

The Blooming Bell

May 2016



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**Bell County
Master Gardener
Association**



Photo by Daisy Klassy
of Plant Sale.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 May Day	2	3	4 Work Day 8 am* Hamburger Wednesday 10:30 am	5 Cinco De Mayo	6	7
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11 Work Day 8 am* General Meeting <u>10:00</u> Gil Eckrich on Hummingbirds Social Time at <u>9:30 am</u> in Education Building Graduation 1 pm	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Work Day 8 am*	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Work Day 8 am* BOD Meeting 9 am	26	27	28
29		31				

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

Remember to record volunteer/education hours.

Photo by Randy Brown of his Anacacho Orchid and Melinda Woods Arriola 's photos of her Chinese Wisteria, Bird of Paradise and Apple Blossom from her Apple Tree.

The President's Corner

Well, the education building has been painted. The County maintenance department painted the walls as part of their routine maintenance so it did not cost us anything.

Charles Newsom got the utility companies to mark the area where the new greenhouse will be located. Good news; we will not have to change the location, just need to be cautious of where we dig the footing.

We did some final coordination with Lyle at our last Board meeting and we will soon be finalizing our plan for installing a grass/turf demonstration beds at the front of the Ag. building. We will have several varieties of the more popular grasses on display for the public. We will also be getting a new sign for the EarthKind garden.

I want to thank all the master gardeners who helped with the Earth Day events in Salado and Ft. Hood, and to everyone who participated in the Healthy Cooking School event at the Expo. It's events like these that get all you volunteers the public recognition you deserve.

Thanks again to all who volunteered.

-Gary

Coming Next Month

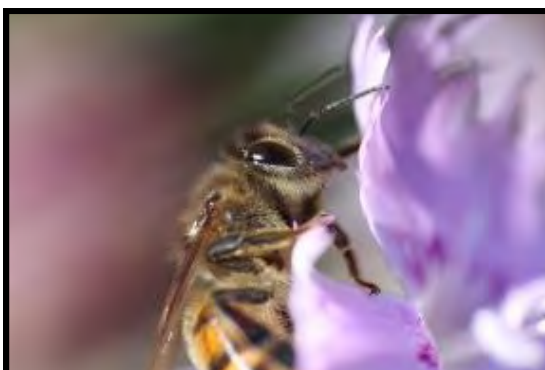
The Intern Field Trip

More on the Bend O' the River Botanic Garden

Graduation

Texas Super Stars

Photo by Randy Brown



See page 5 for tips on taking nature photos from Daisy Klassy.



.Photos by Daisy Klassy

BEND O' THE RIVER BOTANIC GARDEN

- By Janice Gibbs, Temple Telegram

Working within a four-month window, representatives from the Houston office of SWA Group, a landscape, architecture, planning and urban design firm, expects to unveil a master plan for a botanical garden at Bend O' the River, Temple property on the Leon River.

April 19th, Kinder Baumgardner, principal project manager; Michael Robinson, project manager; and Amna Ansari, project designer, all of SWA; and Patrick Johnson from Nova Environmental Remediation, were in Temple to take the first step in beginning the process of developing the plan for the 88 acres.

Bend O' the River property was given to the city in 2011 by the Talasek family. The idea of turning the property into a botanical garden gained traction early on and Temple Botanical Gardens Inc. was formed soon after the donation.

With SWA Group now part of the process the project is expected to take shape quickly.

SWA Group designed the Buffalo Bayou Park in Houston, one of the newest parks in Downtown Houston. The park is completely under water today and it's designed to go under water," he said. "That's the kind of stuff we do," Baumgardner said. "We like doing projects that have a problem to be solved and has complicated factors. It's easy to come into some place and make things pretty. We do landscapes, parks and open spaces that do something."

Each participant at the meeting was given a small device used to poll the individuals' opinions about aspects of the project.

"We're trying to understand broad themes," Baumgardner said. "We're going to be asking pointed and specific questions." The questions asked the participants if they wanted the park to focus on native or floral plantings, collections or agrarian. Did they want a classical garden or something funky. A discussion was held on the types of activities people wanted to see at the site — athletic, outdoor concerts, restaurants, kayaking or play space for children.



Photo by Michael Miller/ Temple Telegram

"The goal is get out

of you guys some understanding of what you want this place to be and if you would actually use it," he said.

SWA also provided samples of other public gardens, some smaller and some larger, with varying ranges in operations costs. Some gardens are privately funded, others are supported with municipal funds, or are supported using public and private money.

Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center in Orange is on 252 acres, is private and has a \$3.8 million operating budget, which was the highest among the examples. Zilker Botanical Gardens is on 26 acres and is private and publically funded. Fort Worth Botanical Garden has 109 acres.

