

The Blooming Bell

June 2013



**Bell County
Master Gardener
Association**



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 TXMG Conference Feasibility meeting 9 am Burger Wednesday 11 am	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 General Meeting: Urban Interface with Wildlife: Gil Eckrich 11 am	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am	27	28	29
30						

Banner Photo by Charles Newsom of his corn crop.

The President's Corner

Last month the Texas Master Gardener Newsletter began featuring one chapter of master gardeners each month. The Bell County Master Gardener chapter will be featured in the June issue. June is also the beginning of our calendar year. A few new officers and directors were installed in May and will begin their terms June first. Another beginning, 18 new certified master gardeners graduated in May. Welcome new Master Gardeners. We also have 3 interns, who plan to become certified this year. Congratulations to our new Master Gardeners and our new officers and directors.

Our first program of the New Year will be "Urban Interface With Wildlife" with Gil Eckrich. Programs pertaining to the flora and fauna on Ft. Hood are always interesting. The membership will also be asked to make a decision on our hosting of the 2015 Master Gardener State Conference. You will be asked to vote on this issue. Hosting a state conference takes many committed individuals. Gary Slanga has given many hours investigating the possibility of our chapter hosting the conference. If you have questions, Gary is the go to person. A state conference is usually a profitable event for the hosting chapter.

The deadline for annual dues (\$25.00) is July 31st. Our new graduates do not owe dues until next year (2014). Send your check to Gail Christian or drop it off in the extension office. Please get your dues in on time.

Summer is usually a slower time for our chapter. But fall plans are underway with the fall plant sale scheduled for Oct. 5th. The Master Gardener State conference

will be in McAllen, October 17th -19th. This is the first time the conference has been in the fall and in the Rio Grande Valley. It should be interesting and fun. If the chapter decides to host a state conference, please consider attending the fall conference to become familiar with the event.....Laura

Officers and Directors 2013-2014

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First VP: Randy Brown

Second VP: Jerry Lewis

Recording Sec. Myra Crenshaw

Corresponding Sec. Peg Fleet

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Directors:

Grounds/Maintenance: Sophia Gomez, Brenda Albro

Education/Awards: Gary Slanga

Outreach: open

Garden Tours: Margaret Leigh

Youth Programs: Mary Ann Everett

New Class: Fran Sheppard

Killeen community Gardens: Beverly Wickersham

Blooming Bell: Terrie Hahn

Webmaster: Louann Hight

[Photos of Installation of New Officers/Brunch by Randy Brown.](#)



