

The Blooming Bell

March 2017



Photo of one of her
Daffodils by Elaine
Passman.




**Bell
County
Master Gardener**

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Work Day 8 am* Burger Wednesday 10:30	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Work Day 8 am* General Meeting Larry Moehnke on KMCCG-10:30 am, Social time-10 am	9	10	11
12 Day Light Savings Begins	13	14	15 Work Day 8 am*	16	17 	18
19	20 Spring Has Sprung	21	22 Work Day 8 am* BOD Meeting 9 am	23	24 Dedication at McLane Children's Hospital	25
26	27	28	29 Work Day 8 am*	30	31	

Upcoming events: New Class Field Trip, April 19th; BCMGA hosting 100 1st graders on grounds on April 21; Fall Plant Sale, September 30.

* 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

The 2017 Home and Garden Show was another great success for the Bell County Master Gardener Association. Those people who don't want to wait another month for our Spring Plant Sale appreciated the vegetable and herb plant sale, making that a big success. I'd like to give a huge thank-you to everyone who came to help out at the booth. The classes were well attended and there were times when the area was over-flowing with people from the surrounding communities.

Kathy Love has re-energized the McLane Children's Hospital Garden committee and they have developed and presented a plan to the hospital to add new plants and to work towards providing year-round color. There will be a ceremony on March 24th to dedicate a bell and plaque for Frances Idoux. Her family will be in attendance and there will be a formal announcement coming soon to invite our membership to the ceremony. Be on the lookout for that announcement.

The committee to develop a plan for gardens at the Parrie Haynes Ranch has completed their work and presented the plan to the Friends of Parrie Haynes group. Numerous members assisted in the development of this plan, led by Jan George. It's a great plan and will be a welcome addition to support the Boys and Girls clubs in this area.

Work towards the Spring Plant sale on March 25th is well underway and there will be lots of opportunities between now and then for members to earn credit for more service hours. This year's Spring Plant Sale is focusing primarily on EarthKind and Texas Superstar plants. All of the heavy wooden tables have been removed, since they were starting to deteriorate, and we have purchased new tables to hold the plants that are in flats. We will evaluate how many more may be needed once they have been fully assembled, but this is a great start.

It's the time of year when the demonstration garden beds need to be cleaned up in preparation for planting. If you would like to take over one of these beds, Don Wyatt can reserve a bed for you. We only ask that you maintain the garden bed through the summer by keeping it weeded and harvested. We want these

beds to be a show place for the public. I plan to add some flowers to the bed I maintain this year to have some color.

The BCMGA Board of Directors voted at the February meeting to change the number of education and service hours required to maintain certification to be consistent with the requirements of the Texas Master Gardener Association. We have had higher requirements for many years, but the position of the TMGA is to be more inclusive and that it is better to have more members doing less service than it is to have fewer members doing more service. Lyle approved the new requirements, and starting with the 2017 year, maintaining certification only requires 6 hours of education and 12 hours of service. The service requirements for the new class remain the same at 50 hours, since we want them becoming involved and invested in the organization. The Board is confident that the lower requirement for service hours will not result in a drop in the overall total of service hours provided by the BCMGA. We have an exceptional association and all of us should want to work to keep it strong and fun.

There is so much more to share. Plan to attend the next general membership meeting on March 8th to become more involved in what we are doing. That's it for this month.

- Wayne



Hail Kale!

- David Hubbell, Intern BCMG Class 2017

I grew up in the late 40s and early 50s. Our “greens” were canned spinach, canned peas and iceberg lettuce. Even Kermit the Frog sang, “It’s not easy being green.” However “being green” is now a world movement. But the “green revolution” isn’t just about recycling and cleaning up the environment; it’s about our changing food palette. Recently while drinking coffee and reading the Temple Daily Telegram, I was reminded of this when I came across an article in their “Food” section entitled “Tuscan flavors of olives and beans make this salad a treat.” The “heart” of the salad was kale. I was then reminded of how much kale I have been eating the past many years.

