

# The Blooming Bell

June 2015



BEFORE AND AFTER! Melinda Arriola's photos from Stillhouse Hollow Lake at Dana Peak Park. May 2014 and May 2015. The dock is afloat again! She collected 11.6 inches in May of this year!

**Bell County  
Master Gardener  
Association**



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3 Work Day 8 am*</b>  <b>Burger Wednesday</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Work Day 8 am*</b> <b>General meeting - DVD of Felder Rushing's "Slow Gardening"</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <b>Social time 10 am</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>FLAG DAY</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Work Day 8 am*</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>Father's Day</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Work Day 8 am*</b> <b>BOD Meeting 9 am</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				

\* in the event of rain, there will be No Workdays.

Remember to record volunteer/education hours.

Photos by Daisy Klassy

# The President's Corner

I want to say thanks once again for all the volunteer hours that were expended on the conference preparations and execution. It was a great success.

Now comes the fun part. Spending your hard earned profits from that endeavor. The board of directors at our last meeting has taken up the issue of electricity for our education building. We received a bid from a contractor and just as soon as we can get some additional information we will get that done. We are continuing to work on some insulation and sound attenuation for the building. That will be done as soon as the electric is installed.

Also at the board meeting we discussed the possibility of starting up the home garden tours once again. We are thinking of the spring of 2016 for our first tour. If anyone would like to head up a committee to look into this let me know at the next general membership meeting. We also need some volunteer home gardens if anyone would like to display their gardening expertise.

While I am on the subject of directors meetings, I would strongly encourage everyone to join us at these meetings. This is where we spend all the money that you worked so hard to earn. It is also where we discuss all the new projects that come our way. It is where you get to add your suggestions on how the organization is operating and on the direction you wish us to go.

We are looking for volunteers to take over some of the positions on the board of directors and to lead some of the committees that are ongoing from year to year. Some of our current committee chairs have been in their positions for many (some as long as 5) years. We are looking for some new and fresh ideas for these committees. Please be thinking about jumping into some of these slots. We will be address-

## *Coming in July*

### Recipes

Recipes from the May General Meeting refreshments and from the Conference Appreciation dinner salads.

### Photos

Photos from Crystal Fisher of Dandelion roots and more from Daisy Klassy and other MG's.

### Look at that Garlic!

Garlic harvest from Werner Hahn

ing this at the next general membership meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks again for all you support of our organization. The Master Gardeners are a great group because you make us so.

Gary

Photo by Daisy Klassy





# A KEYHOLE GARDENING JOURNEY

- Kathy Love, BCMG Intern

I've always gardened in some form or another and much of what I've learned and come to know about gardening has been taught to me by individuals like my paternal Grandfather, Father, Mother and other gardeners. But I believe gardening knowledge comes just as much from the plants themselves as from our human teachers. Plants certainly let us know by their strength and vigor when the plot where we grow them is to their liking. I'm always looking for that plot and I also like the idea of trying new ideas, so when my cousin Diane Frank from Adamsville in Lampasas County told me about a keyhole gardening seminar she attended in Clifton last year, hosted by Dr. Deb Tolman, I was captivated by the idea of a new way to garden.

## A VERY BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE KEYHOLE

**(Go to the Internet for more!)**

I turned to the internet where I learned that the Keyhole concept actually evolved as an African garden design suitable for growing vegetables in a dry climate. According to many of the websites I researched, the concept is widely taught to school children in numerous countries throughout Africa as a means of raising healthy food for school meals. The children are then encouraged to teach the method to their parents as a means of growing healthy food for the family at home.

Named keyhole because the design resembles a keyhole from above, the basic design is a 6 foot diameter round garden plot that can either be raised or in the ground, with a compost basket in the center which is accessed by the keyhole/a notch taken out of one area of the circle. The bed is built up in the center and slopes gradually away from the compost basket which receives kitchen and other plant waste material like any composting method, along with water, thus carrying nutrients to the plants.

