

The Blooming Bell

March 2016



**Bell County
Master Gardener
Association**





Photo of newly constructed demo beds by
Gail Christian.

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| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|----------------|-----|--|---|-----|-----|
| | | 1 | 2 Work Day 8 am* Chili, Cheese, Chocolate Wednesday 10:30 am Potting Party 10 am | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Work Day 8 am* General Meeting 10:30 - Rainwater Harvesting Social Time at 10 am In Education Building | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 Daylight Savings Time Begins | 14 Π DAY | 15 | 16 Work Day 8 am* Ground Committee meeting 9 am | 17  | 18 | 19 |
| 20 Spring Begins | 21 | 22 | 23 Work Day 8 am* BOD Meeting 9 am | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27  | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

* in the event of rain or 40 degree temperature or below, there will be NO Workday.

Remember to record volunteer/education hours.

Photo by Terrie Hahn

The President's Corner

As I write this we are in the midst of getting ready for the Home and Garden Show so this may be a short letter. Thanks again to all the work that you volunteers do. We have accomplished a lot this year so far.

A big thanks to Don Wyatt and Wayne Schirner and everyone else who helped put the new demonstration beds in. They look great and will outlast anything we have had in the past. If anyone would like to sponsor a bed to plant and maintain, please let Don Wyatt know.

We have also had some progress made on the interior of the education building. Hope it gets finished soon. We have the results of last months propagation class in the building. Everything seems to be doing well. Most of the seeds and cuttings are coming along nicely.

Gail Pierce is working with Ft. Hood, Jean Flores is coordinating with the Temple Housing Authority, and Frances Idoux is helping the McLane Children's Hospital with their gardens. Tex Appeal Magazine is thinking about featuring the Children's Hospital garden in an upcoming publication.

Thanks to all of you for your contributions. The Bell County Master Gardeners are getting a lot of good publicity and we are becoming known throughout Central Texas.

Gary

Save the Date



EARTH DAY **APRIL 23, 2016**
CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 23
10 to 4
Pace Park, Salado TX



Interactive Informational Booths

- Goat cheese, goat milk, & baby goats!
- Texas native plants
- Solar panels
- Hand-made jewelry

Expert Speakers

- How to install a rainwater collection system
- Easy backyard composting
- Bring back the bee population
- How to create a bluebird trail

Plant Exchange (bring one, take one)

Seed Swap (bring some, take some)

Hands on activities for children of all ages:

- Learn to cast a line
- Tag a butterfly
- Build a birdhouse
- Paint a gourd

Food, live music, and a petting zoo

For additional activities, speaker schedules
list of vendors, and updated information
visit: keepsaladobeautiful.com

Gail Christian Honored by City Federation of Women's Clubs

- Gail Koontz

Gail Christian, along with four other individuals, received Community Volunteer Awards for service to their community. From the article in Sunday's (February 14) Temple Daily Telegram:

"Recognized for eight years of dedicated service to the Bell County Master Gardeners Association, Gail Christian was nominated by Mary Ann Everett for her extensive involvement in the organization.

"She has served two years as webmaster, three years as treasurer, and five years on the board of directors for BCMGA.

"Gail is an active member of the grounds committee, which weekly maintains the Demonstration Gar-

dens around the Bell County North Annex Building where the Texas AgriLife Extension Office is located. She is a member of the speaker's bureau and works closely with youth groups, helping to educate both adults and school children about gardening basics, agriculture, and how to care for the environment.

"In the past three years Gail has volunteered 1200 hours in a variety of educational activities, including Bell County Home and Garden Show, plant sales, Bell County Youth Fair, and the 2015 Texas Master Gardener Conference, held in Belton with more than 600 Master Gardeners attending."

Thank you, Mary Ann. And Congratulations, Gail!



Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

Zika Virus

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife Extension Entomologist

Zika virus is transmitted by *Aedes* mosquitoes and there is no specific treatment or vaccine currently available. The best way to avoid getting the virus is to avoid being bitten by infected mosquitoes. About 20% of people with Zika virus actually get ill. Severe disease, requiring hospitalization, is uncommon and death due to the virus is rare.

The incubation period of Zika virus is thought to be a few days to a week, but is still unknown. Symptoms include fever, skin rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, and headache. Symptoms tend to be mild and last from 2-7 days. Zika virus can be contracted through the bite of an infected mosquito, through blood transfusions, through sexual contact, and from mother to child during pregnancy.

