temps starting to hit a 100° at the end of June, we are so tempted to forego watering outside in this heat. However, this is the best time of year to grow Okra as it handles this weather like a charm. Having pulled my first pod, I think you'll agree that it's not too late to place your order with Baker Creek. There is still time to order your seeds, get it planted, and still



be able to harvest before this growing season has passed.

As you can see by looking at the size of "Star of David", you won't be able to pickle entire stems

because the pods are too large - possibly more like pickled slices. Or you might try a wide mouth jar with smaller Okra tucked in around it. One pod might be enough for one plate.

Having grown a large variety before, I have to admit that even the "Star of David" has exceeded my expectations. So, now is the time for me to look around my yard to see where I can squeeze in a few more plants.



# Heat Stress and Citrus Trees

- Ann Wagner, Class of 2016

Don't forget to water your citrus trees during the heat of summer!!! I was away on vacation and did not water my potted citrus tree. We had some pretty hot weather. Upon returning from my travels, I found that the leaves had curled and the tiny fruitlets had all dropped off due to heat stress and lack of water.

A fellow friend and Master Gardener kept her tree watered and still has the citrus fruit growing while my tree aborted all the tiny fruit beginning to grow.

1) If in the heat of the day if you happen to notice new growth "shoots" hanging limp (wilting) do not be alarmed. That is a sign of heat stress, mist the citrus

leaves down around mid-day. This won't burn leaves despite the myth. If your trees are wilting, but the soil is wet, the extra humidity will protect the citrus tree from the heat.

2) Leaves will turn a pale or light green color with a cloudy white look when they are exposed to intense direct sunlight. This is evidence of a tree that is "sun burn". To prevent this, slowly adapt tree to full sun by going from shaded, to partial shade, and then to full sun.

3) You might notice your leave's edges wanting to curl upwards. This is a sure sign of heat stress which means your tree is being exposed to the maximum amount of sunlight and heat it can handle. Another sign of heat stress is the citrus fruitlets can drop off prematurely. Black pots can get very hot in direct sunlight. Shade the pot with an ivy or decorative cloth. Airflow is a great way to cool your plants.

## Mystery Solved!

- Terrie Hahn

*In the June issue of the Blooming Bell, I asked for help identifying the photographer of these photos. I lost track of who sent them to me. The mystery photographers have come forward!!!*



"Mike and I are the mystery photographers in the Bell. The Double Pink Knock Out Rose which we received at the State Conference in Marshall had more than 80 blooms back in April- early May. The 6 different orchids were all re-bloomers on my kitchen window sill and bring me lots of pleasure just seeing them. The blooms last a couple of months with little care."

- Ilene Miller



## Stick or Bug?

- Gail Christian

I saw this bug high up on our house I thought it was a walking stick, but this thing is almost two bricks long. Gary identified it for me, "This is just one of the many species of stick insects (Phasmotodea). Said to be several thousand species. They are plant eaters so they are not good for the garden or landscape."







## - Susan Terry

Keep Salado Beautiful Demonstration Garden is located at the Visitor Center. Guests and citizens ask about plants and rain barrels, and we now have an explanatory brochure available at the Visitor Center, City Hall, Salado Library, and provided to local civic organizations and supporters of Keep Salado Beautiful. The goals of the brochure:

- Provide native and water tolerant plant information
- Showcase and educate about drip irrigation, rain catchment, and composting
- Promote collaboration with civic groups
- Create a platform for educational programs

- Inspire more gardens

Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and community gardeners redeveloped an overgrown garden at the Salado Visitor Center. Plant selection was a collaborative work providing opportunities to learn from each other and professionals. We used native and water tolerant plants from local growers, following the Earth wise guide. Metal rain barrels, purchased in central Texas by the landlord, are installed and a primitive compost pile saves the landfill. Scouts completed an Eagle Project this spring with Master Gardener guidance: a drip line sprinkler for summer heat.

We developed the brochure to provide Visitor Center staff plant information; there are many visitors who ask, "What is that plant?" We also use the brochure to promote educational programs. Once the Scout projects are complete, hands-on classes will be offered to learn about native plants, building drip line sprinklers, and composting. Brochures are also available throughout the Village of Salado and at: [www.keepersaladobeautiful.com](http://www.keepersaladobeautiful.com).