Kale is shaped like a cabbage but is a much darker green. Like many crops, there are many varieties and many leaf shapes with the most common being the types with “curly” leaves. The Jan 2016 D Magazine discussed growing and eating kale in the metroplex (<http://www.dmagazine.com/home-garden/2016/01/how-to-grow-kale-in-dallas-and-eat-it-too/>). As you would expect Texas A&M Extension

Service has numerous articles on kale (and growing other greens). In Texas, the leafy green plant starts growing best in the cool weather of early spring. It can also be grown in the early fall. The seeds are planted about ¼ to ½ inch deep and thinned after about two weeks so plants are 8 – 12 inches apart.



Hail kale! It is a rich source of vitamin K, A, iron, calcium, and fiber. It is low in calories (1 cup = about 36 calories) with anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory elements. It can also help lower cholesterol. Kales can be served both hot and cold. Check out its many health benefits at <http://www.mindbodygreen.com/0-4408/Top-10-Health-Benefits-of-Eating-Kale.html>. You can find thirteen recipes at <http://www.health.com/health/gallery/0,,20675570,00.html> or at allrecipes.com website.

So, whether you grow it or buy it at your local food market, consider adding kale to your family’s diet. It is a great complement to many foods, adds color to your plate, and promotes good health.

Mother Earth News Fair Has Good Info

- Terrie Hahn

Werner and I attended the Mother Earth News Fair at the Expo Center recently. There was a wide variety of interesting seminars to choose from. I planned on going to one of Lisa Ziegler’s various seminars on cut flowers, but liked her so much that I attended all three of hers. She started out with only 3 acres planted with flowers to cut and sell (she lives in Virginia), and was cutting 10,000 stems a week from May to October. She has since downsized to 1 1/2 acres. She adds 2-4 inches of compost every year. She uses a biodegradable & compostable black mulch Film called Bio360 on her rows with leaves in between so she doesn’t have to contend with weeds. She uses T-tape for irrigation.

She stressed that she doesn’t use any pesticides,

even if they’re organic. She feels any pesticide, organic or otherwise, harm pollinators. She preaches the old philosophy of planting 20% of your veggie garden with flowers to attract pollinators to your beds to pollinate and to help get rid of those other nasty insects we don’t want. She puts wide netting over her flowers at a height of 24” to help the stems grow straight. The trick to having so many flowers is to keep cutting them to use twice a week. She fertilizes until the plants are 12” tall and then they’re on their own the rest of the season. Some of the best cut flowers that would grow here are Zinnia’s, Snapdragons, Larkspur, Sunflowers, Bells of Ireland, Bachelor Buttons, Nigella and Lemon and Cinnamon Basil for greenery. There’s a lot more good information on her techniques and of course, tools to buy, on her website, www.thegardenersworkshop.com.

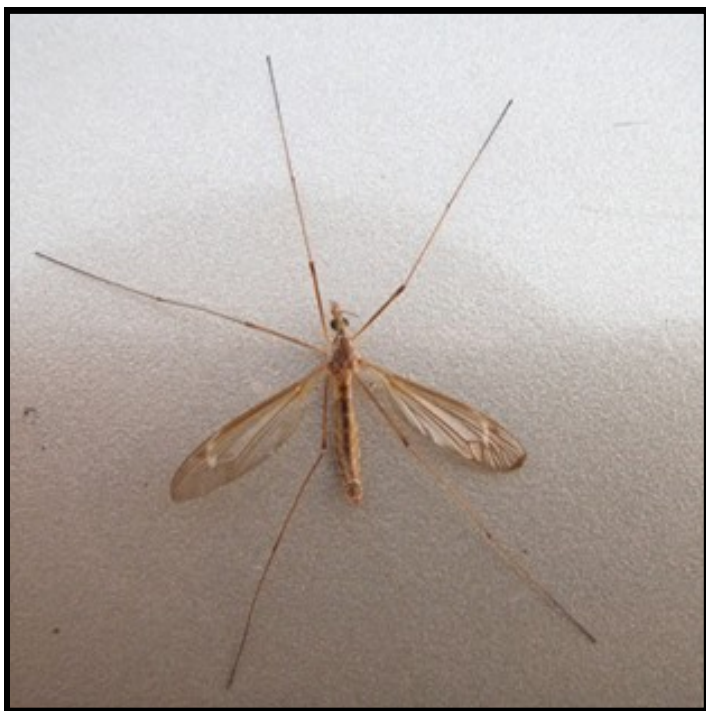
Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