Louis Deiterman, PhD

- Zoe Rascoe

Louis Deiterman, PhD

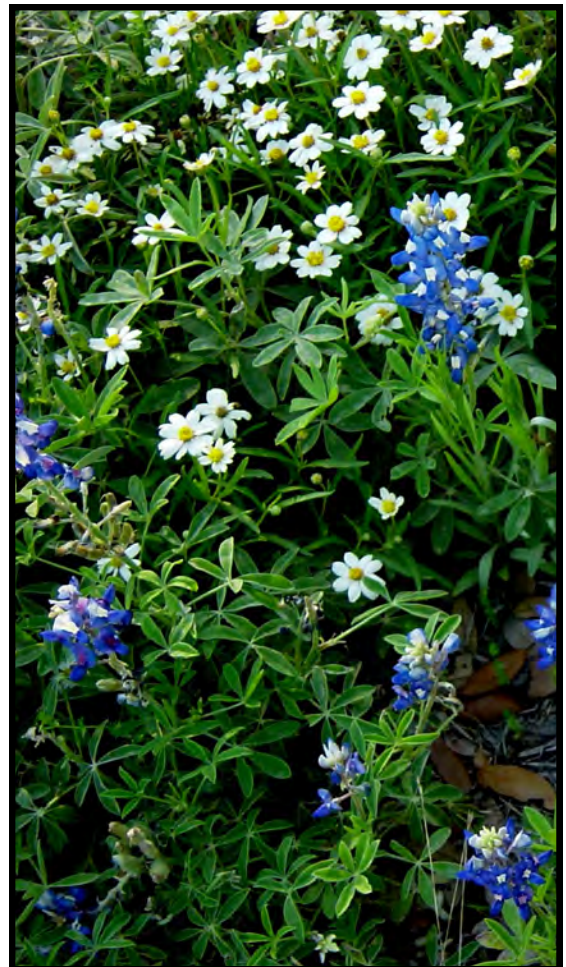
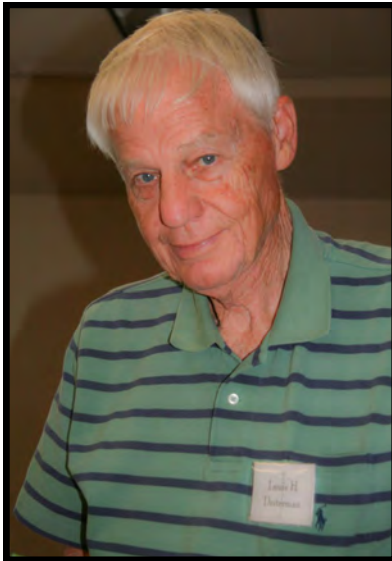
Dec 14, 1932 - April 25, 2013

Louis Deiterman was a 2008 graduate of the Bell County Master Gardener program. He also was a Central Texas Master Naturalist. And those were just a couple of his many hobbies!

Lou was a kind and quiet man. It would take some doing to get him to talk about himself. Here are some other things about Louis Deiterman you may not have known:

Lou was born in Temple and graduated from Temple High School. He earned all of his college degrees from the University of Texas at Austin ending with a PhD with Honors in Physics. I learned that Lou knew by the second grade that he wanted to be a scientist. His laboratory was the garage and his younger brother was his assistant. His mother put out several fires in that garage.

He loved to fish and vacationed at Port Aransas from his youth until many years later. Lou was a licensed Amateur Radio Operator and belonged to the Temple club. He worked at General Dynamics after college but soon moved back to Temple to start the Physics Department at Scott & White in 1965 where he worked and served on a number of state and national health association boards until his retirement. Lou married Maretta, also from Temple, in 1956. Our condolences go to Retta and his family - I know he will be greatly missed.



National Pollinator Week 2013

- Rehanon Pampell,
Central Texas Master Naturalist

Editor's note: Rehanon was kind enough to give her permission to publish her article in the Blooming Bell.

We all know the vital importance of pollinators. Pollination is one of the most fundamental processes sustaining agricultural production and natural ecosystems. But, did you know that a tiny fly (or "midge"), no bigger than a pinhead, is responsible for the world's supply of chocolate or that one out of every three mouthfuls of food we eat is delivered to us by pollinators?

Native pollinators are critical to the maintenance of diverse ecosystems. Pollination occurs when pollen grains are moved between two flowers of the same species or within a single flower. This can occur by wind or by animals. Pollinators can include birds, bees, bats, beetles, lizards, moths, lemurs and more. Successful pollination, which may require visits by multiple pollinators to a single flower, results in healthy fruit and fertile seeds, allowing plants to reproduce. Without pollinators, we simply wouldn't have many crops! Therefore, Pollinator Week is a week to get the importance of pollinators' message out to as many people as possible.



A man-made mason bee house.



Six years ago, the US Senate approved the designation of a week in June as "National Pollinator Week." The US Secretary of Agriculture signs the proclamation every year. Each year, citizens must request

their state Governor to sign the proclamation. Last year 38 states declared their own state Pollinator Week. The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign is aiming for 100% state participation this year. So far, it appears that only 25 states have signed the proclamation (www.pollinator.org).