## MY OWN EVOLUTION IN KEHOLE GARDENING

After my internet research I was determined to start keyhole gardening. In the fall, I didn't have time to build a keyhole to specifications, but two 50 year-old round concrete sheep watering troughs seemed a good way to start my keyhole experiment.

Of course there was no cutout and the troughs were more like 4 feet in diameter, but I felt they were a place to start and readily available. I used horse wire fencing to build the compost basket for the first of the two beds and chicken wire for the second. For these beds I did not follow the recommended practice of starting with cardboard and other compostable materials, but used horse manure, grass clippings, leaves and straw and then added several front-end loader loads of good ole black land soil from one of our fields mixed with a couple of loads of sand. I planted the first bed with romaine lettuce and fall greens and the second with kohlrabi and cabbage then started filling the compost bins in each garden with kitchen scraps.

My fall growing results were modest, mainly due to inattention as I was still living between Dallas and Bell counties and the plants were pretty much on their own. However, in February, I planted onion sets in both troughs with great results.

The first green onions I pulled after three weeks



had grown beautifully and put on roots that required me to dig my onions rather than pull them. We have been enjoying green onions since the first of March and I expect to harvest a bountiful crop of onions for the rest of the year—all from far less space than I



Continued on next page...

# Keyhole Gardening...continued

have used in the past to grow my favorite garden crop.

## STILL EVOLVING AND LEARNING

When I started as a 2015 Bell County Master Gardener intern I advised Class Coordinator Mary Ann Everett that I planned to do my gardening in keyholes. Mary Ann began to laugh and being a bit puzzled, I asked her what she found amusing. She told me she is keyhole gardening as well and loves it. She also told me that rather than building her own keyholes, she had purchased kits from an individual in Clifton—the Texas Mecca of keyhole gardening thanks to Dr. Tolman. I subsequently followed Mary Ann's advice and purchased two keyhole garden kits.

Later, my cousin Diane called and invited me to the 2015 seminar hosted by Dr. Tolman in Clifton and I eagerly signed up. I shared the seminar info with Mary Ann and we announced the April 24<sup>th</sup> seminar during a March class. Class interest in the seminar was moderate at first, but during our March 25<sup>th</sup> class on Composting, Vermiculture and Earthkind Principles, taught by Louann Hight, Jean Flores and Karen Colwick, the keyhole principle was featured as the only composting method where turning is not required and more classmates became interested in the seminar.

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, classmate Amazon Roberts and I drove to Clifton where we joined classmates Mechelle Davies and Wayne Schirner for the morning session. Classmates Gail Koontz and Jane Van Praag attended the afternoon session.

Prior to the seminar, I assembled and filled the two keyhole kits I purchased from KeyholeFarm.com in Clifton. For me the assembly required help—good kits-but not something I could do in an hour and a half as advertised! Help completing the assembly of the first kit came from my friend and handy guy Domingo Montano, who in fact did assemble the second kit by himself in about an hour and a half. The assembly time estimate indeed depends how “handy” you are!

We then followed what I thought was the prescribed plan for filling the beds and planting them, but as I learned in Dr. Tolman's class, I did miss a few points.



I started with cardboard at the base of my gardens, but I did not pre-soak it as she recommends. During the class, she actually started the demonstration keyhole with wet old clothing which she stomped down then added the cardboard from an ageing pile of the stuff next to her newly built keyhole. (above). I did not stomp down my layers as she recommends but did wet down each layer as we came up.

According to Dr. Tolman, the key to a successful keyhole is, as in all composting, the growth of healthy and voluminous microbes and other digesting critters throughout the keyhole. While I did bring some of my cardboard up the sides of my kits, she actually



brought the cardboard up and over the top of the rock and mortar bed she was building. (above). She explained that this is to encourage microbe growth though out all the layers of the bed. The cardboard

Continued on next page...



# Keyhole Gardening...continued

overhanging the top is folded down before the soil is added as the top layer.