Bend o' the River has some challenges, it's across the river from Rockwool Industries, a Super Fund site in Belton. Over the years, contaminates from the plant drifted over to Bend o' the River property. Testing indicates 19 acres exceed the acceptable threshold for the contaminates, arsenic and antimony.

The choices of dealing with the contaminated soil could include excavating and removing all of the contaminated soil, which is expensive up front, said Robinson. The contamination can be localized on the site, but it would need to be continuously monitored. Phytoremediation would use plants to clean up the soil, but it's a much longer process, Robinson said. The May 26 meeting, location to be announced, will begin the conceptual build phase and will include items that no one will build but might spark ideas, said Baumgardner. The public is invited.

Photography Tips

- Daisy Klassy

Focus:

One of the most important details in photography is the focus. An alright photo that is in focus can be made better through adjusting the lighting and/or cropping. (See *photos 1 and 2.*) However, a photo that is not in focus doesn't have much hope of being made better. (See *photo 3.*)



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

Photo 4

Photo 5

Lighting:

When taking a photo, keep in mind the lighting. If it is a sunny day outside, and you are taking a photo of a light colored flower, specifically yellows or whites, it is easy for the photo to end up washed out. (See *photo 4.*) Avoiding that is easily done. Simply shade the flower with something or stand where your shadow falls on the flower. (See *photo 5.*)

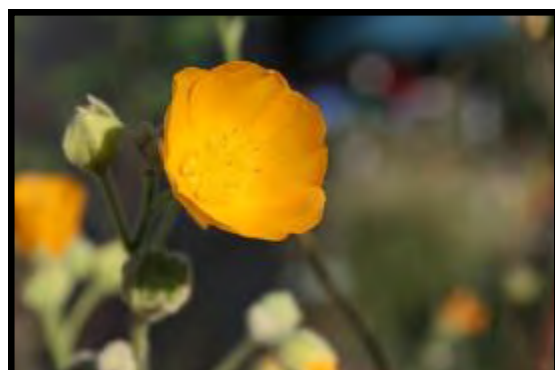
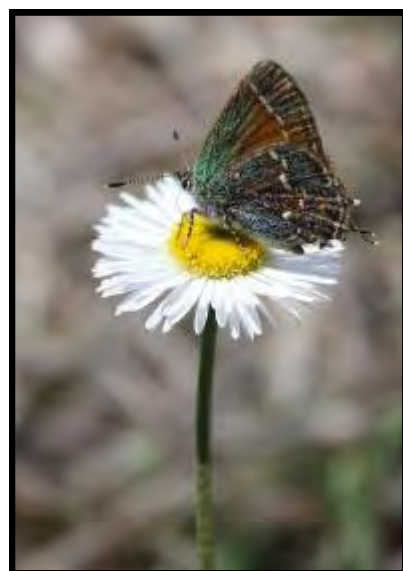


Photo 6

Photo 7

Cropping:

It is amazing how much of a difference the cropping of a photo makes. Cropping is simple to do, and can have a huge impact. For example, *photo 6* is alright how it is, but the same photo cropped (see *photo 7*) looks much better.



Photos by Daisy Klassy

Growing Onions at the Ranch

- Marjorie Gillmeister

In our organic vegetable garden in Troy at the Gillmeister Ranch, Wolfgang Gillmeister, 3 yrs old, trims the edible green tops of the onion row to promote larger onion bulb growth. The easy method below is what we follow and have been successful with producing larger, flavorful onions. Enjoy!

Onions don't compete very well with other plants because they have a really shallow root system, so organic seaweed products like MegaSea will help by promoting strong root development. If you use a fish emulsion product such as MegaFish and a compost tea or soil amendment as a side dressing, such as MegaVeggie, the onions will also have all the phosphorus, nitrogen and other trace minerals necessary for really sweet onions.

If you want larger bulbs, here's some other tips. Grow the onions until the stalks are about 9" tall, then trim the green stalks in half (so about 4-5" remains of the stalk). Then, let them grow again until they are about 12" tall, then cut in half again to 6". Do this 3 times, which will force more energy into the roots and will promote larger bulbs.



Then after 3 times, wait until the onions mature. When you see 4" of dead brown at top of the stalks, cut water off to the onions at this point and wait a month before harvesting. This will promote a better storage capability for the onions and better sweetness. At this point, knock over the stalks with rake in one direction 90 degrees down to the ground, leaving the bulbs still in the ground. Then after a week, pull the bulbs and lay them on that side, and let them dry for at least 2 days. Then flip them over the other direction and dry the other sides. By letting them cure at least 3 days in the sun, it will make them less acidic and it will turn enzymes into sweetness so they won't affect sensitive tummies.

