

The Blooming Bell

November 2015



**Bell County
Master Gardener
Association**



Above: This year I found these perfectly fall colored Gerber Daises! They look soooo good in my blue pots complemented by purple highlighted and yellow violas in this strawberry pot.

- Kathy Love

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends	2	3 	4 Work Day 8 am* Hamburger Wednesday Propagation Committee meeting 10:15 am	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 VETERANS DAY  <u>NO</u> Work Day General meeting - 10:30 am - Patricia Shirey talks about garden tools. Social time 10 am	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Work Day 8 am*	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Work Day 8 am* <u>NO</u> BOD Meeting (to be held Dec. 2)	26 	27	28
29	30		BOD meeting 12/2	Christmas Party 12/3		

Upcoming Events: BCMG Christmas party December 3. BOD meeting December 2.

Annual BCMG dues are due now.

Photo of Arkansas Rt 62 by Randy Brown.

* in the event of rain, there will be No Workdays.

Remember to record volunteer/education hours.

The President's Corner

October was a quiet month. Other than a dramatic rain event we did not have much else going on. In this issue you will find a list of the candidates for the upcoming Board of Directors. We will be voting on the slate of nominees at the November 11th general meeting. Nominating and voting for your governing board is one of the duties of each and every master gardener. At the meeting you will still have time to add nominations to the slate. Please attend this meeting and participate in the election process.

In addition, we will also vote on a small change to the by-laws of our organization. Recently we have had several requests from past (not currently active) master gardeners who want to re-join, and from out of state master gardeners who move to this area and want to keep up their affiliation with master gardeners. The board has established a committee to set a standard policy for these individuals so that all circumstances surrounding their return are considered. The change to the by-laws now will include a statement that returning or transferring members will be asked to comply with this newly established policy to be reinstated.

The November and December Board of Directors meeting has been combined to meet December 2nd.

Don't forget we have several conferences coming up that will be sponsored by our AgriLife office and they will require master gardener volunteers. There will be sign-up sheets at the meeting for those of you who wish to volunteer for any of these events.

Thanks for all your volunteering and hard work.

Gary

Save the Date:

*Don't miss BCMG's
Christmas Party!*

December 3, 6 p.m.

Expo Center

\$15.00 tickets

by November 11

Go to PAGE 13 for more Information.



Pollinator Symposium



- Jane L. Van Praag

I was able to attend the all-day Pollinator Symposium hosted by Walker County MGA in Huntsville this past October 16 and their following day's 6th Annual Butterfly Festival and Fall Plant Sale at their impressive and extensive grounds behind the TXAgriLife Extension offices at 102 Tam Road, culminating in a breathtaking noon tag-and-release of Monarch Butterflies from their own Butterfly House.

Walker County Master Gardeners receive considerable support from the LEAF-PRO (Landscape Environmental Awareness Facility Production Reduction Outreach) Project; funding is provided by The Houston-Galveston Area Council, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. It is an educational outreach effort designed to demonstrate and promote educated, ecologically-responsible, decision making through home landscape practices.



Adjacent to the Butterfly House is a commercial-sized greenhouse which the MGs definitely put to use. They have an enormous tank for rain-water collection that supplies a number of potting shed sinks, the men's and women's restrooms, and a waterfall feature amidst the demonstration gardens. Trex is used for many of the walkways and decking that stretches from their largest of ample store rooms. In addition to their individual experimental raised beds, there are several devoted to their Junior MG program and recycling endeavors.

The symposium itself was held at the conference center portion of the Veterans Memorial Museum across town, a short distance east of IH-45. Plenty of space for booths selling garden-related merchandise as well as displays of silent-auction pieces and raffle items. (My \$1 ticket won me a gorgeous giant hand-painted garden globe, ocean-blue background covered with a variety of flowers, hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees, plus a golden hive upon which in black lettering bids, "Welcome to my Garden"! What's extra neat is, the incredibly-talented artist Bonney Kennedy, with whom I'd previously corresponded about this event! She too was pleased, telling me that since I'd been the first to register with them, it seemed especially fitting for me to win it.)

First presenter was Henry Flowers--so appropriate a surname!--who is Garden Director at the Round Top Festival Hill Institute and already familiar to BCMGs regularly attending the annual Herb Forum there, which he coordinates. His Power Point presentation illustrated the list he distributed of herbs for pollinators, primarily from the Mint (Lamiaceae) and Carrot (Apiaceae) families.

