

The Blooming Bell

November 2014



**Bell County
Master Gardener
Association**



Fall color in one of the
gardens at the KMCCG
recently.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Day Light Saving Time Ends	3	4	5 Work Day 8 am Hamburger Wednesday 10:30 am	6	7	8
9	10	11 Veterans Day	12 General Meeting w/Social Time at 10:00 am. Randy Brown gives a presenta- tion on KMCCG	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Work Day 8 am Orientation for New Class	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 <u>NO</u> BOD Meet- ing this month. Next one Dec. 10	27 <i>Turkey Day !</i>	28	29
30						

Upcoming Dates: Christmas Party December 4th

Home and Garden Show Feb. 20-22, 2015

Remember to record volunteer/education hours. ²

Photo by Randy Brown

The President's Corner

November already. Sure feels more like September but that just makes it better for getting the fall gardens in shape and the fall vegetables into the ground.

I want to extend a great big thanks to Jean Flores and her committee on the work they did for the Temple Housing Authority. They put together a great plan for the installation of a community garden. I hope to be able to show the diagrams of their work and to recognize that group at the next general membership meeting.

We have a few registration forms for the 2015 conference rolling in. These came by mail and that helps us out by saving us a few pennies in on-line registration fees. Also received a little sponsorship support from local businesses. I hope that trend keeps up. Again a real thanks is due to all the conference committees. There has been a lot of hard work put into this event and I know that it will all pay off in the end.

We are going to do a plant give-away at the upcoming Water Symposium that will be held at the Central Texas Council of Governments building (the old Wal-Mart) on the 18th of Nov. from 8:30 to 3:30. All those interested in the condition of our area water and water programs are encouraged to attend. It is free. They only ask that you RSVP at 254-933-0120 by Nov 14th. They provide a lunch and need to know how many will attend. They also serve some awesome cookies at the breaks.

We are gearing up for the Home and Garden show. Any one who would like to present a gardening topic as a seminar please let me know so we can fit you into the schedule. This is a big event and we are lucky to be invited to participate each year. More information on this event will be presented at our future meetings.

The Board of Directors has approved a contribution to the Texas A&M Gardens and Greenway project. This is a big undertaking for A&M and is headed up by Doug Welch, our former Master Gardener Coordinator from the College.

As you can see, we have a lot of irons in the fire and in order to keep up with all that is going on, I highly recommend that you attend the monthly meetings to

get all this information and also to attend the Board of Directors meetings as often as you can.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

- Gary



Rue with
Swallow
Tail Cater-
pillars. Bot-
tom photo
is one
week later.

Photo by
Terrie Hahn

Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

Leaf Beetles

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife
Extension Entomologist

Leaf beetles are a common group of beetles that attack a variety of landscape and garden plants. They come in a range of colors and sizes, but are usually oval in shape. These beetles eat foliage in the adult and larval stage.

To manage leaf beetles, you can try active ingredients such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *tenebrionis*, spinosad, azadirachtin, pyrethrins, pyrethroids, carbaryl, imidacloprid or acephate. Make sure to read the label to make sure it can be used on the type of plant you are treating; some of the active ingredients may not be able to be used on food crops.



Damage may or may not be problematic in the landscape and the level of damage is based upon size of the population and characteristics of the plant the beetles are feeding upon. If it is a smaller plant or a recently planted item, there may be more stress caused to the plant by feeding which may lead to problems or even death. With large, healthy plants (i.e trees), heavy populations of beetles defoliating the tree year after year can lead to stress. Usually damage is aesthetic on landscape plantings, but can cause issues if the beetles are feeding on food crops where they are in direct competition with us for the food item.

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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KMCCG Autumn Work

- Randy Brown



The end of the squash and okra season. The garden cleans up nice. Two plus truck-loads of remains. Vivian Rush, a 2014 graduate, and Mary Beth Bradburn, with final squash harvest. 2535.5 lbs. of produce so far this year. Tomatoes and peppers still remain. And look at how beautiful all the other beds look filled with blooms and butterflies!