Then, after this, don't remove the dirt on the onions themselves because this will fool the onions that they are still in the ground and they won't start to break down. This will give you 6 more weeks of storage. You can simply braid them if you like and hang them in a

cool spot. Onions that generally only last about a month can last up to 3 months this way!

Source: <https://organicgardeningnewsandinfo.wordpress.com/2010/01/01/tips-for-growing-onions-with-large-bulbs/>

Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

Grasshoppers

Start Early in the Season for Better Control

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife Extension Entomologist

Grasshoppers can be a common sight in most yards each year. They tend to feed on various plants and in some years can occur in large numbers and lead to severe damage. It's best to start looking into managing grasshoppers now while they are still small and do not have fully developed wings.

Grasshoppers lay their eggs in the soil in groups of 20-100 eggs. Eggs can be laid in ditches, fence-rows and weedy areas. Eggs begin to hatch in April- May,



or sooner weather permitting, and continue hatching throughout June. Immature grasshoppers, or nymphs, resemble adults but do not have fully developed wings. It usually takes about 1-2 months for a grasshopper to reach adulthood.

Grasshoppers have natural enemies and many may die from fungus, protozoa, nematodes and predators such as beetles, robber flies, birds and small mammals.

The protozoan, *Nosema locustae*, is sometimes incorporated into a bran-based bait for grasshoppers. The baits may kill some nymphs, but have little effect on adult populations. With baiting, there is reduced egg-laying in adults, but the bait will not be helpful in areas that need immediate grasshopper control or there is high pressure of grasshoppers moving in from adjacent areas.

Plowing or turning areas before planting can help to unearth grasshopper eggs and reduce hatch rate. Controlling weeds in and around the property can help reduce food sources as well as egg laying sites.

Prized plants can be covered with row cover. Make sure the cover is firmly attached to the ground and it's on before any pests are on the plant. Pesticides may also be used for grasshopper control. The benefit of managing grasshoppers early in the season is that immature grasshoppers are easier to kill with pesticides because they are smaller in size and they don't have wings to escape the treatment area.

Refer to the following publication for a list of non-preferred food plants:

<http://citybugs.tamu.edu/factsheets/landscape/lawns/ent-1005/>

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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AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Successful Container Gardening

- Joyce Richardson

IF, I were a plant being planted by a HUMAN.....I would have three critical questions to ask. These three questions would determine my success in living: 1) WHAT type of soil do my roots prefer? 2) HOW much moisture makes me happy (most plants do not like "wet" feet)? 3) WHY is the amount of sunshine I receive important?

A new career in gardening can be best initiated by using containers (make sure there are drainage holes in the bottom). Plants truly do not know if they are in the ground or in a container as long as the three questions above have been met. Containers come in all shapes and sizes from hanging pots to 300 gallon stock tanks; wading pools, frog ponds, etc.) The mature size of the plant will determine the container size. If you happen to obtain a TALL container – you can place a layer of 1) rocks, 2) pea gravel, 3) sand, and 4) the amount of soil needed for the plant to survive. In other words... it is not necessary to fill the container with soil - using the "layering" method will allow the container to drain if it should become waterlogged during heavy rains.

The major advantage of growing in a container is it allows me to be moved from one location to another until I show you how happy I am. Most flowers, herbs, bulbs, roses and some vegetables can be

raised in containers. Plants will do well using the following guidelines:

PARTIAL SHADE – Chives, Coleus, Germander, Kiss Rose, Lettuce, Marigold, Mexican Heather, Pansy, and Phlox

FULL SHADE – Begonia, Dianthus, Elephant Ear (bulb), Garlic, Hosta, Impatient, Lettuce, Mint, Oxalis, Oxblood Lily (bulb), Pansy, Paper White (bulb), Pot-hos Ivy, Spider Lily (bulb – also known as School-house Lily), and Spider plant.

MORNING SUN – Aloe Vera, Aster, Bay Leaf, Calendula, Chives, Christmas Cactus, Gardenia, Geranium, Kalanchoe, Mexican Oregano, Mint, Mums, Plumbago, Snapdragon, Strawberries, Swiss Chard, Wandering Jew, and Verbena.

AFTERNOON SUN – Alyssum, Begonia, Dianthus, Kiss Rose, Lemon Balm, Rosemary, Salvia Greggii, Skullcap, Snapdragon, and Viola (Johnny Jump-up).

FULL SUN – Artemisia, Basil, Calendula, Chives, Columbine, Dianthus, Dill, Fennel, Garlic, Leek, Marigold, Onion, Oregano (Blue, Italian, and Greek), Parsley, Pepper, Salvia Greggii, Santolina, Tomato, Zephirine Drouhin (thornless climbing rose) and Zinnia.

