

The Blooming Bell

July 2014



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**Bell County
Master Gardener
Association**



**Flowers??? Or
Fireworks???**

See page 11 for
more information
about this image
by amateur pho-
tographer David
Johnson of Can-
ada.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 NO Hamburger Wednesday this month	3	4 	5
6	7	8	9 Work Day 7 am General Meeting w/Social Time at 10:00 am Speaker Jean Flores speaks about Vermicomposting at 10:30 am	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Work Day 7 am	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Board Meeting 9 am	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Work Day 7 am	31		

Remember to record your service and education hours for June.
[Banner Photo of Coral Vine by Charles Newsom.](#)

The President's Corner

July is here already, fortunately we have not had the real hot weather that we normally get this time of the year. The demonstration garden plots behind the AgriLife office are full of tomatoes and other veggies. For those of you who have plots out there, please remember to go by and harvest the produce that is growing.

Once again let me say thanks to all the master gardeners who are working so hard on the upcoming conference. Plans are starting to fall in place nicely. Just a reminder to all the committee chairs that we must have all the details nailed down in time to get them on the conference web site by mid-August. That means the information has to be in to the web masters by the 1st of August. Any information that is pertinent to your event should be in to me for review by that date.

Charles Newsom has gone overboard on the construction of the rainwater harvesting display. Every bell and whistle that you could possibly want on that type of system has been installed. Many, many thanks to Charles for all his single handed hard work. Also wish to thank the grounds committee, especially Carla Harmon and Ursula Nanna for the raised bed around the water tank and the presentation on rainwater harvesting. Great job to all.

Keep in mind that the social event before each of our general membership meetings has been moved up to 10 AM to give us more time to include our guest speaker and conclude our organizations business. And if you have not paid your annual dues, they were due at the end of last month.

I am sure that most of you know that Lawrence Cox passed away. While he was an active MG, he ran the greenhouse operation,

the plant propagation and plant production for our plant sales. He was a walking encyclopedia of plant knowledge. He was the main mentor for many master gardener intern classes. Please keep him in your prayers. I personally miss his plant expertise every time I get a plant question.

Thanks again to all for the hard work you do to make our organization the best it can be.

- Gary

Charles Newsom explains about PVC pipe and how quickly you must work when using glue. Karen Colwick and Ursula Nanna answer questions at the Wet and Wild Frenzy Water Conservation Workshop on June 30th. See more on page 7.



Photos by Terrie Hahn



Remembering our Friend

Rueben Lawrence Cox

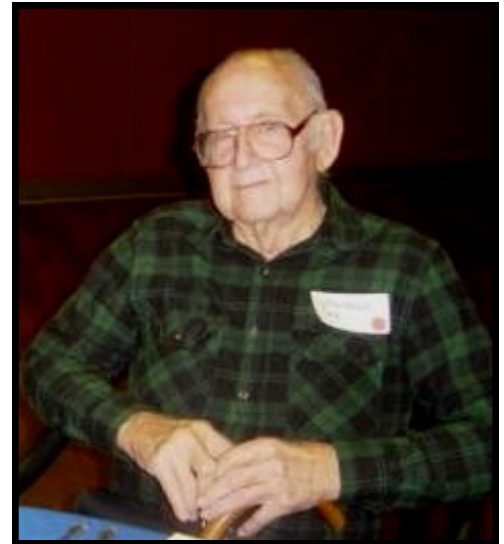
June 23rd, Master Gardeners lost a true workhorse of a man in Lawrence Cox's passing. For those who didn't know him, no words are enough - for those who did, no words are necessary.

Graduating in 2000, he kept his hands in the soil there with his faithful participation that garnered him a lifetime badge for his work with us. I met Lawrence in 2006 when I graduated. Current president at the time was Neil Cochran. He asked if I'd take on the greenhouse. With novice experience, he paired me with Lawrence. I had the opportunity to learn gardening from a true teacher. His specialty was vegetables, and he had grown 40 acres of them yearly that he sold to HEB. The stories that he could have told over those experiences. Yet, in our working together for 6 days a week, I knew he made many trips just to confirm that we weren't losing any one plant. With over 1600, our sales soared that year.

One of his personal successes was to get the land donated for a cemetery over a century ago listed with the Texas Historical Commission as being amongst the oldest recognized cemeteries in Texas. The same faithfulness and dogged determination provided MG's a most knowledgeable leader that we could all go to with our own gardening questions of any variety, from vegetables to trees and perennials. Lawrence graced many of us with the rose, Archduke Charles, that he transplanted everywhere he moved over a period of 40 years. Today, his family is requesting rooted cuttings of that very rose. If anyone has that rose growing, would they please contact me so we could take a few cuttings this Fall.

