

The Blooming Bell

June 2016



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**Bell County
Master Gardener
Association**



Photo by Randy Brown
of KMCCG.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Work Day 7:30 am* Burger Wednesday 10:30 am	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Work Day 7:30 am* General Meeting 9 am Tree of Central TX Social time starts at 8:30 am	9	10	11
12	13	14 Flag Day 	15 Work Day 7:30 am*	16	17	18
19 Fathers Day	20 Summer Begins	21	22 Work Day 7:30 am* BOD Meeting 9 am	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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

Remember to record volunteer/education hours.

Photo by Terrie Hahn

The President's Corner



FVI

Jan George gave a really nice interview on the Fort Hood Family Community Gardens on a recent episode of Central Texas Gardener. Check it out at: <http://www.klru.org/ctg/this-week/> Original air date was May 14.

Crystal Fisher suggests taking a peak at this cool site: <https://www.windyty.com/?temp,37.892,-103.052,4>

State Awards We Won! We Won!

We won three awards at the 2016 State Conference.

1st Place-Research, Square Foot Gardening
Wayne Schirner

3rd Place-Written Education, Salado Demonstration
Garden
Susan Terry

3rd Place-Project, McLane Children's Hospital Garden
Pat Johnson & Frances Idoux

Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved
in all our entries.

-Bernie Hurta,
Awards Committee Chairman

Above: photo by Daisy Klassy

Mystery Photos!

Help me solve a mystery! Someone sent me these photos, or I took them from a BCMG's Facebook page. I somehow lost track of whose these are. Will the real mystery photographer please step up! - Terrie



BCMG's Win Awards at 2016 TXMG Conference

- Gail Christian

Winning awards at the 2016 Texas Master Gardener Conference in McKinney were Wayne Schirner winning 1st Place in the Research category for Square Foot Gardening; Susan Terry winning 3rd Place in the Written Education category for the Salado Demonstration Garden; and Frances Idoux and Pat Johnson winning 3rd Place in the Project category for McLane Children's Hospital Garden.

Representing the Bell County Master Gardeners Association at the 2016 State Conference were Pat Allen, Kathy Patterson, Jan George, Gail Christian, Gary Slanga, Karla Harmon, Susan Terry, Charlotte and Ron Jones, Melinda and Adrian Arriola, Nina Archambeault, Violet and Gy Okeson, Walter Daude, Pat and Ken Johnson, Wayne Schirner and his wife, Nancy Nebeker. BCMG's winning

awards at the State Conference will receive them at the next General meeting. Certifications for specialist training will also be presented at that time.



The Veggie Guy

Fall Vegetable Gardening Starts Now!

- Wayne Schirner

I know that we still haven't finished harvesting our summer crops, but June and July is the time to start planning for the fall garden. Tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant can all be transplanted during July to get a crop before the first frost in late November. Hopefully you have already started the transplants to give them 6-8 weeks of growth before it is time to put them in your garden. Okra, southern peas, sweet potato slips, pumpkin, and radishes can be planted through the end of June. Warm season greens can still be planted through July. In September, we will be able to transplant the cool weather crops such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower. Asian greens and lettuce seeds or transplants can also go into the garden in September, so if you are going to use transplants, get them started before the end of July. For more information on when to plant in your vegetable garden, go to <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis>. The average first freeze date for Bell county varies from Travis county by only a few days, so this is a good guide for us to use.

Don't forget that in the heat of July and August, your garden might need some shade in the late afternoon, so June is when you should plan how you will do that. A low hoop system made from ½" PVC and shade cloth is an easy way to accomplish this for plants that aren't too tall. If you don't have drip irrigation for your garden, make small basins around your plants to make it easier to hand water your plants. Don't forget to mulch, since that will reduce evaporation of the water you supply your garden. If you do container gardening, don't forget to mulch those plants too. Mulch reduces water needs of container grown plants by 25% or more.

Remember, gardening is cheaper than therapy, AND you get tomatoes.

Escargot Anyone?

Anonymously submitted

Pulled this many snails out of the yard in one day. Maybe I should have put a sour cream container full of beer in the soil to catch the snails.