Among the mints: basil (primarily *Ocimum basilicum*), bee balm (*Monarda* spp.), lavender (*Lavandula* spp.), lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*), marjoram (*Origanum majorana*), oregano (*Origanum* spp.--*O. x majoricum* recommended), spearmint (*Menthe spicata*), pepper

Continued on next page...

Pollinator Symposium...continued

mint (*Mentha piperita*), doublemint (*Mentha x gracilis*), rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), sage (*Salvia officinalis*), and thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*).

Among the carrots: coriander/cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*), dill (*Anethum graveolens*), curly parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*), and flat-leaf Italian parsley (*P. crispum* var. *neapolitanum*).

A few other herbs that are great for pollinators include Mexican mint marigold/also known as 'Texas Tarragon' (*Tagetes lucida*), onion chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*), garlic chives (*A. tuberosum*), passion vine (*Passiflora caerulea* and others), borage (*Borago officinalis*), calendula (*Calendula officinalis*), yarrow (*Achillea* spp.), butterfly weed (*Asclepias* spp.), evening primrose (*Oenothera* spp.), and tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*)...the latter two are night-blooming plants with tubular flowers and thus are pollinated by moths. Moths also like yucca blossoms.

Roses (*Rosa* spp.) are also great attractants for bees but beetles love them too.



Many of the above are evergreen perennials but even a careful selection from those which are not can keep pollinators in your garden year-round.

Henry pointed out that another benefit to

using herbs as pollinator attractants in the garden is that they are generally very resistant to pest insects and don't suffer from many diseases and thus don't often need to be sprayed with pesticides.

Speaking next was Chris Moore, current VP of the Texas Beekeeper Association. His own business, Moore's Honey Farm, provides pollination services for California almonds and Texas watermelons; his Power Point presentation showed how machinery extracts the honey from the comb and wax for packaging in commercial operations. We have to really read our labels now, because current trade laws allow honey from other countries (including China!) to be

blended with US-harvested honey, then sold as American.



Dr. Dotty Woodson is a water resource program specialist at the Texas AgriLife Extension Center in Dallas. She showed us a number of ways we can harvest rainwater, even in wildlife habitat, including valuable tips on preventing mosquito larvae, such as securing fine-mesh screening around container openings with either bungee cords or glue, depending on size of opening. She can be contacted for more information at d.woodson@tamu.edu, office 972.952.9688, cell 817.723.3666.

Jayla introduced Felder Rushing who provided the finale. He'd parked his famous old pick up truck outside which he uses to refute arguments about having no place to garden...much of the truck bed is indeed a raised bed crammed full of all manner of growing stuff plus his signature ornamentation.

It's possible WCMGs will make the Pollinator Symposium an annual offering. Let's hope so, and that eventually all of us can go.

Photos by Bonney Kennedy.

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

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

Chinese Tallow Control

- Mary Ann Everett

Report on the Webinar on 'Using Integrated Management for Control of Chinese Tallow' by Lauren Pile.

The Chinese Tallow was introduced in the southern states by Ben Franklin. The reproductive potential is 100,000 seeds per mature tree. (Now that is a lot of seeds!)



The tree can spread by root and stem sprouts, in addition to the viable seeds(5-7 years). Hurricanes, as well as birds, help disseminate these seeds. There are no native pests. Fire can act as a suppressor.

Lauren Pile worked with the USMC at the USMC Training Center on Paris Island. They had used the hack and squirt method but to no avail. The Invasive Species Management is linked to ecology management. The objectives were to find the best effective management, and to determine treatment and re-introduce fire as one of those elements.

Here is what Lauren and her crew did: In the spring, they mulched the top of the trees to reduce the understory density. The tallow will render the ecosystem non-flammable. In the summer, seedlings sprout. In the fall, herbicide was used. Two years later, a prescribed fire was used during the growing season, as the tallow is susceptible to fire at a young age. This use of fire promotes the growth of native species.

There were four treatments used, and then the re-

sults were compared. These methods included Mulching(Mechanical) in the spring/Herbicide in the fall; Herbicide using basal bark treatment followed 2 years later with Fire; combination of Mechanical, Herbicide, and Fire; Foliar Application using 2.5 Garlon4ultra, 1% MSO, 1% Blue indicator dye.

The best methods of control are the Herbicide/Fire, and Mechanical/Herbicide/Fire.

All treatments are the same in regeneration.

The Mechanical/Herbicide/Fire is the best practice, has the greatest impact on control of this plant. This practice also increased the herbaceous diversity.

More treatments are needed where fire is required. There is a large regeneration pool, as mentioned at the first of this article. Lauren mentioned there is a need for a long term study on this terrible invasive species.