Killeen Garden Club Visits KMCCG

- Randy Brown

Members of the Killeen Garden Club Toured the KMCCG October 9th from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. Director Edie Campbell gave the history and overview of Garden. Other Master Gardeners told some of their stories regarding the garden. Ladies then toured garden area and several even assisted Master Gardeners with harvesting okra and squash. Great questions. One comment to me...I've lived here since 1971 and had no idea this was here. Garden is only in 7th season but it is a beautiful area, improving all the time, and well worth a visit!



A Crafty October General Meeting

- Randy Brown

Sarah Mykraine, an Activity Specialist at the Harker Heights Activity Center/Library showed the crowd of MG's how to make seeded paper curing the October meeting.



Plant Sale Setup...

- Randy Brown



...and Sales



BCMGA Wins State Awards!

- Bernie Hurta

At this year's Texas Master Gardener Conference, the Bell County Master Gardeners Association, which is in the **Large Association Category**, won several big awards.

We won:

1st Place - Individual Master Gardener, Carla Harmon, nomination written by Mary Lew Quesinberry; **1st Place -Youth/County Master Gardener JMG Program**, nomination written on the St. Mary's Horticulture Class, by Mary Ann Everett; **2nd Place - Project**, nomination written on Killeen Municipal Gardens by Beverly Wickersham & Edie Campbell; **3rd Place - Outstanding Master Gardener Association**, nomination written by Mary Ann Everett.



Photos by Randy Brown

Q & A

Last Month's Question

- Terrie Hahn

A friend asked me a question that I didn't know how to answer because I struggle with the same problem. We want to know how to get rid of those little trees coming up in the flower beds under the Live Oak Trees. Are they from the acorns or are these growing up from the roots of the trees. These are raised beds. I know you shouldn't have raised beds under the trees, but it's too late now. One of the beds is a raised bed 15 feet away from the trunk of a Live Oak and 6 feet away from its drip line with dozens of these little trees coming up. That bed has weed cloth and mulch. I've pulled them and cut them out. But they keep on coming.

And the Answer Is:

- Joyce Richardson

Usually they come up from the roots of the trees and all you can really do is cut them off below the surface of the soil. But they'll eventually come back.

And, Dr. Jerry Parsons of PlantAnswers.com says: "First an explanation about how these sprouts come about is required. One of the basic, and most successful, methods of mother nature's propagation of the live oak are these root sprouts. In their native environment single live oak trees are seldom found. Rather they are congregated in groups of trees called copses. Perhaps a squirrel planted the original acorn from which this copse emerged and the ensuing tree sent up many oak sprouts. Of that many some succumbed to the browsing of domestic and wild animals such as cattle and deer which find them very tasty, and some didn't make it for other reasons. Those that survived became the copse, all connected to a common root system.

We just have to learn to live with them. How you do this is a personal preference. Some plant Asian Jasmine in the same area because of its similar leaf ap-



pearance and periodically cut off the oak sprouts as they grow taller than the ground cover. Some thin out the canopy of the trees, allowing more sunlight to filter down to the ground enabling St. Augustine or Zoysia grass to grow. Then the offending oak sprouts growing in the grass are frequently mowed off. I have also seen them used as a ground cover just by keeping them mowed. "

Editor's Note: Trisha Shirey of Central Texas Gardener suggests using "Lawn Jaws" which are basically pliers with back slanted teeth that are supposed to grab the sprout and be easier to pull out. They're \$12.99 on Amazon. She also recommends Pullerberrers which you can get online from a Canadian company. These are quite pricey. You are supposed to be able to easily pull up trees up to 3" in diameter. I've never tried either of these products and am not endorsing them, but they sound interesting. I think I'll try the Lawn Jaws for my problem area.

I guess this is a good reason to have deer-they do seem to keep the sprouts chopped down!

Mushrooms Galore in East Texas

- Crystal Fisher

My friend from East Texas, George Vick took these photos of a variety of mushrooms near his home.