Q & A

- Jann Dworsky

Does anyone know the name of this Wildflower that grows in full sun or shade and is a perennial?



2016 SPRING PLANT SALE

- Kathy Love

April showers on April 1st brought Plant Sale customers on April 2nd!

After a rainy day of plant deliveries on Friday, and some nervous moments about



keeping our Precious Plants Protected, the sun broke through Saturday and as the day progressed, temperatures warmed and no doubt helped to heat up customer enthusiasm for the sale.

Sixty-one BCMG members worked the sale including 16 2016 in-

terns plus Gordon Harris who worked the sale on behalf of his 2016 intern wife, Rose Harris! Gordon did us a great job in the loading zone so we thank Rose for sending him in her place while she was out of town.



We had 557 customers come through the sale and they bought us out of all of our succulents and herbs as well as most of our perennials, grasses and Texas Super-Stars®. We had approximately 27 flats of vegetables left over, probably due to our early growing season—folks had simply already planted their vegetables. However, a friend of mine who runs a wholesale/retail plant

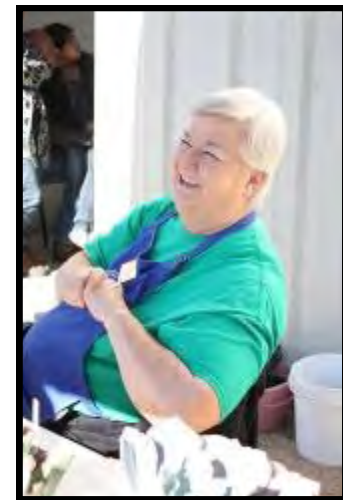
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Spring Plant Sale...continued



stand in Grand Prairie bought 19 of the flats at wholesale price and the remaining 8 flats were ultimately purchased primarily by our members, so no money was lost on the sale. I can report that the plants sold in Grand Prairie have been flying off of the shelves, partly because the growing season in North Texas is two weeks or more behind ours, but also because they are such good looking plants (according to my friend Melody).



Total funds raised for the association as a result of the Plant Sale are \$8,467.00. This would not have been possible without the hard work of too many people to name. However, I do want to recognize the nursery liaisons who took on the duties of identifying, ordering and taking delivery of our plants for the sale. Jane Van Praag and Jan George handled these many duties for our principle order from Wright's Nursery. Wayne Schirner and Debbie Brumleve worked our vegetable and herb orders from Gabriel Valley Farms. 2016 intern Jodie Folsom jumped right in and covered every aspect of the rose order from Chamblee's Nursery, including two trips to Tyler—one

to check out availability and again with her classmate Donna Warthan to pick up and deliver the roses.



Jan George did triple duty, handling Joss Growers, Native Texas and Far South nurseries. Thanks too to David Carpenter who joined her to work on the Native Texas order, including the duty of picking up and delivering our order from that nursery. Ann Eubanks made the trip to Hill Country Natives to look at availability, but we did not order from that nursery for



Continued on next page...

Spring Plant Sale...continued



the spring sale—maybe we will use Hill Country for the fall.

I am delighted to report that these individuals as well as a few more, have agreed to stick with me this fall and will work with our nurseries again, thus making my job a whole lot easier.

We had a lot of fun with our raffle prize, a 20" terra cotta pot planted primarily with succulents. The pot was of course donated and was

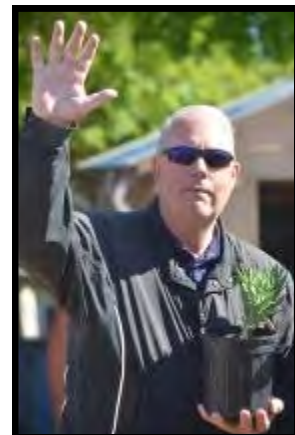
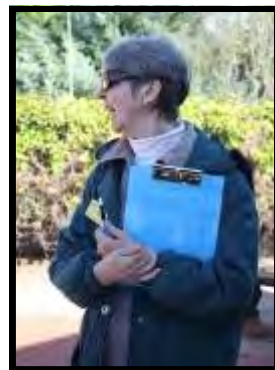
potted with \$25.00 worth of plants. The hard work of Ilene Miller and Jane Van Praag brought us \$200.00 in raffle ticket purchases. And I think they had fun with it too!

I got the definite impression that our plant sale working members had a lot of fun as well. My impression comes from hearing it from so many members, but also from the photos within this article. Thanks to Johnny Jones for his photos, and thanks too to Daisy Klassy who was everywhere taking dozens of photos as well. And Randy Brown who was there for some time at the start. Surely this has to have been one of the most photographed sales ever!