Crane Flies

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife Extension Entomologist

Crane flies are a conundrum to most people and are often surrounded with misinformation. I find crane flies to be the insect I use to let me know that spring is coming soon.

Crane flies can be small to large insects- topping out



at about 1 inch- with long, slender legs and a V-shaped suture on the thorax. Legs tend to break off very easily, so you may often encounter these insects with less than their allotted amount of 6 legs (see image). Adults can be mistaken for giant mosquitoes and may frighten people.

Crane flies are often referred to as “mosquito hawks” which is a misnomer. The name mosquito hawk is usually used to refer to dragonflies, but sometimes is also used to refer to a large species of mosquito that has a larval stage which feeds on other mosquito species.

Some people think that crane flies eat mosquitoes, but this is untrue. Adult crane flies feed on nectar or are non-feeding.

Crane fly larvae are found in moist soil feeding on decaying organic matter. The larvae are wormlike and legless without well-developed heads. Some species of the larvae feed on roots of turfgrass or other plants. Crane fly larvae usually do not cause enough damage to be considered a pest, but with very high populations management may be needed.

In Texas, crane flies can become abundant in the spring. While the adults may be a nuisance when entering homes or disturbing outdoor activities, they do not cause damage and do not bite. Keep doors and windows closed and make sure screens are in good repair. Either turn off outside lights at night or use “bug bulbs” to reduce the number of crane flies that are drawn near the home because of light sources.

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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The Veggie Guy

Teetering on the Edge of Cool/Warm Seasons

- Wayne Schirner

March can be overwhelming with things to do in our gardens. The weather is warming and we want to get plants in the ground NOW. Onions are growing, potatoes are planted, it's almost too hot for the cool season crops, and we are itching to plant some warm season crops. A reminder about freezes in our area is in order. On average, our risk of frost is from **November 21 through March 11**. Almost certainly, however, we **will** receive frost from December 13 through February 18. We are almost guaranteed that we **will not** get frost from March 31 through October 31. So, the real question is "when do you plant tomatoes?" If you wait until ALL risk of frost is past, then you might not get a crop maturing before the summer heat kicks in. If you plant frost sensitive crops too early and then have even one night of < 32F, you may lose what you planted. If you plant later in the range, you should stick to varieties with a short number of days to maturation. Most of the tomatoes we have selected for the Spring Plant Sale have days to maturation of less than 75 days, so that should work. If you want some heirlooms in your garden with days to maturation of 80 days or more, you are almost forced to plant earlier. Just be prepared to protect those plants against a late freeze. Something as simple as a 5-gallon bucket turned over a plant may be all you need. There are more complex systems available, but whatever you do, be prepared. Hope is not a technique that you should count on.

Cool season crops are still going strong this month. Harvest them at the proper time for optimum quality. You might still be able to get in another crop of your favorite greens. Broadcast some seed in a small area and snip some plants to thin when they are only a few inches high. That way you'll enjoy some "micro-greens" even if your older plants bolt with warmer temps and longer days.