Photos from <http://essmextension.tamu.edu/plants/plant/chinese-tallow-tree/>



Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

Tawny crazy ants

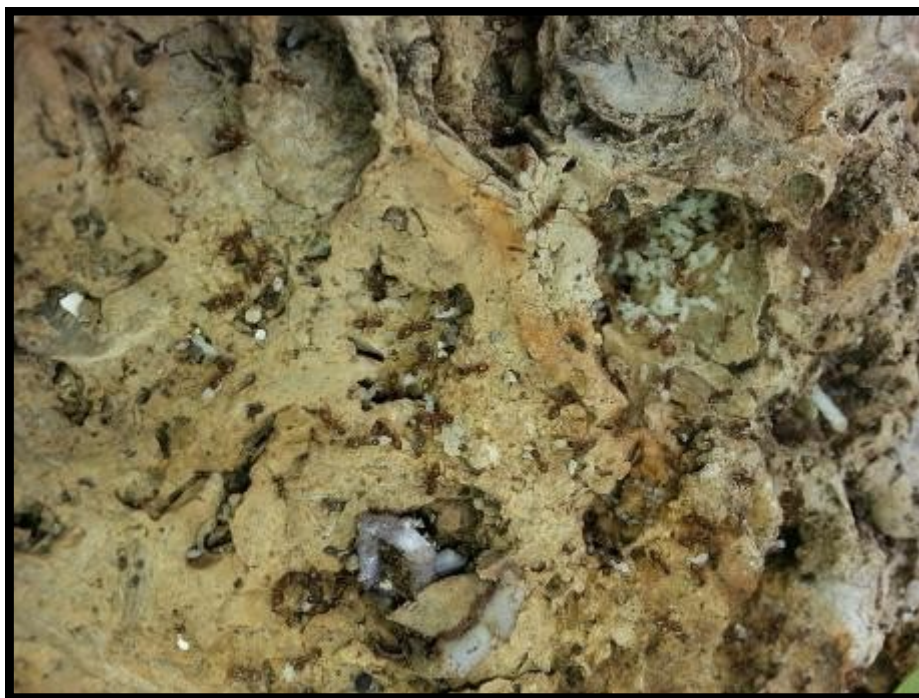
- Wizzie Brown, Travis County
AgriLife Extension Entomologist

The Tawny crazy ant, formerly known as the Raspberry crazy ant, was originally found in Harris County in 2002. It is currently confirmed in 27 Texas counties.

Tawny crazy ants have a cyclical population level throughout the year with populations peaking in late

Treatment Options

- Removing harborage areas- fallen limbs, rocks, leaf litter, etc. These ants will nest under pretty much anything on the ground, so you may want to remove anything that is not necessary.
- Alter moisture conditions (crazy ants prefer moist, humid conditions)- reduce watering, repair any leaks, improve drainage
- Eliminate honeydew producers from area. Crazy ants tend honeydew producers such as aphids, whiteflies, hoppers, mealybugs and scale insects.



summer, decreasing in the late fall and then increasing again in the spring. Tawny crazy ants are capable of biting, but do NOT sting like fire ants. They are mostly nuisance pests, but can reach extraordinary population levels (in the millions) and can become a problem when getting into electrical equipment. Tawny crazy ants do not have nests or mounds like fire ants; they tend to nest under things- rocks, landscape timbers, flowerpots, etc.

For more information on this particular ant species go to <http://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/ants/raspberry.html>

- Use pesticide sprays to treat infested areas- under rocks, along landscape edging, etc. Pesticide sprays can also be used to create a barrier around the outside of the home. Piles of dead ants may build up in treated areas, so they must be removed to keep the barrier maintained.

- Hire a pest management professional (PMP). PMPs have access to pesticides that are unavailable to homeowners and they also have experience dealing with pest problems regularly.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

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TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Bees and Wasps and Hornets...Oh My!

- Terrie Hahn

Recently, I listened to the Extension Webinar series seminar entitled "Bees, Wasps and Hornets – They're all Different" given by Dr. Charles Ray of Auburn University. You can listen at: <http://www.extension.org/pages/72197/2015-all-bugs-good-and-bad-webinar-series#.Vq3YH5d2hLP>

These insects are Aculeate Hymenoptera, also called stinging hymenoptera. Of course, only females sting. Males may look like they're going to sting and may even get aggressive and bump you like they're going to sting you. But, alas, they can't! Most of these insects sting out of a defense mechanism. The venom in their stingers have 3 ingredients: small nonproteinaceous molecules which cause the pain, peptides which help release the molecules that cause the pain and large molecules – enzymes and proteins which enhance the pain. Most people are NOT allergic to stings even if you have asthma. The very few people who die each year of Hymenoptera stings have received a sting some 15 years before. It's the second sting's enzymes that get you and if you're truly allergic, it will kill you in 20-60 minutes. If you do get stung by a Yellow Jacket, the stinger will place an alarm pheromone at the site which will attract others to sting you close to the same spot for about 14 hours. In other words, get inside for the rest of the day if you've been stung by a yellow jacket.