The mosquitoes that are able to transmit Zika virus are also able to transmit dengue and Chikungunya viruses. These mosquitoes are daytime biters, but can also bite at night. *Aedes* mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water- buckets, tires, tree holes, animal water dishes, etc.

To protect yourself from mosquito bites, wear light-colored clothing that covers as much skin as possible, use insect repellent (read and follow label instructions), use screening on doors and windows, use mosquito netting (if needed) while sleeping, and reduce standing water areas.

Repellent should only be applied to clothing and exposed skin. Do not apply it underneath clothing. If you want to apply repellent to your face, spray your hands with repellent and rub it onto your face. Do not spray repellent directly into your face or near eyes or mouth. Make sure to apply repellent outdoors. Do not allow children to handle repellents. Wash hands before eating, smoking or using the restroom.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends using a product registered with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) containing one of

the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535 and some of the products containing oil of lemon eucalyptus.

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.

For more information on Zika virus, please see the CDC website here <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>

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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TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Is It or Isn't It a Seed?

- Frances Idoux

My first bird feeding experience using nyger seed ended rather rapidly - when a hungry squirrel demolished the mesh feeder, ate as much as possible, and then scattered the tiny remnants on the ground. Now fortified with two metal feeders, I decided to try again. This time, the finches, as well as a variety of other birds, have flocked to the feeders. Nyger seed has served as a delicious magnet for small songbirds.



Nyger seed is known by many names. - nygir, niger, ramtil or ramtilla, inga seed, and blackseed - but it is not a seed. It is technically a fruit, called an achene, produced by a branched annual herb whose scientific name is *Guizotia abyssinica*. It is part of the aster family. People in India grind it into an edible spread, and in Ethiopia an infusion is made from nyger seeds, sugar, and water to treat colds.

Nyger seed is the only major bird feeding ingredient that has customarily been imported

to the United States. In 1982 the USDA adopted regulations requiring that these products must be sterilized to be imported, but in 2002 a variety called Early Bird was developed for commercial agricultural production in the United States. It takes 150,000 seeds to make a pound, and it is more expensive than other types, which may be the explanation for another common name, Black Gold. To the multitude of gold finches, however, it's just the answer to their favorite question, "What's for dinner?"



Plant Sale Stars

The Bell County Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale is coming up on April 2, 2016, from 8:00 am – 1:00 p.m. on the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension grounds at 1605 North Main Street in Belton. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions. Here are feature articles written by members of the Plant Sale Committee ...Gail Koontz

TEXAS NATIVES

- Sandra Lenehan

Many of these natives are extremely attractive and fully adapted to their environment. Most are drought tolerant and yet others can grow in waterlogged areas. They contribute to water conservation as they need far less water than conventional grass lawns. They do not need to be mowed or fertilized. State highway budgets do not have to include millions of dollars for mowing roadsides. Public parks and other city grounds can decrease funding for irrigation when native plants are utilized. Homeowners do not have to spend weekend hours mowing conventional grass lawns when native plant landscapes are in place. Synthetic, petroleum-based, high nitrogen fertilizers which can pollute the waterways are not needed with native plant landscaping.

Other advantages of Texas Native gardening include: contributing to local heritage, providing greater variety than introduced species, providing blooming plants up to nine months each year with attractive foliage year-round, providing variety of sizes, shapes, colors and textures in the landscapes and attracting birds and butterflies. Also, many native plants are deer resistant.

Gardening with Texas Natives has slowly gained popularity since the early 1970s. What are Texas Natives? They are adapted to their locales and thus as a group are hardier than exotic plants. A true native plant - tree, shrub, grass, wildflower, ground cover or vine - is one that is grown in a particular area without having been brought there by humans. It has never

had its genetics tampered with by humans and can survive without any help from us. These plants have learned to live with unique weather and soil conditions of their area. They have learned to grow in harmony with other plants native to the area and have become a reliable source of food or shelter for the indigenous wildlife.

Where can you find Texas native plants to grow in your garden? The Texas Department of Agriculture has a list of nurseries that carry Texas native plants on its website. The Texas Native Plant Society is a good source of information for homeowners. For the most adventurous gardener, you can "shop around" in cemeteries or along railroad tracks to find the prettiest flowers in bloom, mark the spot and then return in late summer or early fall to collect the seeds.