Not only am I a better gardener for having known Lawrence Cox, but I'm also a better human being. I could only wish that the same could be true when it's my turn to meet the Lord. How fortunate we were to have had him guide us through the time he was here.

- Crystal Fisher, Class of '06



Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

White Grubs

- Wizzie Brown

(Editor's note: I'm excited to announce the addition to the Blooming Bell of this column written by Wizzie Brown, Travis County's AgriLife Extension's Entomologist. I know everyone will be very happy to learn something new about insects!)

White grubs are creamy-white, C-shaped larvae with six legs and a brownish-orange head capsule (Fig 1). The larvae become May and June beetles (and other closely related species). Grubs feed on the roots of turfgrass, causing it to lose vigor and turn brown. These insects can cause turf to have brown patchy areas. When there are heavy populations of white grubs, turf can often be rolled up like carpeting because the grubs eat all the roots leaving no attachment to the soil.

To inspect for white grubs, cut several 6 inch square blocks of turf in various areas of the landscape. Make sure to include areas of suspected white grub damage. Examine grass plugs in the root zone for grubs. Treatment is justified when there are more than 5-8 white grubs per square foot. It is possible that some lawns can withstand higher numbers of grubs without noticeable damage.

White grubs treatments should be applied approximately 6 weeks after the heaviest flights of May and June beetles. Due to rainfall this time period can vary from year to year, but typically in Central Texas treatment falls mid-July to early August.

Beneficial nematodes are available for managing white grubs, but need moisture to move through soil. Nematodes are small worms that attack grubs and other soil-dwelling insects. If you choose to use

nematodes to control white grubs, make sure that the soil is irrigated on a regular basis to allow enough moisture so the nematodes can move through the soil to locate a host.

Insecticidal treatments may also be used to manage white grubs. You can spot treat infested areas instead of treating your entire lawn. If soil is very dry, water about ½ inch the day before treatment to encourage grubs to move closer to the soil surface. Liquid or granular formulations are available for white grub management with active ingredients such as bifenthrin, carbaryl, imidacloprid, clothianidin or halofenozide. Do not apply pesticide treatments if



rainfall is expected and sweep up any spilled material from driveways, sidewalks or streets. Always read and follow all label instructions and application rates.

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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Rain Water Harvesting Project Progressing



Photos by Charles Newsom



WET and WILD FRENZY

Water Conservation Workshop

- Ursula Nanna



On the morning of June 30th, Master Gardeners participated in a rain water symposium. 4H was awarded a grant of \$3,000 and the monies have gone to the purchase of a 3,000 gallon collection tank, collection plumbing, garden blocks and garden soil, and plants. The implementation and installation of the tank, soil, garden blocks along with the tank/garden design was done by Master Gardeners. We are also adding a small succulent area between the tanks and the new building

to soften the appearance of the rain water structure.

County Extension Agent, Heidi Prude, introduced each section of the workshop including Todd Strait from Clearwater Conservation District



who gave a wonderful talk on non-point pollution and water conservation. The 4 H'ers gave very important points on how to conserve water in and around the house. The 40 gallon water conservation challenge was given to everyone present.

Participants measured how much rain water an inch of rain can deliver on this roof. 4H'ers figured the number of blocks needed and the cubic yards of soil required to fill the garden area. They also set the plants according to diagram directions.

A good, information - filled time was enjoyed by all.

Photos by Terre Hahn



101 Ways to Tie a Tomato

To tie a tomato, a hundred and one ways,
The will of this plant is sure to amaze

Why must they tear their cages apart?
It must be something of a secret art

To keep the vines up off the ground
This desperate gardener has finally found

Anything goes to give it a lift
From traditional ways I must make a shift

From worn out shoes and cut up socks
To panty hose and dirty old frocks

To keep tomatoes standing upright
One must tie both day and night

Start by tying a few old sticks
Then move on to ingenious tricks

A Tonka truck, a bottle of wine,
Will keep this crazy plant in line

Tie to a post and tie to the fence,
Of course it all makes perfect sense

A turned over bucket or a garden rake
Desperate measures I must take

Tie to a chair or tie to the john
Until first frost I must carry on

Such hard work, this tying tomatoes
Next year I think I will just plant potatoes



Thank You

BCMG Robin Pohl requested plants to take up to Lubbock to her friends last month. This is in response to your support.

Tony & I want to express our gratitude for all the wonderful plants and materials we received because of your generosity.