Texas Superstars

- Walter Ponder

When it comes to plants, research is constantly being done to find and improve characteristics of the many different varieties of flowering, and fruiting plants, as well as trees and grasses. Those which perform well and have the desired characteristics, may get to wear the title of Superstar.

When you think about Superstar plants, popularity and success comes to mind. When it comes to being a Texas Superstar® a plant must not only be beautiful, but must also perform well for both the consumer and the grower.

Texas Superstar® plants are those varieties that have been subjected to statewide testing by Texas A&M Agrilife Research and the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, so it is not easy to become a Texas Superstar® plant and it certainly doesn't happen overnight.

First, a plant must undergo several years of extensive field trials during which it has to show itself to be disease and insect tolerant, beautiful, yet requiring minimal care and minimal need for chemical pest control. Next the decision on what plants will be marketed as Texas Superstar® plants is made by an Executive Board based on observations made at plots and demonstration trials throughout the state. Finally, growers must be able to produce a sufficient number of the plants to meet the increased demand created by Texas Superstar® marketing.

Texas Superstar® plants were featured in the April 2nd Bell County Master Gardener's annual spring plant sale. Just a few of those sold during the sale are described below.

Arctic Frost Satsuma – A cross between a cold hardy Changsha tangerine and a very high quality Satsuma. The fruit is very sweet, easy to peel and only has one or two seeds per fruit. David Rodriguez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agent for horticulture in Bexar County and member of the Texas Superstar selection board has noted that as opposed to other

satsumas, which are grafted to another variety rootstock, Arctic Frost is grown from its own rootstock. It can be used as an accent plant for the backyard or a container plant. It requires 8-10 hours of full sun daily, and can reach 8-12 feet tall in the ground and 6 feet in a container. Planting time for this evergreen citrus is spring and in winter it is cold tolerant to 10° Fahrenheit. It is designed to expand in-ground citrus growth into Zone 8, of which Bell County is a part. Named a Superstar® in June 2015, it is one of the newest plants to receive that designation and while still somewhat difficult to find, it is becoming more widely available in the state.



New Gold Lantana – A drought tolerant, heat loving, low maintenance perennial with a wealth of golden yellow flowers. Reduced fruit set promotes prolific blooming spring till frost. Deer tolerant, this lantana is a very adaptable and popular perennial. Two feet tall, four-foot width. Full sun.

Mexican Bush Sage – A tough, drought tolerant, highly pest resistant salvia with showy spikes of purple and white, or solid purple, blossoms. Also good as a cut flower. Blooms in the fall, grows three feet tall and wide. To keep from stem breakage, protect from high winds. Full sun.

Gold Star Esperanza - Spectacular heat-tolerant Texas native with striking masses of golden yellow, trumpet-shaped flowers. Highly pest resistant. Wonderful in containers to accent entry and patio, also in

Continued on the next page...

Texas Superstars...continued

mass plantings. Blooms early summer till frost, four feet tall and three feet wide. Full sun.

Tycoon Tomatoes - Tycoon is an exceptional large round tomato variety. The plant is determinate and is known for its heat setting ability as well as its resistance to tomato yellow leaf curl virus. Because it is determinate it only reaches 3 to 4 feet high and 2-3 feet wide. Plant early spring in a well-drained soil, when danger of frost is past. Full sun.



Laura Bush Petunia - A hybrid between VIP and old fashioned petunia which was born & bred in Texas. This reseeding, old fashioned petunia has fragrant violet flowers on a vigorous, heat-tolerant plant. It performs well even in alkaline soils. Laura Bush grows 24 inches tall and 36 inches wide. It should be cut back 20% each month and blooms spring to frost. Full sun.

Photos from www.texassuperstar.com

Q & A

- Terrie Hahn



In the May Blooming Bell, Jann Dworsky asked if anyone knew what wildflower this was—"it's a perennial that grows in full sun or shade." I received 4 replies! Thank you Wayne Zieschang and Jodie Folsom for looking into this puzzle and taking a stab at it. I believe you had the family correct - asteraceae). However, I think that Sylvia Maedgen and Bernie Hurta hit the nail on the head! Sylvia and Bernie think it is one of the Fleabanes. According to *Lone Star Wildflowers* by Lashara Nieland and Willa Finley, there are 15 Fleabane Daisy species in Texas. The family is Asteraceae and genus name is *Erigeron*.