These are just a few names worthy of mention for all of their efforts on everything leading up to and during the sale. My

thanks go out to everyone, named and unnamed for everything that made the 2016 Spring Plant Sale such a success. Now it's time to start thinking 2016 Fall Plant Sale which will be held September 17th. So while you are out growing your gardens this spring and summer, start planning your fall purchases. Be on the lookout for our Fall pre-sale grow order coming your way soon. Let's have some more fun!

Photos by Daisy Klassy and Johnny Jones



Learning Pecan Grafting

- Marjorie Gillmeister

I attended the Pecan Grafting Class recently. The types of Pecan Grafts demonstrated were:

Left- four-flap pecan graft (banana method)

Middle- Texas Inlay Bark Graft

Right- Inlay Bark Graft with staples

Close up of Four-Flap Pecan Graft (banana method).



Left- Leonard Gillmeister (Gillmeister Ranch Est. 1972) specializes in Pecan production, French Limousin Cattle, Hay, & Organic Vegetable Farming)

Middle- Doug Trainer (speaker Pecan Grafting and Cattle Rancher)

Right- Marjorie Gillmeister (MG Intern 2016 Organic Non-Gmo Vegetable Farmer at The Gillmeister Ranch)



Doug Trainer demonstrating "Texas Inlay Bark Graft"

RH Slicker demonstrating Four-Flap Grafting of Pecans.

Plant Swap Wrap-up

- Jane Van Praag

Even though it had rained the night before and was still drizzling on April 13, Don Wyatt assured me we should hold the event outside on the potting tables north of our Education Building; so glad I bowed to his better judgment because, with 45 members bringing in so many items, we would never have had room inside for everything.

Most all participants went away with selections they genuinely wanted and for that feat, special thanks are due to the interns comprising our Plant Swap Committee--Carol Morisset, Gena Winston, Jan Upchurch, Rose Harris, and Sylvia Maedgen--who arranged plants according to whether they were annuals, biennials, grasses, herbs, perennials, roses, seeds, shade plants, succulents, trees/vines/shrubs, and vegetables...then, to stave off a possible stampede, when it was time to commence, they helped maintain the first-come/first-served method, which allowed people, in the order they'd registered, to choose plants up to equal the number they'd brought; then once everybody had a turn, we made it a free-for-all.

However, we've learned from long-time MGs that the annual plant swaps are regarded as much more social in nature than our committee of newbies--I just became certified last year--envisioned, so, acting upon their suggestions, we're going to lighten up on 'first-come/first served' for the Fall Plant Swap. We'll continue with registration in order to have a record of participants, but instead of accounting for the number of plants brought, we want everyone to mix and mingle among each others' offerings, using that time to learn more about unfamiliar plants and just plain have fun while visiting with one another. Then once we proclaim the official start time, each of you will be free to take what you please. This way, should you happen to miss out on any plants you wanted, you can ask those persons if they can dig up or propagate another. We want you to be eager for your next swap!

There was very little left, mostly a dozen or so small potted agaves plus a zillion starts of spider/airplane plants and purple heart (*Tradescantia pallida*, the spider wort species native to the Mexican Gulf Coast, also commonly known as Wandering Jew). Gena suggested we make hanging baskets from the leftovers for the Fall Plant Sale and while I was loading up my car with them, Plant Sale Committee Chair Kathy Love stopped by and was pleased with the idea because we will have another garage sale component as was done last year, and the hanging baskets we'll



make from what we MGs have grown will fall in that category. So I've got them growing here at home and when the time comes, we'll put in another as yet unspecified item or two for added appeal.

Seeds left were small zip bags of cone flower, dwarf palmetto, garlic chives, hyacinth bean vine, moon flower, pumpkin, and watermelon...the variety of the latter two unstated, and while there are several plants bearing the common name 'moon flower' I'm not sure just what kind these are; could be datura or something else. Let me know if you'd like any of these.

For myself, there's special delight in knowing whose propagated plants I'm now growing as my own. As I tend to them, it's a comfort to know whom to ask should I have questions, but in any event it's a joy to think of these persons whose initial loving care has increased my own personal bounty.

Photo by Randy Brown

Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

- James Cowan, Photos by Cynthia Cowan

A nice day trip to Dallas by Master Gardeners should include a few hours at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens (DABG). Located on Garland Road east of White Rock Lake. The gardens offer 500,000 spring blooming bulbs and 150 interactive science exhibits. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$12 for Seniors. Parking is available for \$15.

Mission

The mission of the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is to build and maintain a public venue that promotes the art, enjoyment and knowledge of horticulture, while providing opportunities for education and research. We are committed to excellence, good management and fiscal responsibility.