For homeowners in Bell County, the Plant Sale each spring and fall is a great place to purchase a wide variety of Texas Natives which will thrive in our Central Texas soil and climate. One Texas Native available in limited quantities will be Big Red Sage *Salvia pentstemon-*



oides. Thought to be extinct in the 1950s, it was rediscovered in the Texas Hill Country in the 1980s, where it is still quite rare. Pretty, and amenable to cultivation, it is a well behaved garden plant, has a pleasant citrus fragrance and is considered to be deer resistant. It self-seeds, but not prolifically, and can be propagated through cuttings. Big Red Sage is a hummingbird and butterfly magnet.

Photo by [Cliffe, Harry](#) from [The Wildflower Center](#).

Continued on next page...

Plant Sale Stars

VINES

- **Melinda Arriola**

There are many vines that grow well in Texas. Vines are a good choice for the home and garden for many reasons. They offer shelter, food and nectar for wildlife. They can be grown on a trellis or wrought iron fence to provide privacy. Vines can turn an unsightly view into a beautiful display and provide interesting backgrounds in your garden.

When grown on an arbor, trellis or pergola, vines can provide shade, an essential feature in Texas. Because they can be grown vertically, vines are an excellent choice for small gardens, and some varieties can be grown on walls as well.



Vines grow as both perennials and annuals. Perennial vining plants include, but are not limited to Cross Vine and Passion Flower Vines. Annual vining plants will include Marguerite and Black Heart sweet potato vines.

The perennial Cross Vine (particularly the Tangerine Beauty) is a fast growing, semi-evergreen which produces beautiful orange, trumpet shaped flowers. This vine is very attractive to hummingbirds, butterflies and bees and has a wonderful fragrance. It needs support

in which to twine its branches and looks great on a wrought iron fence or trellis. Once established, the Cross Vine needs only occasional watering. It is a late summer bloomer and should be grown in full sun to partial shade.

The Passion Flower Vine is a fast growing vine that attracts bees and butterflies. It has an alluring fragrance and comes in several colors. The Passion Flower Vine has an interesting history dating back as far as the late 1500s when Roman Catholic Priests first coined the name. This vine blooms off and on throughout the summer months. It produces beautiful, unusually shaped flowers which are then followed by an edible fruit. It is normally grown on a trellis for support in full to part sun and once established, has a low water requirement.

Marguerite and Black Heart sweet potato vines are annuals that can be grown in the ground as a mass of chartreuse (Marguerite) and/or black/purple heart shapes. They look great in hanging baskets or in container plantings as the “spiller” feature.

Vines provide wonderful fragrances and attract bees and birds, which help with pollination.

They are easy to propagate and some vines provide seeds to share. Vines offer a no or low maintenance feature when grown as a ground cover. Many ground covering vines grow in shade. They also help control soil erosion.

Whether grown for shade, ground cover, to mask an unsightly view or to help prevent soil erosion, vines are an excellent addition to the garden and essential to wildlife.

Photo by Cynthia W. Mueller, Galveston County Master Gardener.

Continued on next page...

Plant Sale Stars

SUCCULENTS

- Jane L. Van Praag

Watch out!!! You can easily get hooked on cacti--and other succulents--without touching any of those thorns, teeth, barbs or needles for which they are infamous. They catch you first with fascination over their range of unusual shapes and sizes, then keep you captivated by producing blossoms so exotically primal that the Garden of Eden readily comes to mind.

Most succulents are easy to grow, whether as house plants or outdoors, and many will be featured at the plant sale. The cold-hardy ones can be plunked in the ground with little further maintenance; tender types work well in hanging baskets or containers, which you can move around with the changing of seasons. Like all plants, succulents require their share of sunlight, a growing medium with proper drainage and water, though far less water than other ornamentals. That very factor makes them ideal xeriscaping choices for our area's long, hot, exceptionally dry summers.

Some sixty different plant families from around the world contain succulents and some genera appear to be related when in fact they are not. For instance, sotol (*Dasylirion wheeleri*, commonly called 'Desert Spoon') is a member of *Lilia*, the lily family; to the casual observer it can be mistaken for a yucca, which is an agave (a genus of perennial shrubs and trees be-



longing to the *Agavaceae* family that includes the century plant). Many

agaves also resemble many aloes (belonging, as do daylilies, to the grass-tree family, *Xanthorrhoeaceae*).