Sylvia thinks this may be a Philadelphia Fleabane, *Erigeron philadelphicus*. "Philadelphia Fleabane is similar to Annual Fleabane (*Erigeron annuus*) and Prairie Fleabane (*Erigeron strigosus*). Philadelphia Fleabane blooms earlier in the season, has pinker flowers, and has clasping leaves which the other 2 species do not. Also of note is the common name "Daisy Fleabane" which is often used for all 3 species, so don't let that confuse you."

Bernie thinks it's a Plains Fleabane. Bernie sent: "According to the *Wildflowers of Texas Field Guide* by Nora & Rick Bowers and Stan Tekiela that was purchased at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the flower in the picture is a Plains Fleabane (*Erigeron modestus*), also known as a Prairie Fleabane. It is in the Aster family and has a daisy-like white flower head that can also be pink or lavender. It is a native perennial that blooms in the early spring until fall. Its' habitat is dry rocky limestone soils, openings in thickets, prairies, among junipers or oaks, and full sun. "Fleabane" in the common name is from the belief that the dried plants repelled fleas.

Without a closer photo of the leaves and measurements, it's pretty hard to say exactly which Fleabane this is, but I'd say we're close enough! Thanks everyone for your research!

Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

Grasshoppers

Aphids

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife Extension Entomologist

Aphids feed on a wide variety of plants in Texas. They have high reproductive capabilities so their populations can grow to large numbers quickly.

Aphids are small, soft-bodied insects that come in a variety of colors. Some have wings while others may not, but all have cornicles, or "tailpipes" that come off the tip of the abdomen.

Aphids have piercing-sucking mouthparts which they use to pierce plant tissue and suck out the juices. Damage often appears as yellowing or curling of foliage.



lacewing larvae & syrphid fly larvae; know what these creatures look like so you don't kill them

- Use high pressure water sprays to dislodge aphids from the plant
- Less toxic pesticides include active ingredients such as insecticidal soap, azadirachtin (neem), horticultural oils or d-limonene
- Other pesticides to manage aphids may include active ingredients such as permethrin, acephate (non-food items only), carbaryl or imidacloprid

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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Aphids also secrete a sweet, sticky substance called honeydew. Honeydew often appears on

the plant as shiny spots or sometimes the honeydew may have sooty mold growing on it. Sooty mold is a black fungus that can block sunlight from reaching the plant leading to a decrease of photosynthesis.

A hint that you may have aphids is that you see ants trailing on the plant. Many species of ants will tend aphids for the honeydew.

Some ideas for managing aphids are as follows:

- Encourage natural enemies such as parasitoids (that create aphid mummies), ladybugs,

American Botanical Council

- James Cowan

Since your vegetables are enjoying the sun and rain, how about another day trip down to Austin to visit the American Botanical Council (<http://abc.herbalgram.org>) for free? Also known as the Herbal Medicine Institute, it is an independent, nonprofit research and education organization dedicated to providing information for consumers, healthcare practitioners, researchers, educators, industry and the media.



The Council began in the summer of 1988. In 1993 ABC offered the first on-site Pharmacy Continuing Education Program courses on herbal medicine. On June 6, 1997, ABC Executive Director, Mark Blumenthal finalized the purchase of the current location at 6200 Manor Road, in Austin. By 1999 the ABC established herbal workshop series for local Austin communities. In the spring of 2002, with issue 54, Herbalgram became solely the journal of the American Botanical Council.



ABC offers tours of its facility, including information about the Case Mill Homestead, the rainwater harvesting system, ABC's mission and goals, and the medicinal plant gardens. Parking is free but limited. Contact ABC by email or phone at 512-926-4900 Monday through Friday between the hours of 9AM to 6PM to schedule tours for groups. Tours require a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 30 individuals. Self-guided tours are available Monday through Friday from 9AM to 6PM.

Among the Herbal beds to visit are: Excretory System, Digestive system, various cuisines, children's garden, rose garden, Ayurvedic garden, and a great rainwater catchment system. The ABC sponsors an Herb Day celebration in the spring. It includes keynote speeches by internationally known herbalists and Herb Walks with local herbalists. Plants and books are on sale and there are children's activities.