History

- In 1977, the City of Dallas Park Board recommended that the grounds of the DeGolyer Estate, which the city purchased from Southern Methodist University, be the official location of the botanical garden. The city encouraged the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society (DABS) to raise funds for the initial costs.
- By 1980, DABS had raised over one million dollars and purchased the 22-acre Alex Camp House, which is adjacent to the DeGolyer Estate.
- In 1982, the City of Dallas and DABS signed a contract creating an arboretum and botanical garden on the combined 66 acres of the DeGolyer and Camp properties. The gardens opened to the public for the first time in 1984.

More than 978,000 visitors from all 50 states, as well as 70 countries, came through the gates in 2014. The Arboretum has been listed among the top arboretums in the world. The Dallas Arboretum offers the public an array of popular annual events, educational programs for children and adults, and an emphasis on family-oriented activities. Ground-breaking horticultural research conducted in the Trial Gardens continues to contribute to an important body of knowledge, both regionally and nationally. The Arboretum has a 75 member Board of Directors, 120 full-time paid staff members, 50+ part-time paid staff members, and more than 273 active volunteers.

The DABG calendar can be found at <http://www.dallasarboretum.org/visit/calendar%00PNG>



This and That

Herbal Forum Fun

- Pam Dragoo

Here are some photos from the 2016 Herbal Forum. This year the herb of the year was the Chili Pepper. Next year the herb of the year will be coriander/cilantro. Anyone interested in going to the event next year, March 17th and 18th can contact Kim Pringle.



Lost and Found

- Mary Ann Everett

This basket was found 3 months ago in the classroom. Does anyone know whose this is? Contact me at everett.maryann4@gmail.com.



This and That

Ask A Master Gardener

- Gail Koontz

Robert Thorburn recently called the Extension Office with a question/concern about his oak tree. I received the question and called him to find out what was going on with his tree. As we talked, I discovered he lives in my neighborhood and I walk past his house often on my morning walks. So I just got myself ready to walk to his house to finish our conversation. Mr. Thorburn is a retired Temple police officer. He has macular degeneration so cannot focus well on details. He no longer drives. He and his wife have lived in their home well over 30 years. And he loves this oak tree. Over the years he has cared for it well, and it shows. The tree was two years old when they bought the house and now is estimated to be 38 years old. This is one of the reasons I love being a Master Gardener: meeting new people, making new friends, learning more through research and asking questions of more experienced Master Gardeners and then attempting to help people with their questions and concerns. I will check in with Mr. Thorburn again as I walk. Perhaps he will allow me to pull a few more weeds.



Whistle Stop

- Gail Koontz



Kathy Patterson coordinates work days at the Whistle Stop playground in downtown Temple every fifth Wednesday morning. In March, Bernie Hurta, Gail Koontz, Ray Machovsky, Walter Ponder, Wayne Shirner, Jan Watkins, Gena Wilson and Don Wyatt worked with Kathy to clean up the grounds at Whistle Stop and look for any noticeable damage that might need to be reported to the City. Our next scheduled workday will be Wednesday, June 29, beginning at 7:30 am. And we enjoy eating breakfast together after our work is finished.



This and That

KMCCG News

- Randy Brown

Potatoes, a new shed and lots of bloom at the Gardens!

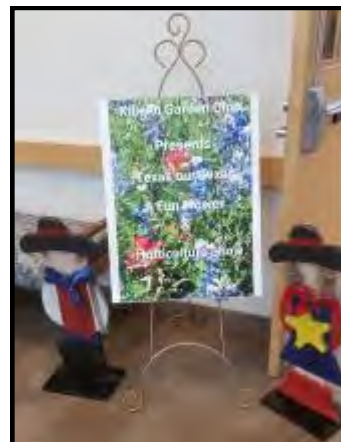


Photos by Randy Brown.

Killeen Garden Club Fun

- Elaine Passman

Master Gardeners take part in Killeen Garden Club Fun Flower and Horticulture Show at Lions Club Senior Center in Killeen on April 14.



Photos by Elaine Passman



This and That

Earth Day at Natural Grocers

- Kathy Love

The April 22nd Earth Day Celebration at Natural Grocers offered six Master Gardeners a chance to meet shoppers and hand out gardening information on behalf of BCMG. Kathy Love headed up the effort with support from Wayne Schirner and 2016 interns Ann Wagner, Johnny Jones, Andrea Frame and Shellie Downing.

A total of 15 shoppers stopped by our table with questions on everything from problems with white flies to recommendations for trees to plant in place of trees currently being lost to oak wilt.

Everyone who stopped by was given a SAVE THE DATE flyer for the Fall 2016 Plant Sale and a business card with contact information including the association's website. One application was taken for the 2017 intern class from Eddie Pitts. Eddie was waiting for us when we arrived since Natural Grocers had advertised we would be at their event. We feel pretty confident we will all be getting to know Eddie next year! Eight individuals gave us their email addresses so we can contact them for the Fall Plant Sale. At least half of these individuals were also interested in the upcoming 2017 class and indicated they will check into doing so on the website.