It has humbled and blessed us beyond words. The plants arrived about the time our grass has started coming up and we are beginning to have a house that looks welcoming to those who come to visit. When we chose the neighborhood we are living in here in Lubbock, we did so to help give us space from the noises of living in the city and to help my husband deal with his PTSD. Having plants and a yard to enjoy and work in has already helped him want to get out of the house and outside for short bits of time as he is able. It has been great to see the spark of doing things he really enjoys return. It has also been good therapy for me to help me focus on something other than the stresses of being a caregiver and the constant battles we fight for care.

We are also looking forward to having things in order and opening our home up to fellow Wounded Warriors and their families to find a place of fellowship, peace and understanding as we begin to reach out and help other's recovering from similar injuries/illnesses as we are going through.

There are not enough words of gratitude that I can share with you that express what your generosity has meant to us. Our hearts are filled with joy and encouragement to be reminded that there are folks out there who truly care for our Wounded Warriors and their families. Please know that what you chose to share with us will be remembered and cherished and shared with those fellow soldiers we come in contact with.

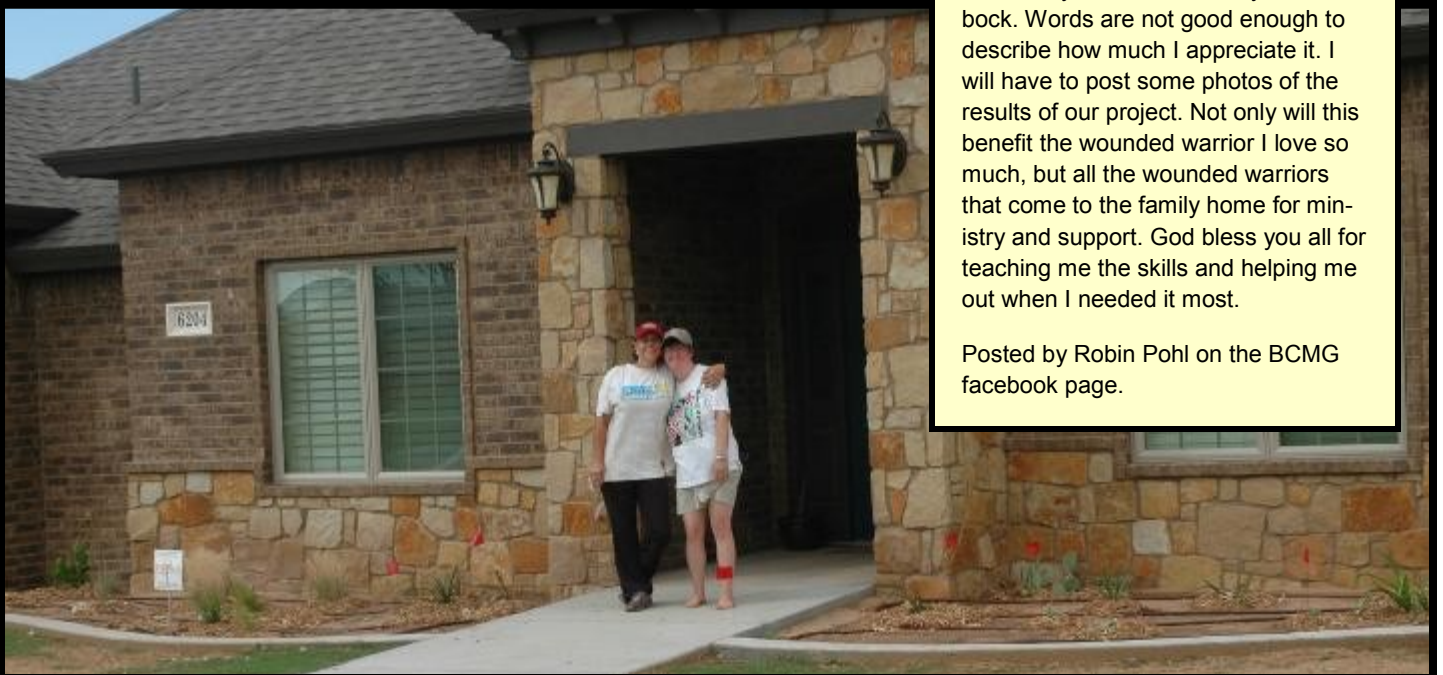
Every Blessing,

Chaplain (Ret.) Tony & Dina Wilkins and family



Ladies and Gentlemen of BCMG, thank you for your big hearts. A lot of tears were shed this weekend by both me and by the Wilkins family in Lubbock. Words are not good enough to describe how much I appreciate it. I will have to post some photos of the results of our project. Not only will this benefit the wounded warrior I love so much, but all the wounded warriors that come to the family home for ministry and support. God bless you all for teaching me the skills and helping me out when I needed it most.