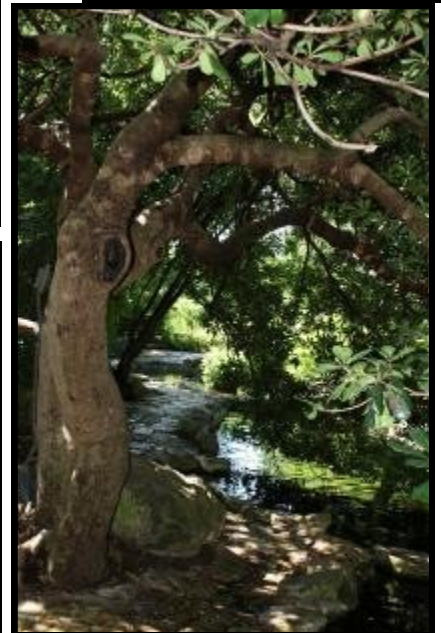
2016 Class Field Trip

Photos by Daisy Klassy, Sylvia Maedgen

Zilker Gardens



Continued on next page...



2016 Class Field Trip...continued



"My favorite part was the Japanese Garden. It was so calming, peaceful and beautiful, so much vegetation. The water was so relaxing and the fish in the ponds were very ac-



tive. Above: The ladies on the bridge are Lupe Gonzalez (my sister), Claudette Hawkins and Cynthia Cowan, MG interns. The area on Texas native plants was also very nice." -Sylvia Maedgen



Zilker Gardens



*Patty
Leander's
Gardens*

Continued on next page...



2016 Class Field Trip...continued



Patty Leander's Gardens



Continued on next page...



Natural Gardener



2016 Class Field Trip...continued



"We visited Natural Gardener Nursery too. Besides the plants, I really enjoyed their herb and flower gardens. As we were leaving, bottom left, Mechelle Davies wanted to check if the chimes really worked, they did. We had a great trip that day. - Sylvia Maedgen



Class of 2016 Graduates

- Shellie Downing

The BCMG Class of 2016 has enjoyed an awesome ride this year. We have been lucky enough to benefit not only from the experienced mentors and great speakers provided by the program, but also from the vast array and varied experiences of our class members themselves. Being part of such a large group has allowed us to meet people from many different places around Bell County and the entire country.

Several members of our group are already experts in certain areas of the gardening world. We have a working farmer, two former USDA employees, and many of us grew up working on family gardens.

We've learned a lot, met wonderful new friends, had a great time, and even more important, really enjoyed volunteering at the many functions and teaching opportunities the extension service has ongoing in our community. We won't even mention the wonderful food that our group has managed to provide at snack times



during our meetings.

As our class time comes to an end, I hope to see each and every one of our class members often as we continue our commitment to learning, sharing with others and helping the extension agents with the huge responsibility they've undertaken to help the people of Bell County with their gardening needs. We have in fact, become an extension of them.

Photos by Randy Brown

Welcome Class of 2016 Graduates



New Graduating certified Master Gardeners for 2016 are: Nestor Centeno, Cynthia Cowan, James "Larry" Cowan, Ida Fair, Johnnie Fair, Jodie Folsom, Andrea Frame (not certified yet), Marjorie Gillmeister, James Halvorson, Rose Harris, Claudette Hawkins, Judy Hoelscher and Johnny Jones.



Continued on next page...



Welcome Class of 2016 Graduates

2016 Graduates: Gina Knievel (not certified yet), Sylvia Maedgen, Carol Morisset, Tom Rennels, Connie Rivera, Jan Upchurch, Ann Wagner, Donna Warthan, Jan Watkins, Gena Winston, Joann Zieschang and Wayne Zieschang. Graduated, but not at graduation and not certified yet are Doug Slocombe and Shellie Downing. Justin Hammonds, 2015 graduated and became certified, but was not at graduation.