Most succulents are not armored, not even producing 'glochids'--those tiny spines that pierce into your skin like darts--for protection. Think of the eschiverias: swirls of harmless pink-tinged green rosettes that our grandmothers dubbed 'Hens and Chicks', members of the *Crassulaceae* (stone-crop) family, so named be-



cause some of its members look like pebbles. Another gentle resident is the many-specie sedum genus, renown for making good fast-growing ground covers. Typically, foliage is bluish-green but some fall in the red and yellow spectrums; a few, chartreuse. Depending on the species, their flowering can create an electric neon carpet of color. Collectors also prize *Sedum morganianum*--Burro's Tail or Donkey's Tail--for pots and hanging baskets; from a distance, their long braided-appearing growth habit is reminiscent of Rastafairan hairstyles.

Another ground cover option, which does well in hanging baskets or other containers, would be *Delosperma*, from the *Aizoaceae*/fig-marigold family, generally known as ice plants. They thrive when nestled in crevices of rock gardens.

Photos by Terrie Hahn and Susan Terry.

Continued on next page...

Plant Sale Stars

ANNUALS Versus PERENNIALS

- Gail Koontz

Perennial plants are the backbone of nearly every flower garden. Annuals are typically used for bold splashes of long-lasting color and ease of maintenance. They can be costly to replace year in and year out, but replacing each year allows for variety, as well as trying new plants and new colors.

Annuals are plants that complete their life cycle in one year and are typically replaced yearly. They pass through their entire life cycle—from seed germination to seed production—in one growing season and then die. The whole mission of an annual is to produce seed and propagate. That's why deadheading or removing spent flowers before the seed matures, produces more flowers and therefore more potential seed.

Perennials live for many years and typically produce flowers and seeds after reaching maturity. Perennials are classified as herbaceous if the top dies back to the ground each winter and new stems grow from the roots each spring. They are classified as woody if the top persists, as in shrubs and trees. Many perennials con-

tinue to grow throughout their lifetimes and need to be divided. Each type of plant has preferred methods and times to do this, so you should research before ripping any of your plants apart. Once you do find out, dividing or propagating is a great way to increase the amount of plants in your garden or to share with friends and neighbors.

Annuals include petunias, zinnias, impatiens, marigolds, snapdragons, pentas and larkspurs. We will feature many of these annuals, including Texas Superstars Globe Amaranth, Vinca Cora Series and Laura Bush Petunia.

Globe Amaranth is eye-catching in mass plantings and combination plantings with other annuals such as salvia and Mexican mint marigold. Vinca Cora Series (periwinkles) can be planted in beds, containers, hanging baskets and window boxes. The Laura Bush Petunia is an old fashioned re-seeding petunia, used in beds, window boxes, patio containers, and hanging baskets.

Perennials include hostas, ferns, lantana, columbine, esperanza, pride-of-barbados, verbena, salvia, plumbago, phlox and hibiscus. Texas Superstar features include Texas Gold Columbine (a striking garden accent or specimen), New Gold Lantana (great as an accent, in beds, bank cover or containers), and Turk's Cap Malvaviscus (a wonderful accent, in borders, butterfly and hummingbird gardens).

See you Saturday, April 2, at the Plant Sale! Roses, vegetables, herbs, and grasses will also be available.

Photos of Corn Flower, Snapdragon, Phlox and Pride of Barbados by Terrie Hahn.



New Class Notes

First Propagation Class

- Gail Christian and Sylva Maedgen



New Class Notes

Time to Prune the Roses

- Nestor Centeno

I'm not used to getting up and out early anymore.

Showed up at 8 a.m. today (Wednesday) to accumulate volunteer hours (required) by working with the Master Gardener landscape and grounds group for the first time. I didn't know exactly what I was going to do but I knew it would be outside. The TV said it was 48 degrees....not totally awful. Rushing around I grabbed my pruners, some other hand tools, and a spade shovel. I decided not to take a pair of gloves laying there next to the tools.

Upon arrival I find out that it is time to prune the rose bushes (may be different in your area.) Thorns came to mind but I told myself I'll be fine. They were to be cut back a 1/3 to 1/2 of it's volume plus some more detailed cleaning up of errant and dead branches to help shape the plant and encourage a better appearance. These bushes were at least 5 feet tall and different varieties.