Then, layers of grass clippings, coffee grounds, whole phone books and I even spotted a copy of the Texas Rules of Court going into the mix (having worked in the legal system for many years, a good place to put it I thought!). From my composting experience I believed that items such as books won't breakdown efficiently and should be shredded. However, Dr. Tolman insists that the microbe and critter population in a successful keyhole is so effective that even items such as these can be completely broken down in a matter of weeks.

To back up her statement, she told of building a keyhole for an entity in the Clifton community which had approximately 50% of its fill washed out four weeks later by a 10 inch rain. When she went to rebuild the bed, she discovered that every item she had placed in the bed, books included, were completely broken down—in just 4 weeks! She added that she entered compost from the bed in a compost competition which she won!

During the Clifton seminar there were also presentations including one on hydroponics and aquaponics. The hydro/aqua demo was presented by master gardener Louie McDaniel from McLennan County. Louie was wearing his tag from the state conference so I couldn't resist asking him if he enjoyed it. He responded that he thought it was the BEST state conference he had attended! Go BCMG!!!

After checking out the many demos and purchasing some grass-fed beef from participant Lovejoy Farms, we left Dr. Tolman's project site and checked out the keyhole garden kits designed by Leon Smith of KeyholeFarm.com.

Leon showed us 11 different gardens growing on his lot in Clifton. The beds were absolutely packed with everything--beans, corn, sweet peas, melons, chard, lettuce, sunflowers, etc. etc. etc. These beds clearly demonstrate that keyhole gardening will accomplish one of my principle goals —growing as much as I can in a limited area.

In Leon's keyholes, there is no discernible spacing between plants. The plants literally grow side by side and produce prodigiously--without added fertilizer--as long as compostable materials are added to the compost bin. His website (above) is loaded with pictures of seasons of growing in his kits. His initial keyhole was started 7 years ago and is still growing strong.



My own two keyhole kits were planted April 19<sup>th</sup>. The first bed contains vegetables, e.g. radishes, various lettuce types from black seeded Simpson to bronze leaf, Kentucky Wonder and Contender beans, peas, spinach, beets, etc. The herb keyhole (above) has sprouted various types of basil, arugula, fennel, and loofah.

## NO END IN SIGHT TO MY JOURNEY

As I get into my first spring of keyhole gardening, I do not see any end in sight to my keyhole gardening journey. I've learned from my internet research, Dr. Tolman and Leon Smith what makes the keyhole garden work. I look forward to my plants teaching me that the keyhole garden is a "plot to their liking" where they can grow and thrive.



Above: Wayne Shirner studies 4" Gardening which was one of the presentations given at the Seminar.

Photos by Kathy Love



# The Children's Garden

- Frances Idoux

*"He who plants a garden  
plants happiness"*

- Chinese Proverb

Last fall, Bell County Master Gardeners were given an opportunity to plant some happiness. Staff members at McLane Children's Hospi-

tal in Temple wanted to improve the Healing Garden which is part of the hospital. The Healing Garden had lovely plants, a fountain, and garden art, but it needed plants that could be touched, smelled and, yes, even tasted. Also, it had some walls of concrete with no touch of green.

In response to the hospital's request for help, a group of Master Gardeners toured the garden to see what



The raised bed on April 4th (above) and May 27th (below) after the rains!



was needed. Gary Slanga took soil for analysis, which showed that the soil would need significant improvement. As a result of the visit, we recommended that they select colorful containers, raised bed planters, and hanging planters for the bare concrete walls. Hospital staff members selected and ordered the planters during the winter, and by spring their selections been placed in the garden.

Meanwhile, Gary Slanga had ordered a large raised bed planter to donate for the project. Some committee members gathered plants at the Herb Forum, and members shared plants from their own gardens. Don Wyatt estimated the amount of potting soil that would be needed, and on Monday, March 30, a team of Master Gardeners began the project.