Photos by Randy Brown

This and That

Earth Day Celebration

- Gail Koontz

On Saturday, April 23, Marjorie Gillmeister, Johnny Jones, Connie Rivera and I took part in the Earth Day Celebration in Salado's Pace Park. What a beautiful and fun day! Marjorie and Johnny did eggshell gardening. Connie and I did newspaper gardening. Some 75 children and many adults came by to garden with us. That afternoon Marjorie was one of the featured speakers and explained eggshell gardening. It was really fun to be located beside Amazon



Roberts' Feeding Body and Spirit booth. We were never hungry!



Photos by Gail Koontz



Cruizin'

Don't forget to check out the 2017 Conference where you can cruise with other MG's from around the State! It's going to be April 27 - May 1, 2017 from Galveston to Cozumel! There's a land only option for those not wanting to cruise. Check it out at:

<http://texasmgconference.com/>

This and That

Blooming Temple Festival

- Gail Koontz

On Saturday, April 30, Kathy Patterson, Betty Burkett, Vera Townsend and I spent the day in downtown Temple at the Blooming Festival. The day started off cool but the afternoon was warm and sunny. We all had water bottles like Kathy's! Some 65 children and many adults came by to newspaper garden with us. BTW, we were next to the face painting table. Activities like this are always fun and an opportunity for volunteers to visit and become better acquainted. Many thanks to all my volunteers!

Photos by Gail Koontz and Betty Burkett

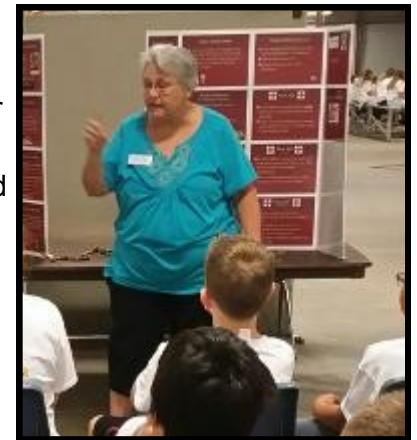


Progressive Agricultural Safety Day

- Gail Koontz

The PASD program is the largest rural safety and health education program for children in North America. Their mission is to provide education, training and resources to make farm, ranch and rural life safer and healthier for children and their communities.

To date, there are 423 events scheduled in North America this year, with 19 of them in Texas. On Thursday, May 19, some 480 sixth graders from Academy, Fort Hood and Rogers gathered at the Bell County Expo for Safety Day in Belton. The event was coordinated by Sheryl Raley, County Extension Agent – 4-H and Youth Development.



There were eight stations in the Exhibition Hall and eight stations in The Dome that students rotated through to hear presentations and see demonstrations on Bicycle Safety, Food Safety, Snake Safety, Passenger Safety, Internet Safety, Railroad Safety, Fire Safety and Safety Awareness.



Mary Ann Everett and Gail Koontz presented the Snake Safety sessions entitled Snakes in the Garden, assisted by Rose Harris and Sylvia Maedgen. (Mary Ann presented to half of the sixth graders and Gail to the other half.) We saw lots of excitement and interest, with lots of questions asked. There was some disappointment that we only used plastic snakes in our presentations.

Photos by Gail Koontz and Sylvia Maedgen.

This and That

May Meeting

- Terrie Hahn



Gil Eckrich, “birdman extraordinaire” spoke with our group in May about Hummingbirds—their migration, how many species we see in

Texas and their habits. He stressed planting, not just milkweeds, but nectar plants like Flame Acanthus, Turks Cap, Coral Honeysuckle, Salvias, and plants that attract insects they feed on and feed their young like Primrose, Texas Sage and Kidneywood. Herbes put out a spread of food highlighting the herb of the year -Chili Peppers. Gail Koontz read Dr. Seues’ *Oh, the Places You’ll Go* with a few changes for the graduating class.

Photos by Randy Brown.



Time to Shed

- Terrie Hahn

The Green anole lizard, *anolis carolinensis*, common in our gardens, grows to 5-7 inches in length. They are insect predators. Females lay eggs, one at a time, in moist soil or rotten wood. Color changes with temperature, background color and mood. They are hunted by birds, cats and a now invasive aggressive species called the Brown anole that has entered the country from the Caribbean Islands. This one was in our yard shedding its skin which I assume he ate later as a snack.