Warm season crops that can probably go in by the end of March include green beans, shelling beans,

and lima beans. If you have kept your garden mulched through the winter, pull the mulch back a few days before planting to allow the soil to warm up. After the plants are up and established, gently reposition the mulch to smother any small weeds starting to grow. If you haven't tried pole beans before, consider them this year. I place 2 "rows" of 4 seeds each down the middle of each square that I want them in my Square Foot Garden (8 seeds per square.) I then set up a trellis that will run between the "rows." Before planting, I do a "germination test." If I want to plant four squares of pole beans, I know I need 32 viable seeds to plant. I put 40 seeds between several layers of moist paper towels in a pie tin, and put all of that in a plastic bag. I check it every day, and when I see seeds sending small roots out, I know those are viable and I take the whole pie tin to the garden and plant only the seeds with roots. I've done this when the roots were several inches long, but it is best to do it earlier. By doing this, I know that the seeds I actually plant have a "100% germination rate." I try everything I can to eliminate wasted space in my garden.

That's enough for this month. Above all, have fun in your garden.

Spiritual Takes Via Vegetation

Waiting Out & Waking Up from Cold-spells

- Breanna Care

You are as bare as deciduous branches in winter. You feel naked and exposed. Face it - because you are and there is nothing you can do about it. It's only for a season. You {1}may be weighed with even more. Whatever your "ice" is, when you are already weak, frozen, and just about to break - please, {2}please fret not. Your leaves will bud again. You need(ed) to rest for a while. The weight {3}will drop and the life within you following dormancy will in fact stir again. Notice how you need to wait. As you do, continue to draw strength from the light. Make sure you have enough. Make use of what develops from within and is attracted to the light. It has purpose and must be shared. Recognize as you're waking what branches might be spent or are "suckers." These must go, as they will only drain energy needed rather, for areas of future, fruitful interest. As the years evolve, you {4}will grow. You will have learned to trust. You {5}will have learned that you can endure the whiles of doubtful winds and chilling nights. You will develop more limbs, and likewise, more leaves to draw strength with. As you weather the seasons, you will do well to remember that your source of strength has and will forever, remain the same.

{1} Acceptance:

Romans 8:18, Acts 1:7, Phillipians 2:12-13

{2}Patience:

Psalm 27:14, Psalm 46:10, Isaiah 30:15

{3}Need for light:

John 8:12

{4}Severing Unfruitfulness:

John 15:2

{5}God's Consistency:

James 1:17, Psalm 112:7

An added personal side note for those of us who have only just decided to remove the full grown "suckers" in our lives:

As I was pruning a tree at my grandpa's place, I ran into some full grown "suckers" and side branches. And while I had only my loppers in hand, the task seemed entirely too daunting. At that moment I could hear the Holy Spirit tell me, (in what seemed to be answer to a prayer just earlier), "You are going to need a larger, sharper tool, and great determination." I left to return with a saw in hand. I am happy to say this tree is no longer burdened with the weight it was bearing and I look forward as I witness new energy rise up and out vs. down and out.

Peace be with you,

Breanna Care

A Personal Experience With a New Vegetable

Chayote Squash

- Crystal Fisher

A month ago, I bought a package of fresh soup vegetables. However, I didn't recognize one. Having opened and read the label, Chayote, didn't mean much. Being intrigued - my search began to learn more about the Chayote Squash, *Sechium edule*, pronounced like coyote.

This little known perennial vegetable has been available at our local grocery stores. As a perennial cucurbit, it requires warmer soil, growing considerably farther south, being native to Mexico and Central America. Most of what we consume is imported from Costa Rica to Puerto Rico. But, there's a good chance that it will winter over in zone 8, if protected. It doesn't flower until late in its growing cycle, possibly at summer's end. After which time it needs a 30 day frost free period to achieve full vegetable production.

My hesitation on sharing this was because it needed some slightly acidic soil. However, it was brought to my attention that we have several MGs trying to grow blueberries. Taking that into consideration, this one wouldn't be that difficult as it grows best in loose soil that has plenty of organic matter as noted below by Steve Albert in "Harvest to Table." If nothing else, there is no reason why it can't be grown here as an annual. Our soil typically runs around 7.8.