CTMN, in conjunction with the Bell County Master

Gardeners, wrote a letter urging Governor Rick Perry to participate. With 79 of our signatures and a handful of other organizations sending in letters, it was hard to turn down. Governor Perry signed the proclamation declaring Texas Pollinator Week as June 17-23rd! By declaring Pollinator Week and/or hosting a public awareness event, citizens are declaring that they recognize the vital roles pollinators play in our lives. Therefore, the Central Texas Master Naturalists will celebrate pollinators by hosting an event at Miller Springs Nature Center 9:00am-11:00am on June 22nd.

The pollinator educational event will include constructing and installing mason bee houses around the park. Mason bees are metallic green or blue and many are even black. These bees are solitary meaning that every female is fertile and makes her own nest. There are no worker bees and the females nest in hollow reeds or holes in wood made by wood-boring insects. They do not excavate their own nests. These pollinators are not aggressive and will only sting if they are squeezed or stepped on; thus they are benign yet beneficial since they both pollinate plants and are safe for children and pets.

Continued on next page...

National Pollinator Week...continued

Take it a step further – Ways You Can Help Around Your Home (Pollinator.org):

Create a pollinator-friendly garden habitat in just a few simple steps.

Design your garden so that there is a continuous succession of plants flowering from spring through fall. Check for the species or cultivars best suited to your area and gradually replace lawn grass with flower beds.

Plant native plants of your region using plants that provide nectar for adults plus food for insect larvae, such as milkweed for monarchs. If you do use non-native plants, choose ones that don't spread easily, since these could become invasive.

Select old-fashioned varieties of flowers whenever possible because breeding has caused some modern blooms to lose their fragrance and/or the nectar/pollen needed to attract and feed pollinators.

Install 'houses' for bats and native bees. For example, use wood blocks with holes or small open patches of mud. As little as 12" across is sufficient for some bees.

Avoid pesticides, even so-called "natural" ones such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). If you must use them, use the most selective and least toxic ones and apply them at night when most pollinators aren't active.

Supply water for all wildlife. A dripping faucet or a suspended milk carton with a pinhole in the bottom is sufficient for some insects. Other wildlife need a small container of water.

Provide water for butterflies without letting it become a mosquito breeding area. Refill containers daily or bury a shallow plant saucer to its rim in a sunny area, fill it with coarse pine bark or stones and fill to overflowing with water.

Thank You!

The planting of annuals in beds and containers in the downtown Temple area by the Master Gardeners last month was very warmly received and greatly appreciated by the City of Temple. I have been stopped twice by city employees since then and thanked. Mike H. who is in charge of the landscaping/planting for the city was greatly impressed and has asked us as an extension of our Adopt-A-Park commitment to continue to help as the seasonal annuals are replaced periodically in downtown Temple. The hail storm which went through Temple recently may make that opportunity come sooner than we think. Thanks again to all who participated and know that your work/effort was noticed and appreciated.

- Kathy Patterson

Great Tool!

- Maritza Kincaid

This is a picture of a hand garden tool I bought at the Wildflower Center when the MG's went last fall. It's called a Garden Bandit and **I LOVE IT**. It pulls out weeds in one easy swipe - no fuss, no mess. Cost is around \$15 not including S&H. Thought I'd put the good word out to other gardeners about this great tool. Unfortunately, no one nearby sells it, but you can order it from the website at <http://www.gardenbandit.com/>.



Utilities Relocated At the New Building

- Charles Newsom

The board approved \$500 in March for a backhoe and materials to relocate the utilities so the ground crew could put down the bricks with names on them. Under old business in April, a work day was set at 4 PM Friday and 9 AM Saturday. No one showed, so Gladys and I dug up the old utilities and relocated them. I used my tractor to backfill the trench and load the spoil.