Don Wyatt, Ray Machovsky, and Walter Ponder loaded and delivered over 20 bags of potting soil and the large raised bed planter. Joyce Richardson's husband, Danny helped them unload the soil and place the planter. Danny helped to fill the containers, dug holes for rose bushes, and connected the watering system to water the new plants. Retta Deiterman, Carol Runyan, Kim Pringle, and Joyce Richardson helped to fill the containers. Joyce, Kim,

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# Children's Garden...continued



and Susan Terry donated plants. By the end of the day, planters were filled with fragrant and edible herbs and colorful flowering plants, and Peggy Martin roses were planted near a bare wall. Within a few weeks, Kim Pringle filled the hanging planters for the front wall with succulents. Although April was a very busy month for Bell County Master Gardeners, the garden was checked regularly to make sure the plants were doing well. So far, most of the plants are surviving the unexpected

rainy season of May!

The hospital staff also asked our help in planning garden activities for the patients and children who visit them. Carol Runyan has



developed a scavenger hunt activity featuring items in the garden. She helped staff members locate some additional items for the hunt, and her son designed a garden map for the hunt.

Elaine Passman has collected children's books on gardening, and we would like to add some gardening programs to their activity schedule for of a "yellow brick road". Both patients and staff members are already enjoying the additions to the garden.



This project has involved a team of Master Gardeners -- thanks so much to all of them! Gary Slanga, Don Wyatt, Walter Ponder, Ray Machovsky, Joyce and Danny Richardson, Carol Runyan, Kim Pringle, Susan Terry, Retta Dieterman, Jan George, Pat Johnson, Mary Beth



Bradburn, Betty Nejtek, Melinda Arriola, Mary Lew Quesinberry. There may be others that I have not included - please remind me!

Photos by Frances Idoux



# Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

## Mosquitoes

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County  
AgriLife Extension Entomologist

Mosquitoes can be very irritating and disrupt outdoor activities. They also are able to transmit various diseases to humans and animals. Mosquitoes are known to transmit heartworm in dogs and they can spread encephalitis (including West Nile Virus), Chikungunya, dengue, yellow fever, malaria and filariasis among humans.

Most female mosquitoes require a blood meal for egg production whereas males feed on nectar and do not bite. Eggs can be laid on the surface of water or in dry locations that are occasionally flooded by water. Some eggs are able to remain dormant under dry conditions for several months. Eggs hatch into larvae, or wigglers. Mosquito larvae live in water and feed on organic debris or microscopic plants and animals.



Larvae molt into pupae which do not feed. Mosquito pupae spend the majority of their time at the surface of the water, only moving when disturbed.

Many things can help to reduce mosquito problems around the home. Eliminate all sources of standing water. Containers such as watering cans, buckets and bottles can turn into mosquito breeding grounds. Water should be drained from birdbaths, rain barrels, gutters, flowerpots and pet dishes at least once a week. Children's wading pools should be emptied of water at least once a week and stored indoors when not in use. Tree holes should be filled in with sand or mortar, or drained after each rain. Leaky faucets and pipes located outside should be repaired.

Areas that cannot be drained, such as ponds, can be stocked with mosquito fish that eat mosquito larvae.



Dunks can also be used in these areas. Dunks are a small, donut-shaped product that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis israeliensis*. The donut disrupts the life cycle of the mosquito and is non-toxic to humans, amphibians and fish. Dunks are not for use in drinking water sources.

Avoiding peak hours when mosquitoes are active is probably the best method to avoid being bitten. When outside, wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing with long sleeves & long pants. It is a good idea to wear repellent anytime you are outside for long periods of time (we have possible disease-transmitting mosquitoes that fly during the day as well as peak hours). Repellents containing active ingredients such as DEET or picaridin are best. Other repellents containing oil of lemon eucalyptus or other active ingredients can be effective to keep mosquitoes from biting when evening activities cannot be rescheduled, but may need to be reapplied more often. Other products such as citronella candles will also repel mosquitoes, but work best in enclosed areas.

You can find good information on insect repellents here <http://www2.epa.gov/insect-repellents>

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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# Creating Grass Heads

- Gail Koontz

Mary Ann Everett, Georgio Graf, Sandra Mikesell, Vera Townsend and I enjoyed a delightful and busy morning helping 95 kindergarten students make grass heads on Monday, May 11 at Chisholm Trail Elementary in Belton. We helped them put a scoop of rye grass seed and a cup of potting soil into a stocking. After tying it tightly, the children made a face on their grass head. The tail of the stocking went into a cup which teachers put water in when back in the classroom. The tail will draw water into the soil and water the grass seeds which are on top of the head. By end of week, grass should be growing.