VISITOR CENTER PLANT RESOURCE LIST			
<p>located at the Village of Salado Visitor's Center, this Native Texas plant garden is the collaborative work of Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, and dedicated community gardeners. It is designed to demonstrate the adaptive nature and beauty of Texas landscape as well as to educate and inspire. The First Monday Gardeners tend the garden, and local Eagle Scouts developed the infrastructure. Enjoy!</p>			
<p><u>AUTUMN SAGE</u> (Salvia greggii) Mint family, perennial, 2' - 3', can reach 5'</p>		<p><u>GREGGS MISTFLOWER</u> aster family, perennial, 1-3'</p>	
<p><u>CALYLOPHUS</u> evening primrose family, perennial, 1-2'</p>		<p><u>GULF MUHLY</u> grasses, perennial, 1-3'</p>	
<p><u>COLUMBINE</u> Buttercup family, perennial, 1-3'</p>		<p><u>INDIGO SALVIA</u> Mint family, perennial, 3-4'</p>	
<p><u>COREOPSIS</u> aster family, perennial, 1-2'</p>		<p><u>JERUSALEM SAGE</u> non-native, well adapted perennial, 3-4'</p>	
<p><u>DAMIANITA</u> aster family, perennial, 1-2'</p>		<p><u>KNOCK OUT ROSES</u> perennial, 3-5'</p>	
<p><u>TURKS CAP</u> malvaceae arboreus aster family, deciduous, 2-6'</p>		<p><u>LANTANA</u> native Verbenaceae family, deciduous, 3-5'</p>	
		<p><u>ROSEMARY</u> non-native adapted herb, is a deer deterrent perennial, 2-6'</p>	
		<p><u>LANTANA</u> trailing purple Verbenaceae family, perennial, 1-2'</p>	
		<p><u>MEALY BLUE SAGE</u> Mint family, perennial, 1-3'</p>	
		<p><u>ORANGE ESPERANZA</u> similar to native Esperanza, but is a non-native adapted perennial, 5-7'</p>	
		<p><u>PINK SKULL CAP</u> Mint family, perennial, 8-12"</p>	
		<p><u>PRICKLY PEAR</u> cactus family, perennial, 3-6'</p>	
		<p><u>RED YUCCA</u> Century plant family, perennial, 1-3'</p>	

Photos by: [www.keeperaustinwild.com](http://www.keeperaustinwild.com)



# Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

## Grasshoppers

### Emerald Ash Borer Found in Texas

**- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife Extension Entomologist**

Emerald ash borer, often referred to as EAB, is an exotic pest from Asia. This beetle is a serious threat to ash trees. Emerald ash borer was accidentally introduced into the United States and was found in Michigan in 2002.

Four beetles were found in a trap located in NE Texas (Harrison County) in late April 2016. There are currently no confirmed cases of infested ash trees. The beetles will continue to be monitored throughout the state.

Larvae bore into trees under the bark and cut off the water and nutrient conducting vessels. Larvae are creamy white, legless with a flattened body. Larvae are 1- 1 ½ inches in length when fully developed.

As an adult, the beetle is elongated and cylindrical with the pronotum (a part of the thorax) extended back as a lobe towards the abdomen. Most notably, these beetles are bright, metallic green with reddish hues. Adults are about 1/2 inch in size. If the wings are removed or lifted, the upper side of the abdomen is bright coppery-red which can help differentiate this beetle from closely related species in Texas. Please note that there can be varying coloration- more blue or reddish instead of green.

In infested trees, canopy die back is often seen in the top one third of the canopy and then moves down until the tree is bare. Epicormic shoots (leafy shoots coming off the trunk of the tree) may also be seen. Vertical fissures may appear on the bark and galleries may be able to be seen through openings. If bark is peeled off, serpentine galleries packed with frass may be seen. Adult beetles produce a d-shaped exit hole (1/8 inch diameter). Woodpeckers may cause damage to trees infested with EAB. Look for flaking bark

and uneven holes caused by the woodpeckers feeding on larvae and pupae.