Lion's Tail

- Terrie Hahn

I heard that Master Gardener, Mary Lew Quesinberry, grew Lion's Tail, and considering how great her garden always looks, I decided to try it.

Lion's Tail, *Leonotis leonurus*, is in the Lamiaceae or mint family. It's native to South Africa, which explains its drought tolerance. They are well adapted to Central Texas heat, but should handle freezing temps to 20 degrees, although Mary Lew lost one of hers to the cold.

This evergreen perennial grows 3 to 4 feet tall and wide and puts on a beautiful show late summer and especially the fall. The multi tiered, fuzzy, bright orange whorls of flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds, and they are reputed to be deer resistant.



Plant Lion's Tail in well draining soil in full sun. I planted mine in the spring and watered it enough to get it going, but not much after that and it grew like crazy. Mary Lew's is in an area that receives little to no irrigation. Prune back a little after blooming to create a more compact plant. Mary Lew cuts hers back to the ground after it freezes.

Announcements

Preregistration for Conference

We have extended the registration period for those that qualified for Volunteer pre-registration. If you have not registered, please do so as soon as possible. - **Jan George, Registration Chairperson**

November General Meeting

Randy Brown will be speaking at the November 12th General Meeting on the Killeen Municipal Court Community Gardens.

Grounds Committee Hours

Here is the Landscape/Grounds schedule for November:

08:00 am, November 5, 2014 - Workday

10:30 am, November 5, 2014 - Burger Wednesday

08:00 am, November 19, 2014 - Workday

- **Walter Ponder**

New Class

- **Peg Fleet**

Remember, the new class starts January 7th and will take place on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Orientation will be on November 19th. The schedule has been shortened, so interns will be required to complete 58 classroom hours and their homework assignments, as well as 50 service hours in order to be certified as MG's. Tell your friends!

Texas Pollinator PowWow

Saturday, November 15, 2014

Mansfield ISD Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 W Debbie Lane, Mansfield, Texas 76063.

For registration: <http://txpollinatorpowwow.weebly.com/>

Topics include:

Overview of Native Bees of Texas— Michael Wariner, Nongame and Rare Species Program Leader, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Bumble Bees in Urban Places - Jessica Beckham, Ph.D. Candidate, University of North Texas

Activist Notes from The Urban Beekeepers/North Texas - Susan & Brandon Pollard, Bee Whisperers, Texas Honeybee Guild

Eat The Yard - The Pollinator's Importance to the Urban Farmer - Steve Smith & James Jeffers, Eat The Yard Organics (a veteran-owned enterprise)

Pollinators and Natives: An Ancient Marriage - Randy Johnson, Dallas Zoo Horticulture Manager, Randy Johnson Organics

Birds as Pollinators - Mark Klym, Wildlife Biologist and Author, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Chiroptera: The Environmental Cornerstone - Kate Rugroden, Director of Bat World Mid-Cities, Wildlife Rehabilitator and Author

Conservation Practices to Protect Bees on Your Property - Anne Stine, Pollinator Conservation Specialist, Xerces Society

Farm Bill Programs & Plantings for Pollinators - Ricky Linex, Wildlife Biologist and Author, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Wildlife Management Tax Valuations: the new property tax exemption - Brett Johnson, Urban Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

CHECK OUT BCMGA FACEBOOK PAGE! GO TO

<https://www.facebook.com/BCMGA?ref=hl>

What's Happening in Your Yard

- Mary Lew Quesinberry



We decorated an old railroad wagon that we bought at an antiques shop in Belton. Giant Swallowtail visiting Bougainvillias. This Eastern Tiger Swallowtail was visiting our Mexican Orchid Tree.



What's Happening in Your Yard

- Beverly Hillyard



With a little help from David Veliz, I am redesigning my flower garden. Still a work in progress but I think it looks nice.



What's Happening in Your Yard

Early Days as a Gardener

- Sue Judd

My dad, my sister and I planting fall pansies at our home in New Jersey.



Milkweeds in Use!

- Charles Newsom



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