Teaching opportunities throughout the activity included talking about what elements the seeds would need to grow. We encouraged the children to name their new friend. Even shared they might need to give their friend a haircut. This is also a great activity to do at home with small children and grandchildren.



Photos by Gail Koontz



# Conference Appreciation Dinner

- Randy Brown

Over 100 master gardeners attended a Mexican Fiesta celebration for a successful TMGA 2015 Conference. President Gary Slanga read an original poem on conference preparation and execution. VP Randy Brown put together over 500 pictures in a slide show showing the many facets of the conference. A wonderful celebration of a lot of hard work that paid off with a great conference!



Photos by Randy Brown except for the one of Randy Brown by Terrie Hahn





# Congratulations Graduates!



Graduating and becoming new Certified Master Gardeners are: Dennis Biggs, Debra Brumlove, David Carpenter, Art Carr, Mechelle Davies, Ann Eubanks, Georgio Graf, Anita Hardin, Daisy Klassy, Gail Koontz, Kathy Love, Sheila Lucky, Patricia Amazon Roberts, Dawn Orange, Wayne Schirner, Jane Van Pragg and, not pictured, Ann Grimmatt and Nina Archambeault.



Graduating, but still needing some hours to become certified, are Becky Garrett, Linda Knight, Sandi Lenehan and James Main. Not pictured are James Cook, Anthony Widerstrom and Faye Zook.





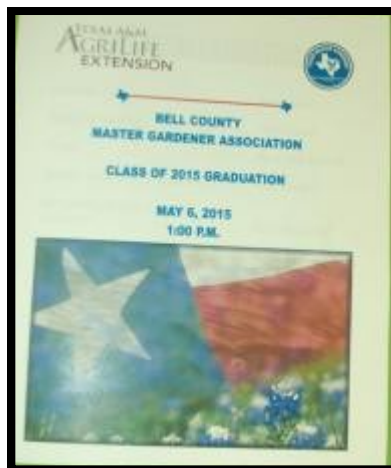
# Congratulations Graduates!



Above: At the Conference appreciation dinner, some of the recent graduates got together for a photo.

Right: Kathy Love and Wayne Shirner show off their class T-shirts.

Below: Graduation Day.



Photos by Randy Brown

# The Intern

- Georgio R. Graf, 2015 Intern Master Gardener

Being an Intern for the Bell County Master Gardener Association, has been one of the more rewarding tasks I have had the pleasure of undertaking, for myself. Not as a directive from a company, or a supervisor. Neither, because I will be reimbursed for educational knowledge, this program is just for me to learn, take note, and to harness my inner passions towards a greater good. Each week, during class, has had my wheels turning, eager to get home and to rethink my



process to create my own piece of heaven, on Earth. The culmination of my education will slowly unravel as the seasons turn, as I will be able to apply the processes, and learn from my own trials and tribulations. With each compost pile, with every potted plant, with every transplant and propagation, I will have the words of the many speakers, and mentors, who have offered their knowledge of experience echoing in my memory. I Thank you for all you do!

As I venture forward, and continue to be a student to anyone who will share their knowledge, I will surely find a means to incorporate this into my big picture. I have always been wary of color. Color just seems to be such a sensitive process, which I felt that I could not maintain, such vibrancy. I have always had plants in my household; "GREEN" lush, trailing vines of green plants. It is all I knew, most of my life. For me, being an Intern for the BCMGA has just opened the Pandora Box. Ornamental Fruit Trees, Perennials, Wildflowers galore! Fall Garden, Winter Crops, and Summer Squash. Spring color, and the symphony of fragrances to intoxicate the senses, Oh my!