"Site: Plant chayote in full sun; chayote will grow in partial shade but the yield will be reduced. Grow chayote in loose, well-drained but moisture-retentive soil rich in organic matter. Chayote prefers a soil pH of 6.0 to 6.8.

To lower the soil pH to 6.0 to 6.8 — the optimal pH for growing chayote, add aged compost and aged manure to the planting bed. You may want to dedicate a planting bed for this crop. Dig the compost and manure into the bed as deep as 24 inches if you can. Adding aged compost to the planting bed as a sheet mulch would involve less work, but would take more time. You can radically and quickly lower the soil pH by adding aluminum sulfate or sulfur to the soil (follow the direction on the package label), but this may also set back the plants." From: Harvest to Table.

My Chayote's sat on the window sill till it sprouted leaves. One of the few plants I've ever known that puts up leaves before roots.

Continued on next page...



This first squash taught me a lot. As it sat on the kitchen window sill, I learned to keep it directional stable.

Below, the roots are on top of where it will sprout. Blemishes don't matter since entire thing is planted. It is feeding the plant at the moment.



Below: The deteriorating one at the top shows the progression of growth. It's getting planted in a pot shortly. It needs to be developing roots pretty quickly.



Chayote Squash...continued

Once they start growing, plant the entire squash at a 45° angle in a large pot - 3 to 4 weeks after the last frost day in Spring. Not only have I now got 2 in pots that are growing, I've got 3 more in the kitchen window sill waiting to be planted now. This is a vegetable that many of our Hispanic neighbors would easily recognize. Likewise, I'll be sharing one or two with my next door neighbor. In mentioning this vegetable, he became very excited - following up on a relative making a trip to Mexico who could bring some back for us to grow. But, I didn't let that deter me from starting mine immediately.

As an annual, it is supposed to be harvestable up to Zone 7. If the roots are protected here in Zone 8, we might be able to overwinter them in place. Here, we should be able to harvest between 2 to 4 dozen fruits per plant. It takes 120 to 150 frost free days to reach harvest with plenty of rich soil. Prune to 4 main vines as indicated in one of the YouTube video links below.

1/2 cup serving:

- 11 calories
- 1 g of protein,
- 5 carbohydrates
- 2 g sugar with no cholesterol
- 3 mg of of sodium
- 17% MDR of Vitamin C
- High in fiber

Master Gardeners know, that it's all about the research and experimentation. If you consider growing this vegetable, I'd like to hear back from you as to your results - always nice to be able to compare production experience and share growing information as well. Till then, I'll see you on the updates... if I can only get an arbor built in time.

- Crystal Fisher, Class of '06

crystalfisher912@gmail.com

How to Grow Chayote - Harvest to Table

A Monster in the Garden/The giant Chayote squash - YouTube

How to grow Chayote from Fruit to Fruits (佛手瓜) - YouTube

THE PROPERTIES OF CHAYOTE - WRINKLES, HAIR LOSS - YouTube



Top: You can see the squash starting to deteriorate as the vine has absorbed all it's nutrients and has now started growing on it's own roots.

Already putting out tendrils. You can see the vegetable. Once it has been spent, the plant is on it's own roots. I'll keep it somewhat in shade in the beginning because I can see where it's trying to get going on it's own roots.

If I can get an arbor built, then these will be planted there. The soil needs a lot of composted manure to begin with, but the idea of having a perennial vegetable is exciting.

Start Planning For the Plant Swap!

- Jane L. Van Praag, Plant Swap Coordinator

Reminding every Bell County Master Gardener of our Spring Plant Swap Wednesday, April 12, 2017, before-and-after the morning General Meeting for everyone's convenience!