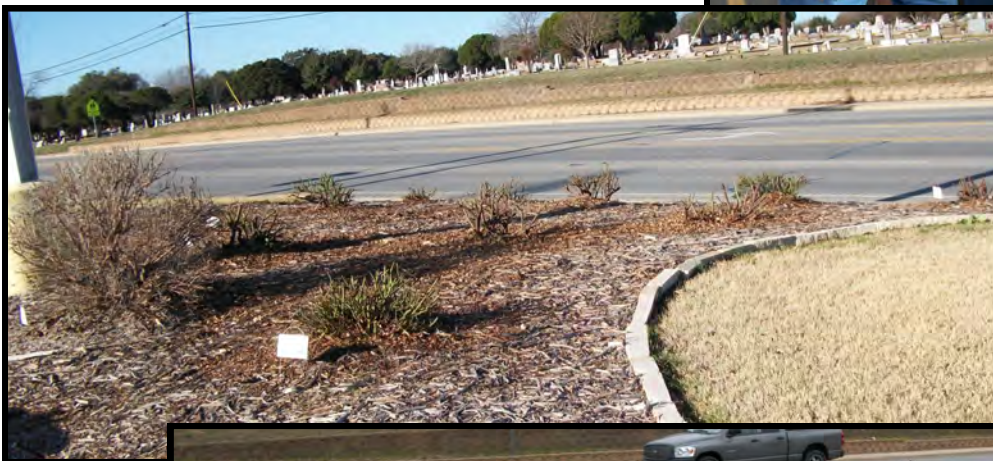
I donated and installed 2 - T-5 HO x 6 lamps with wire guards last month for the new building so there would be lighting available during times of low illumination.



To Prune or Not To Prune...

- Terrie Hahn, Editor

It seems there was a disagreement as to how to prune the Earthkind Roses at the front of the Extension Center. This winter, they were rather drastically



pruned. Ursula Nanna sent me these photos that show the group of MG's that did the dirty deed. I wish I had a photo of how the

roses looked last month-covered with loads of beautiful blooms. In our classes, we were always taught not to prune this type of rose except to get deadwood out. However, there will always be disagreements as to how certain gardening tasks are done, and I found some information that backs up what this group of hardworking MG volunteers did.

From "Ask the Plantmaster" at Calloways Nursery in the Dallas area:

When attending an EarthKind training session last year, Dr. Steve George, the champion of EarthKind Roses in North Texas, said that he takes a hedge

pruner and cuts his back hard every year. It's not so much that they are not supposed to be pruned, it is that most of them don't require pruning in order to keep them in bounds. He prefers his plant more tidy, and this will make



them produce lots of new stems that will produce lots of flowers. Then when you cut them to enjoy in a bouquet, cut longer stems on each flower

or cluster of flowers and this will also help you keep your plants tidy.

And from <http://dallas.tamu.edu/faculty-and-staff/faculty/steve-george/>

Since 1988, Dr. George has served as a Landscape Horticulture Specialist for the Texas Agri-Life Extension, and is headquartered at the Texas Agri-Life Research and Extension Center in Dallas. Dr. George has created and serves as National Coordinator of the EarthKind® Environmental Landscape Management Program.

Photos by Ursula Nanna and Gail Christian

This Season in the Garden

- Frances Idoux

"For everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

- Ecclesiastes 3:1

This is springtime in Texas, but an unusual one, especially in my yard. Ten years ago my son planted a rock garden for me. One of the plants he chose was an agave parryi, sometimes called a mes-cal agave. It is a lovely plant with gray leaves that has grown into a stately specimen, with some baby agaves clustered near it. This spring something happened. The mature agave began to produce a stalk. This stalk is now over 18 feet tall, even more than the 12 feet that plant information says it might be. Bright yellow blooms are supposed to come next. After this stage, however, is a sad one. Since all leaf and root resources are put into the stalk, the agave will die – leaving a hole in that garden and in my heart. Fortunately, there are small agaves, and I will choose one to take its place.