If EAB activity is confirmed within an area, it is recommended that a systemic insecticide treatment is given to ash trees of high value. If more than 50% of an infested ash tree crown remains, then treatment with a systemic insecticide may slow the attack. If less than 50% of an infested ash tree crown remains, the tree should be removed.

For great information on emerald ash borer within Texas see the following site: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/eab/>



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)

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**TEXAS A&M**  
**AGRI LIFE**  
**EXTENSION**

We won 3rd Place at the State Conference in the Project Category for the McLane Children's Hospital Garden. I wanted to show you the form for applying for an Award and how it is something any of you who are involved in a project can easily do. We need to toot our own horn sometimes!

# State Awards?

## Let's Work for Another!

- Pat Johnson

### 2015 Award Year Texas Master Gardener Association, Inc. Texas Search for Excellence Award Entry Form

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 29, 2016**

Category – A SEPARATE ENTRY FORM MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH CATEGORY. ONLY ONE ENTRY PER CATEGORY.

☐ Youth ☒ Project ☐ Educational Program ☐ Written Education ☐ Research

Name of Master Gardener group and/or county submitting this entry:

Bell County Master Gardener Association

County(ies) involved in the entry: Bell

Master Gardener Submitting this entry contact:

Name: Pat Johnson

Email: docpatj@gmail.com

Phone: 254-778-4425 / 254-624-9613

Master Gardener Association President contact:

Name: Gary Slanga

Email: gfslanga@gmail.com

Phone: 254-933-9483

Master Gardener Coordinator/Extension staff with oversight of the project:

Name: Lyle Zoeller

Title: County Agent

Email: L-Zoeller@tamu.edu

Phone: 254-933-5305

Name of the Project/Program: McLane Children's Hospital Healing Garden

Start Date of the Project/Program: January 2015

1. Who is/was the target audience for this project/program and how were they identified?

The target audience consists of children who are patients in or visiting McLane Children's Hospital, their parents and siblings, visitors and members of the hospital staff.

2. What are/were the goals of this project/program? (Maximum of five goals)

- Create a garden containing herbs and flowers that would add color and fragrance to the garden that children could touch and smell.
- Add raised planters that all children, even those in wheelchairs, could reach and touch the plants.
- Create activities, such as a scavenger hunt for learning.



- Add books about plants and gardening to the children's library.

3. Describe the planning, implementation of the work, and results. (150 words or less)

- Met with representatives from McLane's Children's Hospital to discuss & view the space
- Determined the soil needs, planting space and 41 varying brightly colored containers, some self-watering.
- Created a suggested plants list.
- Received approval for plants to be selected, considering allergies.
- Planted plants purchased or donated by Master Gardeners.
- Established hanging plants with succulents on the bare front walls.
- Checked on progress of plantings.
- Created a scavenger hunt and other activities; donated books about planting to the children's library.
- Developed a map of the garden with names of plants.
- Replaced summer plants with cold hardy plants for the garden's fall and winter wardrobe.
- Continue to oversee the plantings and add to the activities for the children.

Results:

- The herbs from this garden are used in cooking for the children.
- Visitors develop an appreciation for plants and a desire to have a garden of their own.

4. What are the impacts and significant learning? (Maximum of five outcomes-quantitative measures of outcomes and impacts are preferred to anecdotal evidence)

- Imagine a child patient hospitalized, being examined and checked daily for tests, confined in a room with limited ability to go outdoors being wheeled into a garden filled with fragrant herbs and beautiful flowers, being allowed to touch, feel, and smell the plants. This interactive garden allows this for the hundreds of patients entering this children's hospital on a weekly basis.
- Family members concerned about an ailing child or sibling use it as a space of solitude and respite.
- All visitors have an opportunity to learn about plants successfully grown in Central Texas in sun and shade.
- We have chosen plants with the concept to have some flowers blooming in every season – zinnias in summer, calendula in winter. We planted plants such as Gregg's Blue Mist to attract butterflies to the garden.
- We are planning a social event to educate hospital volunteers and staff about the plants and serve dishes made with the herbs.

5. How was this project/program funded? (If applicable, list a maximum of three funding sources)

Funds from McLane's Children's Hospital

Contributions from Lowe's Home Improvement Center

Bell County Master Gardeners Association provided plants and all of the potting soil

Texas Search for Excellence Award

6. List any partnerships associated with the project/program and their support role.

Bell County Master Gardeners worked in partnership with McLane Children's Hospital and Lowe's to complete this project.