New class members: this is an annual event held as soon after our Spring Plant Sale as is feasible, usually in conjunction with our monthly general meeting to maximize attendance. (Another similar happening takes place following our Fall Plant Sale.) This is a delightful opportunity for socializing while sharing plants you already have growing in abundance, and, to acquire others you'd like to try growing. Please transplant items you'll be bringing into those little freebie disposable planters you get from nurseries, then--using, say, a Sharpie on a length of masking tape--mark them with the name of the specimen, your name, plus the letter R if the plant is already rooted and ready to go into the earth. You can be more elaborate if you want, of course, but this basic information helps the new owner know whom to ask if there are additional questions.

We'll be open as early as 7:30 a.m. for Plant Swap committee members Carol Morisset, Gena Winston, Rose Harris, Sylvia Maedgen and yours truly to help place the plants being brought to the north outside of our Education Building, upon the tables according to category (annuals, biennials, ferns, herbs, perennials, seeds, shade-lovers, shrubs, succulents, trees, veggies, and vines), giving every one ample time to browse and choose before refreshments are set out. Should any plants be left by then, we'll resume the swap after the meeting until all are gone.

Any questions or commentary now, please feel free to contact me at jlvanpraag@sbcglobal.net

Editor's Note: Plant Swaps are great fun! Here are a few plants we got at previous swaps including Summer Phlox, Compact Crepe Myrtle, Loquat tree, Jade plant and another succulent.



This and That

Killeen Municipal Court Community Gardens

- Randy Brown



This and That

Youth Fair

- Photos by
Randy Brown



This and That

Texas Heirlooms and Superstars

- Gail Christian

Jan George, Kathy Patterson, Vivian Rush and I attended the Comal Master Gardeners seminar on Texas Heirlooms and Superstars. We are with one of the speakers, Calvin Finch. He is a retired Texas A&M horticulturist and



director of special projects with the San Antonio Water System. We had a great time and Jan George won the table decoration on our table!



Meetings, Meetings!

- Randy Brown

Plant Committee Meeting and BOD meeting.



This and That

Home and Garden Show Kidz Zone

- Marjorie Gillmeister and Pam Dragoo



"Wolfgang's Garden" shared and educated the community on how to Eggshell Garden. 146 Children painted their own eggshell pods and sowed a seed of their choice to take home and nurture. We are overjoyed by the result of smiling faces and future gardeners of our community. Thank you for the amazing opportunity to share with others "Eggshell Gardening" at The Master Gardener Booth. ~Marjorie & Wolfgang Gillmeister.



Above: One of the participants at Kidz Zone modeling her lovely hat with her mother. Top right: Marjorie and Joann Zieschang working.
-Pam Dragoo



This and That

February General Meeting

- Randy Brown





Why Hire an Arborist?

An arborist is a specialist in the care of individual trees

- Knowledgeable about tree needs
- Trained and equipped for proper care and safety

Services:

- removing dead, diseased, insect-infected or weak limbs
- removing limbs damaged by adverse weather conditions
- assess whether a tree should be removed
- provide guidance on splitting or leaning trees.




At the February General meeting, some belated 2016 awards were given out. Gina Winston received the New Master Gardener of the Year Award, Honorable Mention; Ray Machovsky received his 100 + Volunteer Hours Certificate and Susan Terry received her 5 year pin. Gary Slanga gave a talk on Tree Care.



Selecting the Right Arborist

- Check for ISA arborist certification
- Check for proof of insurance
- Check for necessary permits and licences
- Get more than one estimate
- Don't always accept the lowest bid
- Be wary of individuals that go door to door
- Get it in writing



Web Sites

- <http://agrillife.org/treecarekit/downloads/>
- <http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu>
- <http://www.isa-arbor.com/>
- <http://tcia.org/> (Tree Care Industry Assoc.)
- <http://www.asca-consultants.org/> (Am. Soc. Of Consulting Aroborists)
- <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator>

Owner's Rights & Responsibilities

Whose tree?