Also, for the first time, my nolina texana, a tough-as-nails evergreen grass, has produced a large woody spike with tiny white flowers. The prognosis for the nolina is a better one, and this plant will survive. Another testimony to survival is growing on my arbor, pink climbing roses, which have survived both drought and deer. The Peggy Martin Rose was one of only two plants surviving 20 feet of salt water over the garden of Mrs. Peggy Martin, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, after Hurricane Katrina in late August, 2005. To help raise funds to rebuild damaged public gardens, Dr. Bill Welch of Texas A&M University shared cuttings of this rose which he had taken from Peggy Martin's garden in 2003 and established in his country home near Burton, Texas. The plants flourished and offspring were sold through selected nurseries, with part of the funds going to the Garden Restoration Fund. Dr. Welch says, "The



Rose is a beautiful symbol of survival on the Gulf Coast."

Safety Day

- Gail Christian

Several MG's helped out with the Bell County Safety Day for the school kids. MG's talked about Snakes in the Garden.



Photos by Gail Christian

BCMG's Visit Bird Song

- Darla Horner Menking

A few Bell County Master Gardeners showed up at the Bird Song Lavender Farm of Lee Harris in Troy on Friday, May 24th. It was a nice, overcast morning and Lee took us on a tour, explaining the way he harvests his crop of lavender, he identified the different species, and discussed the effects of the Texas weather on his plants. Of course, there were lavender plants for sale as well as a gift shop full of lavender goodies for purchase. It was a fun time and very educational. [Photos by Darla Horner Menking](#)



2013 Master Gardener Class Graduates!



Continued on next page...

2013 Grads!



Congratulations to the 2013 Class of Master Gardeners! The following students became certified Master Gardeners:

Cindy Allen	Beverly Hillyard
Pat Allen	Charlotte Jones
Melinda Arriola	Sandra Jones
Mary Bradburn	Jean McCulloh
Terry Bradburn	Anabel Reeser
Barbara Dalby	Jane Strong

Photos by Randy Brown

Donna Estep	<i>The following students received their Certificate of Completion of Education Hours:</i>
Melissa Fletcher	
Gail Garner	Angela Hunter
Terri Gulig	Bill Hunter
Katherine Haas	Yvonne Mattix



Terri Gulig is not pictured receiving her Master Gardener Certificate. And Raye Virginia Allen finished her education hours from last year and is pictured receiving her Master Gardener Certificate. Both are in the group picture.

Q & A

Editor's note: Let's learn from one another. Submit your questions and answers to me at moom-pie45@hotmail.com or call me at 512-863-9837.

Last month's question from:

- Terrie Hahn

We have several of these shrubs in our yard in bloom right now. They smell sweet like a honeysuckle, but I can't find any honeysuckle flower pictures that look like this. The one that is near some plants that I put in last spring, hence more water, has doubled in size. It is now about 5 feet tall. And now their leaves are turning yellow. They look so familiar, I'm sure that I should know what they are, but my mind has lost that bit of info!



And the answer is:

- Gail Christian

This is a privet variety of *Ligustrum sinense*.

Several privet species occur, and distinguishing among them can be difficult. *Ligustrum sinense* can tolerate a wide range of conditions. Plants form dense thickets, invading fields, fencerows, roadsides, forest understories, and riparian sites. They can shade out and exclude native understory species, perhaps even reducing tree recruitment. Native to Europe and Asia, *Ligustrum sinense* was introduced in the United States in 1852 as an ornamental plant. It is commonly used as an ornamental shrub and for hedgerows.

There are also Japanese *Ligustrum*. Anything with that flower and then the black berries is in the same family and invasive. It is also called privet. Some va-

rieties have small leaves and some are variegated. It is one of the worse plants we have in this area.

No matter what variety, I think they all have that same flower, fragrance and then the berries. When they are kept pruned as hedges, pompon plants, etc, then the berries aren't as bad. Some varieties eventually will make multi-trunk trees.

This Month's Question from:

- Susan Terry

Amazing wildflowers in Marble Falls in late April/early May. Tried to identify, but they don't match any descriptions I found. Acres of foot high, quarter size yellow "daisy's", saw tooth edge, with small, brown, slightly raised centers. Foliage is very grassy. Saw similar flowers along the frontage roads in Salado.