Posted by Robin Pohl on the BCMG facebook page.



Lavender Fields

- Frances Idoux

What plant prefers alkaline soil, remains evergreen, tolerates the range of Central Texas temperatures, is both drought tolerant and deer resistant and is very pleasantly fragrant? The answer to this question easily comes to mind if you visit nearby lavender fields in June. Such a visit may convince you that lavender is an excellent choice to add to Central Texas gardens.

In a rural neighborhood in Troy, Lee Harris has established Bird Song Lavender Farm, a lavender laboratory planted with over 3,000 plants from 12 varieties to see what types will grow best in Central Texas. Each year he opens the field to visitors for three days in early June. When two Master Gardeners found their way to that field on a Friday afternoon, Lee provided a detailed lesson about lavender cultivation. Most of the plants are flourishing, but a few have not done so well. After the cold weather this winter, many of the sweet variety (*Lavendula heterophylla*) appeared to have died. However, some of these plants have sprouted again at the roots. The English varieties he has planted have not survived prolonged drought.

Lee currently has no irrigation system, relying only on rainwater. However, he is considering a simple system to use in extreme drought. His plants are arranged in sloping rows for the good drainage they require. He would construct a T frame for each row that would hold two five-gallon buckets that could be

filled with water and then easily emptied to drain down each side of the rows.

Lee and his wife Beverly have developed several products from



their lavender field, such as fragrant soap and solid lotion. They have found that the variety Provence (*Lavendula intermedia*) produces the best oil, and many of the plants in their field are of that type. When the wind is right, the blooming plants perfume the air – one of the best reasons for tending a lavender field.

Photos by Dee Coffeen



KMCCG Keeps on Producing

- Randy Brown

Over 300 lbs of vegetables were harvested in mid June for senior centers, Families in Crisis, Inc. and soup kitchens. Later in the month, carrots, onions and peppers were among the bounty.



June Meeting

- Randy Brown

June's General meeting brought us yummy treats and an interesting speaker from the EPA, Jim Herrington speaking about Flowering Wetland Plants.



Photos by Randy Brown

This and That

Dirt Cake Recipe

- Mary Beth Bradburn

This is the recipe for the Dirt Cake brought in for the May General Meeting. Yummy!

1 to 1 1/4 lb. pkg. Oreo cookies

2 (3 1/2 oz.) pkg. instant vanilla pudding

2 cups lowfat milk

1 (8 oz.) tub low fat whipped topping

1/2- 1 cup powdered sugar

1 (8 oz.) pkg. light cream cheese

1/2 stick (4 T) unsalted butter or margarine, softened

Crush Oreos, set aside.

Blend butter, cream cheese and sugar together. Set aside.

Combine milk and pudding mix. Fold whipped topping into the pudding.

Fold together pudding mixture and butter-cream cheese mixture.

In a 8 inch diameter plastic flower pot, layer ingredients in this order about 1/3 of crushed cookies, 1/2 creamy mixture, 1/3 crushed cookies, 1/2 creamy mixture. Cover with remaining 1/3 of crushed cookies.

Place silk flowers in the center to make it look like a potted plant. You can use gummy worms, etc. to decorate.

Chill in refrigerator for 3 to 4 hours before serving. Serve with clean garden trowel for more drama!

An Interesting Show

- Crystal Fisher

If you've ever seen this show, you'd know it's very informative and one of the better gardening shows there is. They have a good set of archives as well. Go to: GrowingAGreenerWorld.com

Texas Gardener

Make sure to check out the July/August issue of Texas Gardener for the terrific article on the Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden.

Soapwort blooming in the herb demo bed.



Q & A

Name That Wildflower

- Terrie Hahn

On the front cover of June's Blooming Bell were photos of wildflowers blooming in May (right) taken by Carla Harmon. Can you name them all?

The Answers are:

1. Rose-Gentian, *Sabatia campestris*
2. Silverleaf Nightshade, *Solanum elaeagnifolium*
3. Texas Thistle, *Cirsium texanum*
4. Straggler Daisy, *Calyptocarpus vialis*
5. Yellow Wood-Sorrel, *Oxalis Dillenii*,
6. Lazy Daisy, *Aphanostephus* sp.
7. Mexican Hat, Prairie coneflower, *Ratibida columnists*
8. Prickly Pear, *Opuntia macrorhiza*
9. False Day Flower, *Commelinantia anomala*
10. Mealy Sage, *Salvia farinacea*

This Month's Question

- Terrie Hahn

We have quite a few Antelope Horn Milkweeds in our yard. My question is, are these plants used by the monarchs to lay their eggs and feed the caterpillars just in March and April? Can we mow now? Are they needed on the return migration?