This was certainly a fun event and we thank Natural Grocers for their invitation and the opportunity to be a part of their event.



Left to right, Ann Wagner, Shellie Downing, Andrea Frame, Kathy Love. Photo by Johnny Jones.

Home and Garden Show

- Louann Hight

Master Gardeners working the Home and Garden Show back in February.



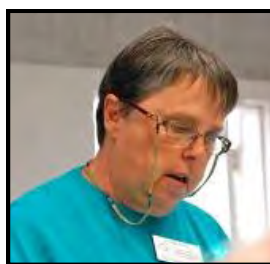
This and That

April Meeting

April's General Meeting included Kathy Love's report on the huge success of the Plant Sale and Diane Calderwood's speaking about the proposed Bend O' The River Botanic Garden and meeting that would take place in April. The next public meeting that all MG's are encouraged to attend will be Thursday, May 26th. Location and time to be announced.



The speaker for the meeting was Wayne Schirner talking Square Foot Gardening and his experience with it and with his 6 inch deep and 12 inch deep raised beds.



Playing in the Flowers!

- Marjorie Gillmeister

I wanted to share this photo of my son, Wolfgang Gillmeister. He was featured in the Temple Telegram enjoying the Bluebonnets his late Nanna planted to preserve the wildlife landscape on his grandfather's old farm land on Gillmeister Lane in Temple. I submitted the photo and they published it as the People of Central Texas.



This and That

Tasty Recipes

- Cynthia Cowan, Class of 2016

Many “blooming folks” asked for these two recipes after they were served as snacks for the 2016 Master Gardeners Class. The Fancy Franks recipe is an old favorite. Gayle Gunter, a life long family friend shared it with me in 1972. I serve it often at large parties because it is so good, cheap, easy, quick, and everyone loves this simple dish! It is terrific served with a ladle for small buffets. For larger buffets, I usually place toothpicks beside the serving dish for smaller more hors d'oeuvre size servings.

Charlotte Jones, another life long friend and one of my best “partners in crime” introduced me to Congo Bars in 2013. Life has not been the same since!

Fancy Franks

2 - 7 ounce packages cocktail frankfurters

1 – 13 ½ ounce can pineapple chunks, drained

½ cup bottled chili sauce

½ cup grape jelly*

1 ½ tablespoons lemon juice

1½ teaspoons mustard

Combine all in skillet or crock-pot. Simmer 15 minutes. Serve hot. Serve in a chafing dish or crock-pot to keep warm.

*The original recipe calls for currant jelly.

Congo Bars

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

1 2/3 sticks butter, melted in glass mixing bowl

2 cups light brown sugar, added and mixed

2 eggs, added and mixed

2 cups self rising flour, added and mixed well

1 – 12 ounce package Nestlé's Chocolate chips, add only ¾ package (1 ½ cups)

Spray a 9 x 13 pan with Pam. Spread dough and pat down with rubber spatula. Sprinkle remaining ½ cup chocolate chips on top. Bake at 325 degrees for 25 minutes. **Do not** over bake. Cool completely, then cut with a sharp knife into small (fudge size) squares.

Announcements

Grounds Workdays

- Walter Ponder

Here is the Workday schedule for May:

8:00 a.m. May 4, 2016 Workday

10:30 a.m. May 4, 2016 Hamburger Wednesday

8:00 a.m. May 11, 2016 Workday

8:00 a.m. May 18, 2016 Workday

9:00 a.m. May 25, 2016 Workday

There will be no work days if it is raining.

May Meeting

- Mary Ann Everett

The May 11th General meeting speaker will be Gil Eckrich, Hummingbirds in Central Texas. Remember, the meeting starts 1/2 hour early.

May 11th Monthly Meeting Early Start

- Bernie Hurta

Due to graduation and the May monthly meeting being on the same day and in the same place, we are starting the social time and meeting thirty minutes earlier. Social time will be at 9:30 and the meeting will start at 10 am.

Graduation

- Bernie Hurta

The 2016 New Class Graduation will be Wednesday, May 11th at 1 pm in our learning center building. Please RSVP to Bernie Hurta at bhurta@gmail.com before May 4th. After the graduation, we will have an ice cream social and we need to know how much food we need.

*IF you gave me your name at the April monthly meeting or in class, you do not need to RSVP again, unless your plans have changed. .