I'm excited of the greenhouse that I will build with bamboo and wire. Anticipating the following seasons when I can train grapevines onto a lengthy trellis to span a walkway. To create several rows of apple and fig trees, and to experiment with ornamental fruit trees as visual specimens. I'm going to prep my rows now for a Valentine 2016 date, which is when I will plant my potatoes. And my proudest day will surely be when I will be able to confidently share my experience and pass my knowledge forward. This is, indeed, the reason for being a Bell County Master Gardener, and to be in the company of such amazing support. The A&M Extension office has been such an intricate part of the success of all of us this year. I am truly thankful to be a part of such a great organization. Their partnership with the Bell County Master Gardeners, has provided a unique vehicle for all Interns to hop on, and learn, full speed ahead.

Overcoming my fear of color, I have incorporated sev-

Continued on next page...





## *The Intern*...continued

eral focal points along my driveway. I've made all the wire supports that you see in these pictures. Starting at the entrance with a wire trellis for a climbing rose vine, the "post" doubles as an identity marker. The maturing Yellow blossoms of the Jerusalem Sage, seemingly steals the focal point, while the rose is still in its adolescent stage. Further along the driveway a trellis arbor welcomes one into the play area, pink honeysuckle, and another climbing rose, are slowly bringing life to an otherwise invisible structure. Across the driveway an experimental sphere is playing host to yet another skyward rose.

Inspired by one of the speakers at the State Convention, I quickly realized how to "bling" my Chicken



Coup enclosure with evil-spirit-warding colored bottles of cobalt and green. Additionally, the wiring protecting the

chicken enclosure is trained with English Ivy, newly planted Coral Honeysuckle, Moon Flowers, and Morning Glories, anticipating a shady canopy for the summer. Another inspiration came via the class field trip, when I purchased several water plants, to motivate an empty tub, accumulating weeds, and finding a used water pump at a local flea market, to good use. Another color spot was initiated by the sight of an intriguing Lions Tail perennial, supposedly to reach six feet in height, a columesque bush, sure to compliment the surrounding Spanish tufts of grass, cacti, and nearby trellis of



purple hyacinths, Canes of Orange blooms will also compliment the perspective.

In moving forward, I'm excited about the prospects. I cannot wait to witness the season to flourish. I am more so, anticipating the continued camaraderie of all the amazing gardeners, which, I have had the pleasure of getting to know. Here is to planting your hands into the ground, and allowing your spirit to reach for the stars.



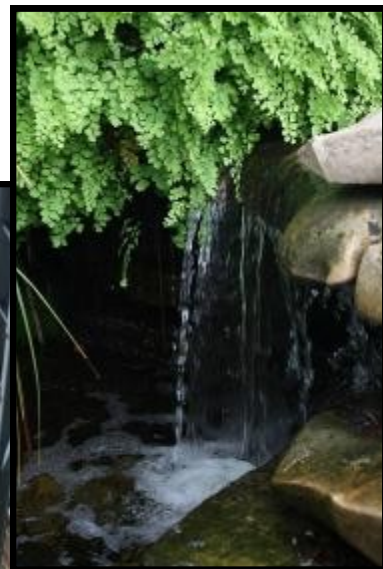
Photos by Georgio Graf



# Another Look at the April Intern Fieldtrip

*Editor's note: A bus of MG's and MG interns loaded up on April 22nd to see the Lady Bird Wildflower Center, Travis County MG Patty Leander's garden and the Natural Gardener Nursery. Here is that trip depicted in photos taken by Intern Daisy Klassy. Photos of flowers taken on that trip are scattered throughout this issue of the Blooming Bell.*

**Photos by Daisy Klassy**





## Another Look...continued





## *From my point of view . . .*

- **Gail Koontz, Class Reporter**

Wasn't our last class on April 29 just absolutely delightful! Thank you, Terrie Hahn and Betty Nejtek, for sharing your knowledge and experience on Growing and Cooking with Herbs with all of us. And to all who cooked and served the delightful foods and drinks showcasing herbs, thank you! What a delightful subject to end our master gardening study!