BEES

Most bees are vegetarians. Pollen is their protein source. Nectar is their carb source. Most bees have feathery hairs. Males and females look different, so if you see several types of bees flying around, it may simply be that they're male and female. Bees don't



want to sting. It's only done as a defense mechanism. If you are stung, Honey bees and Bumble bees are the

usual culprits. Others don't sting. With bees, their eggs come out of the base of the ovipositor shaft (stinger), so the venom goes to the tip.

There are 2400 species of bees in North America, all beneficial except a couple like cleptoparasites, a thin, almost hairless bee that enters other bees' nests to lay eggs. Their eggs hatch quicker. Their young eat the other young and the pollen stored for the other young. And, Carpenter bees tend to be destructive to the wood in our homes and decks.

Seventy percent of bees worldwide live underground. They are solitary and live to reproduce, not defend. Ground bees like sandy, well drained soil with a southern exposure. If these types of bees become pests, you can usually do some heavy watering and they'll move along.

WASPS

Wasps have narrow waists. The females can sting repeatedly; their sting apparatus is used for egg laying also. They live on a diet of insects for protein with nectar used as fuel (carbs). Ants are also members of the super family of Vespidea which wasps are a part of.

Photo below from TAMU of paper wasp nest. Photo in corner is of bees that come every day to our fountain.



There are **paper wasps** (vespidae:polistinae) which build a single layered paper nest connected by a pedicel. These colonies are built around a foundress which is the head female. Sometimes there are a couple of them.

They look the same as the others, but are a bit larger. These alpha females lay most of the eggs, but others

Continued on next page...



Photo by TAMU/Galveston

Bees and Wasps and Hornets...continued

can slip an egg in here and there. Workers can lay eggs during the reproductive phase of the nest, but they'll all be male. The larvae of paper wasps are fed exclusively on masticated caterpillars. Many farmers will add shelters for paper wasps around their fields to help get rid of caterpillars. Overwintering wasps are usually fertilized females.

They like high, dry places for the winter and have no interest in stinging anyone.

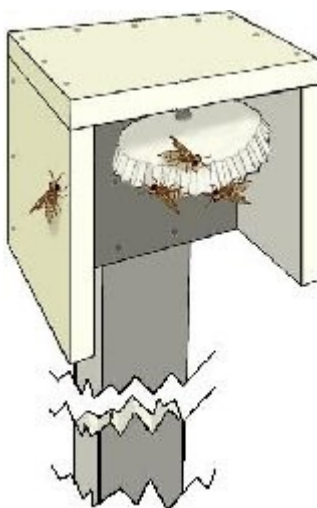
You can get directions for building a shelter for paper wasps at: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/Other/note121/note121.html>

There are **yellow jackets** (vespidae:vespinae) which are divided into 3 genus: **yellow jackets (vespula)**, **aerial yellow jackets (dolichovespula)** and **true hornets (vespa)**.

Hornets tend to nest in hollow trees. There is only one true hornet in the U.S.-a European hornet (*vespa crabro*) which tends to live in the Eastern States. It is considered the "gentle giant" in Europe.

Yellow Jacket is a North American term. They are just another wasp in other parts of the world. They are usually yellow and black, but can be black and white and some are red. They create flat combs of cells suspended by pedicels and are multi-tiered protected by a bag-like outer envelope. They use oral fluids and macerated wood for their nests. The underground nests of the cavity dwellers are also multi layered. The female who does most of the egg laying is the Queen. Workers lay eggs at the end of the summer, all of whom will end up being male. The males live for only a few weeks, long enough to fertilize the queen who will overwinter.

There are **aerial yellow jackets**. These yellow jackets are considered by many to be hornets.