Photo by Terrie Hahn



Announcements

Grounds Workdays

- **Walter Ponder**

Here is the Workday schedule for June:

7:30 a.m. June 1, 2016 Workday
10:30 a.m. June 1, 2016 Burger Wednesday (Not Hamburger)
7:30 a.m. June 8, 2016 Workday
7:30 a.m. June 15, 2016 Workday
7:30 a.m. June 22, 2016 Workday

There will be no work days if it is raining.

June 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. I will be giving the program in June on Trees of Central Texas. Hope to see you there.

Reinstatement and Transfer Forms

- **Bernie Hurta**

The forms for reinstatement and transfer will be on our website under "Documents" soon. Contact our Membership Committee Chairman, Gail Christian, for the forms until they are put on the website.

Fall Plant Sale

The Fall Plant Sale will be held on Sept.10, 2016.

Expo Compost

- **Terrie Hahn**

Yvonne Eele from the Expo Center talked with us at the May meeting about a new program they have creating compost. You can buy compost that has been made by a composting company with the manure that is removed from the barn areas at the Expo Center. It is for sale at the Expo Center on Wednesdays 8 a.m. - noon. It is \$10.00 per cubic yard. You can also just get 2 five gallon buckets filled for \$1.00. They have had Midwest Laboratories do a nutrient analysis on the compost and that is available to anyone who is interested at their office. For more information, contact Yvonne at yvonnee@bellcountyexpo.com or 254-933-5353, ext. 209.

American Herb Society

- **Kim Pringle**

The next General Meeting of the Austin Herb Society which meets at Zilker Park is June 7, 9:30 to noon - Guests are always welcome, \$5.00 payable at the door. "An Ornamental Food Garden" - Renee Studebaker, former Austin-American Statesman food and garden columnist, will discuss her garden with a mix of edible and ornamental plants.

Lavender Festival in Blanco

- **Kim Pringle**

The 12th annual Blanco Lavender Festival is June 10-12, 2016. There is an opportunity to visit 3 lavender farms, a Market on the grounds of the Historic Old Blanco County Courthouse and a Speakers Pavillion. Topics include Lavender, the Art of Bee Keeping, Harvest and Use of Herbs in Everyday Cooking, Olive Growing Industry, Sensual Herbalist, Increasing Vegetable Production with Herbs, Soap Making and How Essential Oils Are Produced. There are also events at each of the lavender farms. Live music and a craft beer tent (hops are herbs). Please visit www.blancochamber.com for more detailed information.

What's Happening in Your Yard

Onions!

- Gail Pierce

Sweet Georgia onions drying on my patio.



There Goes My Fennel!

- Barbara Beebe

Swallowtails in the making on my Fennel.



What's Happening in Your Yard

Greetings from Utah

- Mike and Ilene Miller

Lovely locust tree, sage, and high desert lupines have all adapted to 8 to 10 inches of rain a year.



What's Happening in Your Yard

Blooming Now!

- Joann Zieschang

These are pictures of some of my daylilies and a black bearded iris. I have misplaced the names.

The bed of orange daylilies is an old time favorite.

Both my mother and grandmother had beds of these orange daylilies. I do not remember when they did not have some of these in their garden. Very easy to grow. They will grow in sun or shade. I have never had any insect problems.



What's Happening in Your Yard

Bountiful Harvest!

- Melinda Woods Arriola

This mornings harvest drying out a little in the garage. Onions, red potatoes, Zapallo squash and zucchini.



Colorful Rain Barrel

- Betty Burkett

Painting a rain barrel always brightens things up!



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

What's Happening in Your Yard

- Oh, What so much rain can do

- Vivian Rush

Clockwise: These are photos of my very happy and blooming Roses of Sharon along with cannas. Regarding the Rose of Sharon, it amazes me that something I had in a much smaller version in New York and Maryland is so happy in Texas! A photo that shows things I have bought along with things I've scavenged from Master Gardener swaps and working in the gardens. Down the line, I've got a grape vine with yarrow, a pineapple guava, a couple of crepe myrtles with artemisia, a rock rose, blue mist,



and another pineapple guava; Next is the butterfly bush, a not yet blooming senna which will have yellow flowers, and behind the fence on the left is a copper canyon daisy; below, the viburnum which has already bloomed, a pomegranate, and behind the fence is a vitex.

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