Announcements

June Monthly Meeting

- **Bernie Hurta**

The program for the June 12th Monthly Meeting will be "Urban Interface With Wildlife" with Gil Eckrich.

The meeting starts at 11 am with social time starting at 10:30.

This is my last time as 1st. Vice-President to write the monthly meeting reminder. I want to thank everyone for helping me with speakers, refreshments, the opening Prayer/ Thought, setting up the room and the computer. You all are a great bunch of people and I want you to know I appreciate all of you.

Randy Brown is the new 1st Vice-President. If you have ideas for programs, please let him know.

Monthly Dues

It is time to pay your annual dues. The amount is \$25.00, payable to BCMGA. You can give your check or cash to me, leave it at the extension office or mail to:

Gail Christian

3426 Bob White Lane

Belton, TX 76513

Please pay by the deadline of July 31, 2013.

Remember that you do not have to be certified in order to stay a member of BCMGA. But you do have to pay your dues. I hope you decide to stay a member and come to our monthly meetings and stay involved in our activities.

JMG teachers are exempt from paying dues, as well as the new class that just graduated. Your dues were included in your tuition.

Gail Christian

Treasurer

State Conference Feasibility Meeting

- **Gary Slanga**

To all Master Gardeners,

There will be a meeting on the feasibility of hosting a shortened 2015 State Conference of just two days. The meeting will be at 9:00 AM on June 5th and will be held at the new Master Gardener building. I strongly encourage all Master Gardeners to attend and provide your input and ideas about holding this event. If you are unable to attend please send your thoughts and ideas to me at slanga@vvm.com.

New Class Visits MG's Gardens

- **Mary Lew Quesinberry**

2013 interns visit the Quesinberry garden. Many of them helped prepare the garden for the Central Texas Gardener filming. They also visited Johnny Chu's orchid greenhouse. Visiting several master gardener gardens is an extra curricular activity that interns participate in each year.



What's Happening in Your Yard?

- Maritza Kincaid

I took these pictures of my new front yard garden bed this spring. My St. Augustine stops at the edge of my yard where the shade from the big tree ends and the bermuda has been taking up residence. Instead of fighting it this year, I decided to make it into a full sun flower bed. It was a lot of work, but as you can see, well worth the effort. And the special plant photo at the bottom right corner, I found on the internet!



When planting your cats make sure to space them 6 inches apart so they have room to grow.

EVERYTHINGFUNNY.ORG

What's Happening in Your Yard?

- Beverly Hillyard

Our beloved pets are buried below our vegetable garden. To the north and south are our olive trees. So far no olives. To the east and west are recently planted crepe myrtles given to us by different neighbors when our German Shepherd, Dixie, passed away last year. She is buried by Giest and Rosie. I be-



lieve plants make wonderful tributes to honor pets and humans. Left: My favorite flower: hollyhock.



And in my yard...

- Terrie Hahn

The Englemann's Daisies and Hibiscus are blooming like crazy!



What's Happening in Your Yard?

- Randy Brown

These are photos from my recent visit to the Biltmore Estate.



What's Happening in Your Yard?

- Charles Newsom

Our corn crop has tassels now.
(See page 2 for another photo of
corn crop.) Below: Potatoes com-
plete with one earth worm and
Gladys digging potatoes. At bottom
of page: crop of pomegranates
started. We made several jars of
jelly last year.



Officers and Directors

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

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Youth Programs	Mary Ann Everett
New Class	Fran Sheppard
Outreach	
Grounds & Maintenance	Sophia Gomez & Brenda Albro
Education and Awards	Gary Slanga
Webmaster	Louann Hight
KCG	Beverly Wickersham
AgriLife Agent	Lyle Zoeller Randall Rakowitz

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Banner photo of his corn crop by Charles Newsom

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