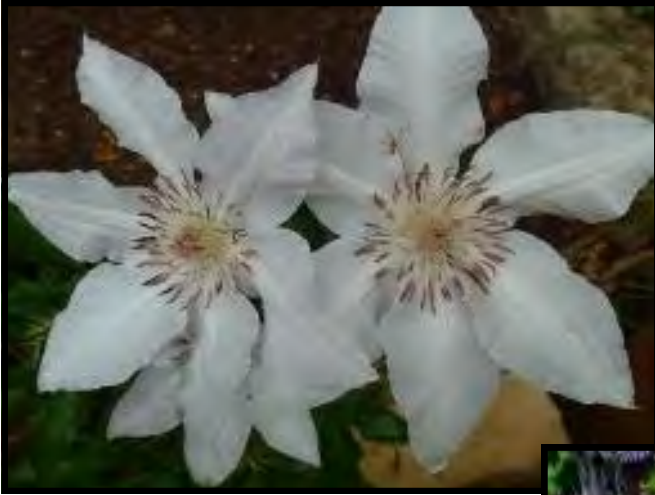
Melinda Woods Arriola's Columbine and Randy Brown's Anacacho Orchid.



What's Happening in Your Yard

- Beautiful Spring

- Mary Lew Quesinberry



Blooming now are two Clematis, Rose
Campion, Jerusalem Sage, Damianita
and Kerria Japonica.



What's Happening in Your Yard

Rain System Up and Running!

- Gail Pierce

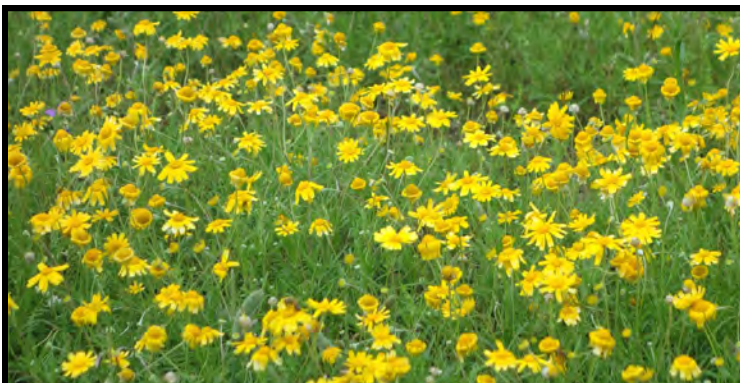
Rain barrel system completed. Barrels supplied by my B-I-L and my husband Ben built the system, which was recently completed. So far two barrels are full. Great way to conserve water. Beginning of April, Blue Mist Greggii, Poppies and Fire-cracker plant. First broccoli almost ready to pick.



Something to Look at Everywhere

- Terrie Hahn

Wildflowers covering the front yard and under a tree in the back, Oak Leaf Hydrangea/Borage/Cast Iron Plant.



What's Happening in Your Yard

Cozy!

- Cynthia Linzy

Caught these turtle doves courting near our kitchen feeder. Spring has sprung despite the gray day.



Blooming!

- Melinda Woods Arriola

Bird of Paradise, Poppies, Larkspur, Amaryllis, Wysteria and Red Hot Pokers all blooming.



What's Happening in Your Yard

Blooms Are Everywhere!

- Laura Murphy

One of my cacti is in furious bloom... First time all pups have bloomed at the same time!! And below: Pink Indian paint brush, I 35 North/south exit 380/379...wild flowers are giving us a show this Spring. More wildflowers....

Seminole canyon has many flowers and blooming cactus this Spring.



Surprise!

- Frances Idoux

One of the joys of gardening is the element of surprise - the pleasure when something unexpected just appears in your garden. However much I enjoy these pleasant surprises, I never expected one of my backyard cedar trees to have blooms. During one of the pauses in our spring rains, I noticed that there were blooms on my Peggy Martin roses on the arbor - and there were blooms on the tree above the arbor. Since there had never been blooms there before, I took a closer look. The explanation was simple. One shoot from the roses had decided to climb the tree. More rain this spring brought even further growth and an abundance of blooms, we'll see if the climber can handle a Texas summer.

Joyce Richardson also has an ambitious climbing rose in her yard. She rooted a cutting of Old Blush from Deana Rankin's yard. Her climber is now also up a tree!



What's Happening in Your Yard

- Spring has Sprung!

- Jann Dworsky

This is my Rainbow Sorbet rose bush in full bloom, bought in 2007 at Walmart from Weak's Nursery. I counted 50 blooms plus a dozen buds. Middle is my Katy Road and it is the best bloom it has ever had. It was bought at the Rose Emporium in 2011. And a photo of Blackfoot Daisy, tall blue Larkspur, and The Fairy Rose-----I love spring!!!



Poppies Everywhere!

- Randy Brown

California Poppies and Iris and Poppies.



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