So "vrrrrrooom!" Walter swings his gas powered hedge trimmer and prunes the bushes as required. All these branches and roses lay on the ground. Gathering them up I was saddened that these roses were just being discarded. Some of the roses weren't perfect but even these I wanted to save from the garbage.

I started to think don't we get pruned when our seasons change? People may fall away as dead branches are removed. I choose to believe the good friends you have return with each new season.

Toward the end of the allotted work time I worked a little with Carla who knew a lot about pruning...roses in particular. I was instructed in the proper way to make cuts and clean out the dead branches allowing the plant a healthier being for better growth. Carla suddenly asked me if I wanted a rose. I hesitated for a second but then said Yes! I would. Then we dug up this "baby" rose bush plant.

I'll find a good, sunny place for it in the yard. It will be a reminder to prune carefully and encourage the roses to come back each season.

Guess what? Later this day at the regular class a few door prizes were given out as is the custom. I won a pair of gardening gloves! I love it when you realize God was supervising you!



This and That

KMCCG News

- Randy Brown

Its all in the wrist! Bob Gordon, right, claims pouring wine prepares him for pouring miracle grow or was that vice versa? Planting potatoes at the Killeen Municipal Court Community Gardens. Last 10 lbs of a great carrot harvest, last of cabbage harvest and some of the 40 lbs of turnips harvested. Below, The KMCCG committee has their monthly meeting.



Demo Beds Get New Look

- Gail Christian

The borders on the Demo Beds at the Extension Center have a brand new look! MG's carried a lot of stone to create the new, more durable walls on the beds. Thanks go out to everyone involved and particularly to Don Wyatt and Wayne Schirner.



This and That

MG's Attend Spring Gardening Seminar

- Gail Christian

Vivian Rush, Jan George and I attended the Plants for all Seasons, Spring Gardening Seminar in New Braunfels Friday February 19th. It was presented by the Comal Master Gardeners. Over 200 people attended. Several door prizes were given away and our own Vivian Rush was a winner. The presentations were on The Marvelous Monocots, A to Z. This was their fifth seminar. We certainly enjoyed their hospitality and would definitely consider going next year.



February General Meeting

- Randy Brown

During the February General Meeting, Sandra Lenehan is newly badged for completing her hours. Gail Christian did a presentation on the Volunteer Management System. Peg Fleet provided refreshments for the meeting with Beverly Chenoweth assisting with setup.



This and That

Plant Sale Committee Working Hard

- Randy Brown



The Spring Plant Sale Committee met recently with 32 MG's and Interns in attendance. Committee Chair Kathy Love gave the committee 3 drafts of the flyer to be used for the Sale. The one here is the winner. Make sure you email it to friends and put it on your facebook page. It's on the BCMG Facebook page if you want to save it from there to your page.



**BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
SPRING PLANT SALE PRESENTS**



**SATURDAY
APRIL 2, 2016,
8:00 A.M.—1:00 P.M.
Bell County AgriLife Bldg.
1605 N. Main St., Belton
RAIN OR SHINE!**

Demonstrations:
Ask A Master Gardener
Water Catchment & More

Free compost sample
From Bell County
WCID Regional
Compost Facility

A supporting cast of
Vegetables Herbs
Perennials Grasses
Annuals & More

KIDS CAMP! VENDORS!
Concessions by 4-H Youth

Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Consumer Sciences, 4-H and Youth Development, Community Development
Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.
The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners. Crafts of Texas Cooperative.
A member of The Texas A&M University System and its statewide Agriculture Program

This and That

Kidding Around in Nolanville

- Gail Koontz

On Thursday, February 4th, six Master Gardeners participated in Science Night at Cavazos Elementary School in Nolanville and helped 60 children make nature masks during a come and go family event. And then on Thursday, February 25th, nine Master Gardeners spent the day with six different classes of 73 preschool and special needs children during their SMART KIDS Day. During lunch on the 25th, we were entertained by the school's percussion ensemble; what a treat! Thank you – Joan



Bumgarner, Cindy Cowan, Barbara Dalby, Mary Ann Everett, Gail Garner, Marjorie Gillmeister, Claudette Hawkins, Judy Hoelscher, Sylvia Maedgen, Elaine Passman

and Connie Rivera – for your love of children, your great attitude, and your wonderful team spirit.



Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister, Gail Koontz and Sylva Maedgen



This and That

Celebrating Catholic Schools Week

- Gail Koontz

Master Gardeners and Interns Mary Ann Everett, Judy Hoel-scher, Judy Hutka, Gail Koontz, and Sylvia Maedgen had fun with 195 students during the day at St. Mary's Catholic School in Temple



as they made grass heads and nature masks on Tuesday, February 2. Great day in a great school! Hope the pictures help tell our story. Also received thank you cards from the students!

Photos by Gail Koontz and Sylva Maedgen



Announcements

Grounds Workdays

- **Walter Ponder**

Here is the Workday schedule for February:

8:00 a.m. March 2, 2016 Grounds Planning

10:30 a.m. March 2, 2016 Chili, Cheese, Chocolate
Wednesday-contact Amazon Roberts- godlovesama-
zon@gmail.com

8:00 a.m. March 9, 2016 Workday

8:00 a.m. March 16, 2016 Workday

9:00 a.m. March 16 Grounds Committee Meeting

8:00 a.m. March 23, 2016 Workday

There will be no work days if it is raining or the temperature is 40 degrees or below.

Potting Party

- **Kathy Love**

Dear BCMG members:

The Spring Plant Sale Committee will hold our potting party next Wednesday, March 2nd, at 10:00 a.m. in the BCMG building. We are still accepting donated pots which can be any style, e.g. terra cotta, enamel, pottery, or eclectic tin, metal or galvanized. The only factor to consider is will it sell when loaded up with beautiful plants! Please feel free to bring your donation Wednesday.

Some of the plants we will be working with include echeverias, silver pony foot; dracaena spikes, sweet potato vines, blue curls, petunias, bachelor buttons, coleus and asparagus ferns.

Bring your creativity and join us to put together containers to offer for sale April 2nd.

March Meeting

- **Mary Ann Everett**

The Speaker for the March General Meeting will be Amazon Roberts on Rainwater Harvesting.

April 13: Two Days Before Tax Time-Our Plant Swap!

- **Jane Van Praag**

While our glorious weather invites you to putter in your garden, I also invite you to be thinking of what plants you might be willing or wanting to trade for others some six weeks from now. Perhaps you need to clear space for the items you've ordered from our BCMGA Spring Plant Sale on April 2, or you're finding one ground-cover variety has prospered to the point it's about to take over a particular bed, or maybe your succulents have produced more pups than you can handle, or possibly you're so pleased with something you've grown that you want to share for the sheer joy of sharing: whatever, dig these up, put in spare nursery pots and plan to exchange for items you want to try or want more of, during our Annual Spring Plant Swap.

We'll be using the outdoor tables north of the Education Building, starting at 9:30 the morning of Wednesday, April 13, ample time to make selections before the general meeting starts inside, plus you'll have time between when that meeting ends and the 2016 MG class starts in the meeting room. (In event of inclement weather, we'll use the back/west end inside the Education Building). Speaking of the new class, the first four interns to contact me (jlvnpaag@sbcglobal.net 254.527.4694) get to earn as much as four fun volunteer hours each by serving on my committee.

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

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

What's Happening in Your Yard

Bloomin'

- Frances Idoux

These roses are Peggy Martin on my arbor. They think that it is already spring!



First Wildflowers

- Diane Calderwood

Up already-spurred snapdragons.



Oh, My Garden!

- Jann Dworsky

My Christmas cactus bloomed most of December and now again in February! I have never had this happen before! I did give it a boost of miracle grow a few weeks ago. I pulled my 3rd and 4th batches of carrots recently. This



will easily be my personal best for amount of carrots, and taste.



Officers

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| President | Gary Slanga |
| First Vice President | Mary Ann Everett |
| Second Vice President | Bernie Hurta |
| Recording Secretary | Pat Johnson |
| Corresponding Secretary | Pat Allen |
| Treasurer | Don Wyatt |

Directors

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Youth Programs | Gail Koontz |
| New Class | Fran Sheppard |
| Landscape | Carla Harmon Walter Ponder |
| Plant Sale | Kathy Love |
| KMCCG | Edie Campbell |
| Outreach | Susan Terry |
| Awards | Bernie Hurta |
| Webmaster | Louann Hight |
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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.

A publication of the Bell County Master Gardener
Association sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension of
Texas A & M University

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