Yours-

- If you or a previous owner planted it
- It's entirely within your property line

Boundary trees-

- Neighbor has right to trim trees to property line
- Not allowed to unduly harm tree
- Neighbor doesn't have right to natural light, air or view

Trespass law- others are not allowed to harm our trees

- Can be liable for double or triple value of tree

Easement holder has the right to remove obstructions that threaten use of easement

Utilities- landowner's property interest is usually subservient to utility's right to trim or remove trees

Owner must prevent injury or damage to a neighbor's property

- Not responsible for Acts of God



Intern News

Propagation Class

Photos by Gail Christian



Announcements

Grounds Workdays

- Johnny Jones and Tom Rennels

Here is the Workday schedule for March:

March 1, 2017 8:00 a.m. Workday

March 1, 2017 10:30 a.m. Burger Wednesday

March 8, 2017 8:00 a.m. Workday

March 15, 2017 8:00 a.m. Workday

March 22, 2017 8:00 a.m. Workday

March 29, 2017 8:00 a.m. Workday

In the event of rain or 40 degree temperature or below, there will be No Workday.

March General Meeting

- Mary Ann Everett

The **March 8th** General meeting's speaker will be Larry Moehnke doing a presentation on the Killeen Municipal Court Community Gardens followed by a short talk on the VMS Volunteer Hour Recording System. Meeting at 10:30 a.m. Social Time is 10:00 a.m.

JMG Specialist Training

- Jayla Fry

Save-the-date information is at the link below to you volunteers for the upcoming JMG Specialist training. Registration information will be forthcoming soon.

<http://dcmga.com/events/2017-junior-master-gardener-specialist-training/>

Writing for The Blooming Bell

- Terrie Hahn

At the recent Board of Directors meeting, there was a discussion on what type of hours you receive for writing for the Blooming Bell. I understand that you can now get Education Hours OR Service Hours for educational stories that you research and write. It used to be just Service Hours. News stories on what's going on with BCMGA would still be Service Hours.

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

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

What's Happening in Your Yard

Early Spring Flowers

- Elaine Passman

(Check out Elaine's other photo on the front cover of this issue.)



In My Garden

- Jann Dworsky

This is the beautiful Archduke Charles Rose given to me by Lawrence Cox of Harker Heights in 2010. He gave me about 25 starts and taught me how to propagate them, 19 lived and I passed them out to Master Gardeners, keeping one. He was 80 at the time and taught us all a lot about gardening. He sold this Rose for years from his Greenhouse, and they are probably still growing all over Killeen and Harker Heights. I'm also growing onions, turnips and carrots.



What's Happening in Your Yard



- Marjorie
Gillmeister

Right Clockwise:
Freckles Romaine still thriving after a few frosts;
Spinach Bloomsdale still blooming;
Swiss Chard, Carrots, and Bok Choy seedlings emerging;
Ladybugs searching for love and finding a mate on a Spinach Bloomsdale plant.



Above: Brussels Sprouts (LI Improved) started from seed in an eggshell pod.

Gently crack the bottom of an eggshell pod to expose roots and transplant

whole egg after six weeks of growth to continue to nurture the roots and nourish the soil by slowly releasing calcium and other nutrients as they biodegrade

and add fish fertilizer. You can see the result after three months of growth and bountiful stalks still being harvested.



What's Happening in Your Yard

- Terrie Hahn

Spring is here along with the Waxwings and Robins trying to strip this Mockingbird's Yaupon tree of its berries. The Mockingbird managed to fight them off without losing too many from this tree. The Waxwings and Robins managed to strip three other trees of their berries! Below are some other signs of spring: Grape Hyacinth, Snowflakes *Leucojum aestivum*, Anemones, Rocket Snapdragons and White Heritage Rose.



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*Please submit articles of less than 500 words 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.

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