Seeds in an Antelope Horn Milkweed pod and a pod covered with Milkweed beetles.



Announcements

Service/Education hours

- Gail Christian

We should be using the new Texas Volunteer Program to record our hours. If you have a problem with the password, or questions on entering data, contact me. Once the hours are entered, you **do not** have to print it out and give to the office. Stacey will still enter the data for those who don't have a computer.

To get started, go to:

<https://texas.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm>

Type in your e-mail, then at the bottom click on new user. It will e-mail you a temporary password. This you can copy or type into the second box. That will let you into the system. You can then find your name and change the password to something you can remember. Log in to edit your profile and to change information. You can add a photo which would be helpful to the rest of the membership so we all get to know each other better.

Click on "add new hours" to record your volunteer and service hours. Make sure to click "save hours" at the bottom of the page.

Dues Due!

- Gail Christian, Treasurer

The 2014 - 2015 membership dues are payable **NOW**. Dues remain \$25.00 for each individual. Checks should be made to BCMGA and may be mailed or dropped off at the Agrilife Extension Office at 1605 N. Main St., Belton, TX 76513. They may also be mailed directly to me at 3426 Bob White Lane, Belton, TX 76513. People who don't pay me soon, will be deleted from our e-mail and removed from our membership list.

July General Meeting

Just a reminder that the social event before each of our general membership meetings has been moved up to 10 AM to give us more time to include our guest

speaker and conclude our organization's business.

- Gary

This month's topic is Vermicomposting presented by 2014 MG graduate Jean Flores at 10:30 a.m. See you at the next meeting. - Randy

FYI

Flowers or Fireworks?

The front page photo on this month's Blooming Bell was found on www.dailymail.co.uk. This excerpt is from an article by James Nye about photos by David Johnson.

"Resembling giant three dimensional flowers with their plumes on display, these photographs were in fact taken at the International Fireworks Show in Ottawa, Canada.

The bright and colorful images were snapped during Spain's entry into the competition and resulted from photographer David Johnson's efforts to add some spontaneity to his work.

Deviating from the standard exposure style that is common among photographers of firework displays, Johnson's decision caused him to fix his focus at certain points around the fireworks when they first went off, and then to refocus his lens at the point of detonation.

Johnson said, 'Each shot was about a second long, sometimes two. I'd start out of focus, and when I heard the explosion I would quickly refocus, so the little stems on these deep sea creature lookalikes would grow into a fine point.'



Take a look at more photos at Johnson's website:

<http://www.daveyjphoto.com/tagged/long-exposure>

What's Happening in Your Yard

Friends?

- Vivian Rush

Deer are a significant consideration in Salado, especially when you are on their migration route through the town. My new dog (a rescued boxer) is developing a relationship with one particular deer. They stare at each other and run each other back and forth along the fence just about every day. I have a garden area outside the fence along a french drain which isn't really seen in these photos, and what is planted must consider the deer being there. But I thought it was a cute story that the 2 of them seem to be developing a (?) friendship.



Blooming!

- Werner and Terrie Hahn

Pictured from our yard are Heritage White rose, Spider Lily that we got from the plant swap- thank you to whoever brought these! We also had a large stand of Indian Blanket. Passion Flowers are here along with flowers on our Myrtle and wild sunflowers everywhere!



What's Happening in Your Yard

- Charles Newsom

I've got Pomegranates, tomatoes, cucumbers and okra coming in. My Pokeweed, also called Poke Salad or Pigeon Berry (right) is five feet tall. This is one of my "non edible" collection that I have for the wildlife (the birds eat the purple berries). Something ate about half of a 12 inch sunflower head—better than my tomatoes or beans. So far this year no chemical fertilizer or pesticides.



What's Happening in Your Yard

Gardens Thriving!

- Randy Brown

Garlic flowering, Sunflowers and Grapes are some of the many things happening in our yard.



Blooming in My Yard

- Dee Coffeen

This was the third year for this wild-flower project. Easy and fun! And my Belinda's Dream is doing well.



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

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Please do not send PDF documents.

Caldwell Pink
Rose in Terrie
and Werner
Hahn's yard.



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