7. Total number of Master Gardeners participating in this project/program:

20

#### Photos from the garden



Inviting entry (left)



The raised bed on April 4th (above) and May 27th (below) after the rains in a wheelchair accessible planter.



Blank walls enhanced (above & below) Notice succulent planters on the walls.



Yard whimsy added.



# Blanco Lavender Festival

- Kim Pringle and Vivian Rush

Kim Pringle and Vivian Rush went to the Blanco Lavender Festival on June 10. There was a market with a variety of goods and foods on the courthouse grounds. There were 3 lavender farms with “open houses.” These were Hill Country Lavender, Imagine Lavender, and Lavender Lane farms. Many lavender farms have suffered from the extreme drought and wet conditions and are being replanted. Besides examples of various types of English and French Lavender, there were many wonderfully smelling products such as soaps and candles.

Tasha Brieger, the owner of Hill Country Lavender, gave a talk on the history of her farm, and how to grow lavender in the Hill Country. She purchases lavender plants from Gabrielle Valley Farms in Georgetown. We also attended a lecture at the courthouse by Beth Patterson, President of the Texas Lavender Association. Both these lectures were very helpful in discussing the challenges of growing lavender in our area.

We learned some interesting facts about lavender from the lectures. French lavender (intermedia), such as Provence, produces more oil but prefers a much drier climate. English lavender (Angustifolia), such as Sweet and Munstead, prefer more humid climate. Munstead also produces more oil. The latest sensation is “Phenomenal” which they are all starting to grow, and may survive much better than any other type. A smaller lavender plant is “Goodwin Creek”.

Cotton Root Rot, so common in Blackland Prairie Soils, strikes at random and will kill lavender that had been doing well when the roots reach down far enough in the soil to be infected. Tasha suggested that studies support the use of corn meal or Echinacea plants to surround the lavender and block the root rot. She stated it is not a good idea to put corn meal in the hole when planting lavender because the deer will pull up the plant to get to the corn meal. Pepper plants have also been suggested as working to block the root rot. She also stated that newly planted lavender do well with a deep soak once a week with drip irrigation.

Beth added that lavender is best propagated by “layering”: having a branch touch the ground and grow roots. This is best done in the fall and the plant will have roots by spring. She stated that you can combat root rot by adding air to the soil. Lavender plants like good drainage and expanded shale plus potting soil mixed into the blackland soil will help. Lavender should only be fertilized in the first year, perhaps 2-3x. She said new plants should be watered daily for 3 weeks, then 1-2x/month, then 1x/month, and then no irrigation, unless there is no rain. She mentioned a type of lavender called “Buena Vista” which she said was very dark and beautiful and only 2x2 ft. The above are just a few of the various tips we received from both women. It was a fun and worthwhile trip.

Check out a lavender growing fact sheet in the next issue of the Blooming Bell.



# Help Bees in Garage Wall

– Betty Nejtek

This was the subject line of the email I sent to the Bell Coryell County Beekeepers recently. My mother's house in Copperas Cove has an old wooden garage on the property. We had observed quite a few bees flying around and in and out near the top of one of the outside walls. The Bell Coryell County Beekeepers referred me to Lonnie and Linda Lewis; owners of Red-neck Bee Wranglers. We wanted to save the bees if at all possible. The Lewis' came over to take a look and informed us we probably had a hive in the wall with around 30,000 bees and could remove and relocate them for us. However, if the bees are Africanized bees they are required to destroy them. They came over a few days later in the late evening and began the work of removing and relocating the bees, (luckily they were honey bees). They do their work at night because the bees will be less active. They opened up the garage wall and determined the hive was larger than expected, probably about 80,000. Once the wall was opened up, they vacuumed the bees off the comb while cutting the comb. In this process they also separated the brood comb from the honey comb and placed the brood comb in a hive.

After all the bees and comb were completely removed they placed the rest of the bees in the hive box to encourage all bees to stay in the box. They scraped the left over comb out of the cavity and treated the cavity to eliminate the smell of the hive. At the end of the process they replaced the wall and sealed the area. The bees were taken to their farm where they have several bee hives.