And then on May 6, 2015, we the Class of 2015 graduated – 18 of the 25 completed the Master Gardener Certification Requirements. The other 7 have until May 31, 2016, to fulfill requirements and attain certification. Thank you, Lyle Zoeller and Gary Slanga, for your words of encouragement and challenge. There is much to be done through Bell County Master Gardener Association and opportunities for all to get involved. We've all worked hard to meet our certification requirements; let's stay involved!

And thank you to the 2015 New Class Committee who devoted many hours of work, both individually and collectively, to helping make all of us successful! Hats off to Class Director Mary Ann Everett, Class Coordinators Jerry Lewis and Fran Sheppard, Mentor Coordinator Peg Fleet, Field Trip Coordinator Walter Ponder, and Propagation Mentor Judy Herrmann. Others

who served with these are: Pat Allen, Melinda Arriola, Suzanne Boyer, Mary Beth Bradburn, Kathleen Brown, Beverly and Vernon Chenoweth, Karen Colwick, Barbara Dalby, Pam Dragoo, Mary Lou Edmondson, Gail Garner, Jan George, Bette Gilmore, Werner Hahn, Carla Harmon, Louann Hight, Bernie Hurta, Pat Johnson, Charlotte Jones, Nancy Kozusko, Ilene Miller, Mary Lew Quesinberry, Carol Runyan, and Sandra Sedberry. You are all so appreciated by the Class of 2015!

I must say I will miss our weekly gatherings. Look forward to seeing all at the monthly meetings. Remember: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday morning of each month. So our next gathering is June 10. Social and refreshment time is 10:00, and the meeting begins at 10:30. The Board of Directors meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday morning of each month at 9:00, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Gary reminded us at Graduation that the BCMGA year is January 1 through December 31. To maintain certification, we need 50 service hours and 12 education hours. And the monthly meeting speaker counts as one education hour. Hours must be recorded, or they don't count. If you need help recording your hours online, see Gail Christian.

Signing off as your class reporter. What fun it has been!

## **May General Meeting**

- **Randy Brown**

Sixty-one MG's attended the May Meeting as Anne Hamilton from Ft. Hood Natural Resources Branch discussed butterflies and other beneficial insects.





# Announcements

## June General Meeting

- Randy Brown

We will be showing the DVD of Felder Rushing's talk on "Slow Gardening" for the June General Meeting. That way, anyone who missed him can still hear his talk and those who already heard him, can enjoy this terrific speaker again. Social time is at 10 a.m. and the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

## Dues NOT Due Yet

- Gail Christian

Our fiscal year has changed to January - December. Yearly dues will now be due in January instead of June. That means we get 6 months free this year. We will be e-mailing out renewal letters the last of November. Remember that service hours, education hours and dues are all from January to December now.



Photos by Daisy Klassy

## Grounds Work Days

- Walter Ponder

Work days include:

8 a.m. June 3 (This is also Burger Wednesday)

8 a.m. June 10

8 a.m. June 17

8 a.m. June 24

## FYI

### It's Raining, It's Pouring...

The following site has a map with rainfall totals in the area: [http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge2/RFC\\_Precip/](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge2/RFC_Precip/)

## Tulip Harvesting Video

- Crystal Fisher

Ever wonder how they harvest those tulip bulbs? Well, here you go. Intriguing. Wonder who has to repair that huge machine! For a really interesting look at a professional tulip growing farm's harvest, go to <http://www.youtube.com/embed/wZ5MAr7d-5Y?rel=0>

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# *What's Happening in Your Yard*

- Daisy Klassy





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

**- Randy Brown**

Springtime in our yard! Seven inches of rain in the first three weeks of May!





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

**Bees loving the Prickly Pear blooms!**

**- Frances Idoux**



## **Spring Has Sprung**

**- Terrie Hahn**

Green tomatoes just waiting for some sun; Mushrooms popping up from the rain; Myrtle in bloom; and Werner standing behind one of his two compost bins. They're each divided into 3 compartments. They had been overflowing and in just two weeks went down to where the photo shows. The temp is still 115 degrees.





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Photo by Daisy Klassy



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