During their work they took pictures of the process. Below is one of the better pictures of the hive they removed. They do guarantee their work. So far the bees have not returned!





# This and That

## Extension Grounds

- Frances Idoux

I took photos at the extension office after the June monthly meeting. Because of all the rain, everything looked wonderful. So these are pictures of our group's "backyard" in full bloom!

Photos by Randy Brown and Frances Idoux.





# This and That

## May Meeting

- Terrie Hahn



At the May Meeting, Gary presented the State Award winners with their plaques. Wayne Schirner won 1st place in the Research category for his Square Foot Gardening. Susan Terry won 3rd place in Written Education for the Salado Demonstration Garden. And Frances Idoux and Pat Johnson picked up the 3rd place Project category award for the McLane children's Hospital Garden. You can take a look at the application form for State Awards that was filled out by Pat on page 13 to get an idea of what you would need to do if you would like to put forth something you're involved in for consideration for an award at the State level.

Mary Ann Everett gave a talk to the membership on Trees of Central Texas.

[Photos by Randy Brown](#)





# This and That

## KMCCG

- Randy Brown

June at the Killeen Municipal Court Gardens was productive. Pictured below, we had Pears coming along nicely with an Olive tree



in the background which had several hundred pea sized olives on it. June 11th was harvest day for red potatoes and onions. And mulch and bio-soil bins were worked on and are now completed.





# Q & A

- **Connie Rivera**

*I'm a recent MG and somewhat still new to Texas. Do you know what this white stuff is on some of my plants and if and how to treat it?*

- **Terrie Hahn**

Connie sent me this photo with her question. I told her that I thought it looked like aphids. I would just place my hand behind it to support while spraying a strong stream of water from the hose. That usually takes care of it without any chemicals. You may have to do it a couple of times. You could use insecticidal soap, but usually a hard spraying takes care of it.

Does anyone else have thoughts on this?



- **Edie Campbell**

*Do you think you could help me identify this plant. It was sent to me by a friend. She was wondering if she needs to get it out of her landscaping or if she should just leave it alone. It just came up randomly. She seems to think it is some type of tree.*

- **Terrie Hahn**

I posted this on our MG Face Book page, and I also posted this on a Face Book group page I'm on, called **Gardening 101 in Central Texas**. Got a response right away-there are some really good gardeners in this group. Patricia Shirey, Carolin Le and several others posted: it's Pokeweed - *Phytolacca americana*. The birds like it, but it gets very tall. Edie said that "We used to call this Poke Salad. I think. My Mother-in-law used to cook it and said it was very poisonous if not cooked correctly. I really liked it as it tasted like Spinach when cooked. I had never seen the plant other than cooked."





# Announcements

## Grounds Workdays

### - Walter Ponder

Here is the Workday schedule for July:

7:30 a.m. July 6, 2016 Workday  
10:30 a.m. July 6, 2016 Burger Wednesday  
7:30 a.m. July 13, 2016 Workday  
7:30 a.m. July 20, 2016 Workday  
7:30 a.m. July 27, 2016 Workday

## July Meeting

### - Mary Ann Everett

Hear ye! Hear ye! Mark your calendars!!!!

The summer schedule for our monthly meetings will be a bit different. Social will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting at 9:00 a.m. This will let us meet during the cooler part of the day.

July's meeting is about the new Greenhouse, with a little bit of history of where our BCMGA has been in the past in regards to the first greenhouses. Speakers: Carla, Gary, Don. You will get an Education hour for this.

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

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

## Bring Back the Pollinators

*Lynn Fleming, President of the Master Naturalists in Bell County sent this out from the Xerces Society.*

A Ghost in the Making: the Online Release is Here!

We're very pleased to announce the release of **A Ghost in the Making: Searching for the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee**, an enchanting short film about the disappearance of the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee and one man's journey to find out what's happened to it. After being received with acclaim at film festivals this spring, the film is now available at <http://www.rustypatched.com/>.

Please watch it and share the link with your family, friends, and social networks. If you are a member of a garden club or natural history group, ask them to arrange a viewing, or have a word with your local library to see if they'll organize a screening.

And once you've watched the film, please take a moment to sign the petition. Saving the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee will take more than just watching a movie. It needs action at the highest level.

There has been a great deal of attention given to bee declines, but much is focused on domesticated honeybees, and less on the 3,600 species of native bees in the United States. Natural history photographer Clay Bolt has been on a multi-year quest to tell the stories of our native bees, and one elusive species - the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee.



This film tells the tale of Clay's journey from state to state in search of this bumble bee. On his travels, Clay meets the scientists and conservationists working tirelessly to preserve it, until he finally comes face to face with his quarry in Wisconsin and discovers an answer to the question that has been nagging him: why save a species?

A Ghost in the Making was produced by Day's Edge Productions in partnership with the Xerces Society, with funding from Endangered Species Chocolate.

# What's Happening in Your Yard

Wow!

- Elaine Passman



## Deep Roots!

- Crystal Fisher

I was digging up some Green Milkweed for Mary Ann and discovered: Not all tap roots are created equal!

We all know that milkweed puts down deep tap roots in order to return year after year. However, when the tap root hits compacted gravel, it appears to start putting on bulk where it can. Likewise, in attempting to dig it up,



the compacted gravel stopped the sharpshooter from going deeper, too. If you are planning to transplant one, the youngsters have the best chance.





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

## **My Siamese Cantaloupe**

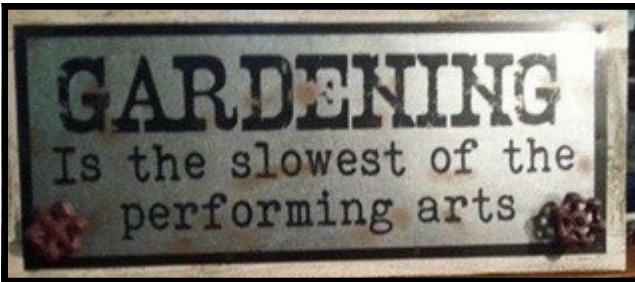
- Art Carr



## **Visit to San Antonio**

- Susan Terry

We enjoyed a visit to the San Antonio Japanese Tea Garden with our Chinese exchange student, Jiakun Li before he returned home to Beijing. Enjoy the photos and the great gardening sign someone shared!!





# What's Happening in Your Yard

- Sylvia Maedgen

I learned quite a few things from the Master Gardener class this year. The African violet cutting that I received from our propagation class is really beautiful and has put on several blooms. My garden did much better after all the prep work and added compost, and my bounty of produce has been really good. There is nothing better than the taste of home grown vegetables. For me the tiny tomatoes are like candy. This year I planted 6 varieties of tomatoes, bell peppers, jalapeños, zucchini, yellow squash, cucumbers, green beans, snap peas, red and white onions, beets, purple carrots, okra, pimento and I had voluntary lettuce. I also planted dill, fennel, mint, basil, rosemary, oregano, parsley, and I had voluntary thyme. I have already canned 17 pints of picante sauce, 6 quarts of beets, 2½ quarts of bread and butter pickles, 5½ pints of tomatoes, and put up 7 pounds of green beans.





# What's Happening in Your Yard

- Terrie Hahn

June brought us a fox sleeping in one of our perennial beds; an abundance of garlic; and



a large Tarantula visiting our kitchen two days in a row. Below: I spotted a Tarantula Hawk (Hemipepsis) getting nectar from a Rue plant. These wasps will sting a Tarantula, paralyzing it, and will then pull it into its lair and lay one egg on it. When the egg hatches, the larva has its meal. These normally docile wasps have one of the most painful stings in the world, so you don't want to antagonize them. Below right is Megan Blanchard, a student from the University of Colorado in Boulder working on her PhD on Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. In the beginning of June, an email had been sent out through Master Naturalists looking for anyone who still had naturally growing Bluebonnets that hadn't dropped all their seeds yet. Megan wanted to collect *Lupinus texensis* seeds from several populations in Texas for her research on the chemical defense of lupine seeds. We had several spots in the yard where the seed-pods were still intact, so we invited her to come and collect them. She came out and spent 2 hours collecting seeds for her project and for some of her colleagues. She visited several other sites throughout Central Texas.



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