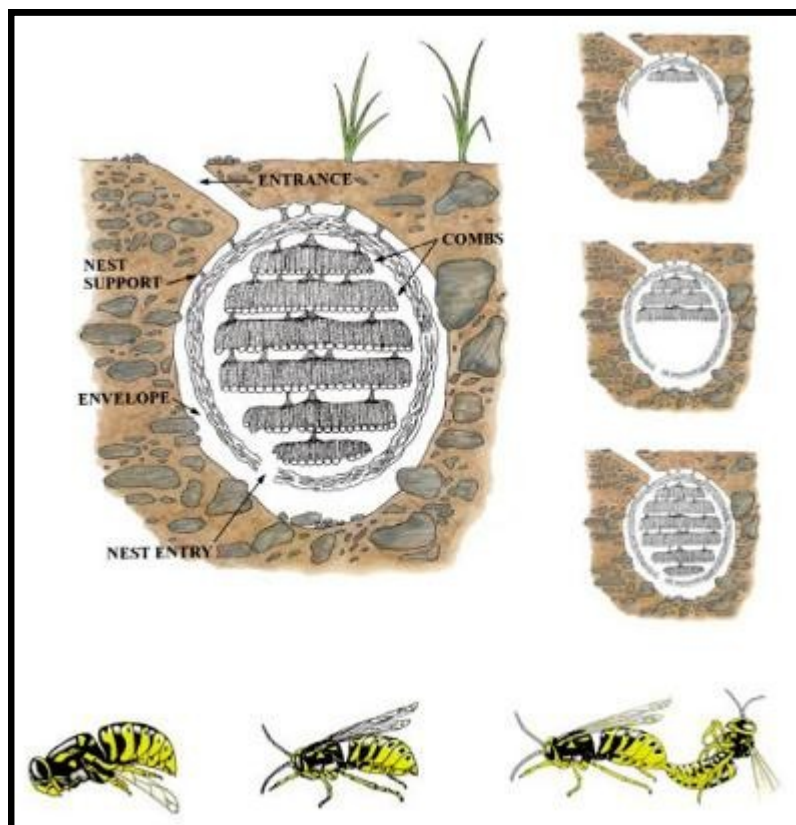


There are 6 species in North America. Their nests are stronger and more water resistant since they are in the elements above ground. They have 200-700 workers.

There are **cavity dwelling yellow jackets**. Fourteen species reside in North America. They often use old underground rodent nests to build their nests, but any cavity will do. If you get to 14 inches of the entrance to their nest, they'll sense it and come flying out to check things out or defend their nest. The queen builds a cell, lays one egg and continues on that way always opening downward making an oval nest with many layers. The main entrance to the underground nest is at the bottom. The larvae hatch, are fed and cared for in the cell, then pupates within the cell and spins a white silken cap at the opening. The adult emerges and the cell can be reused 2 or 3 times that season. In fall, it becomes vacant and won't be re-used.

Eastern yellow jackets are more in eastern states and in east Texas and into the panhandle. We probably have Southern yellow jackets.

Check out some of these Webinars! You'll be glad you did! Below: Diagram of cavity dwelling yellow jacket next by: <http://markdmckinney.com/yellowjacket.html>



McLane's Hospital Gardens Flourishing

- Frances Idoux

When Master Gardeners were working on the garden project at McLane's Children's Hospital in April, no one could imagine the hot and dry summer that lay ahead. Fortunately, the young plants got a good start from June rains and were established before drought set in.

The hospital staff had selected an assortment of self-watering planters, which proved their worth during a scorching summer. Herbs brought from the Herb Forum in the spring

are still flourishing in the raised bed planters at the front wall, and mints in colorful planters line the entry hall. The hanging planters with succulents from Kim Pringle still grace the front wall, and the raised bed planter donated by Gary Slanga has an assortment of plants.

Some of the plants were cold sensitive and would not survive the first frost. To prepare for a change in weather, plants for the cooler season were ordered from the fall plant sale -- calendula, chard, chives. On October 5, Joyce Richardson, Carol Runyan and Frances Idoux helped the garden change into its winter wardrobe. Although there were a few more days of warm weather and no rain, these plants are now thriving.

The collection of garden books for children which Elaine Passman donated are now in use. With the help of her son, Carol Runyan has produced a garden map for a scavenger hunt, and she is working on a coloring book. Other projects are still in the planning stages.

Photos by Frances Idoux



Nature, Look Into It!

- Gail Koontz

What a fun, entertaining and educational day we had at **Nature Fest** on Saturday, October 10. Notice the hands of the six brave Master



Gardeners as they held in place the

flowers and plants that the children pounded to make a bookmark. I think I am the only one who actually had my thumb pounded – once – found out how quickly I can move! Thank you, Joan Bumgarner, Daisy Klassy, Barbara Dalby, Vivian Rush and Janet Stein for joining me and for your time and effort in making our exhibit a success! 125 children and adults joined us to make bookmarks. And we were a noisy bunch as we often had four people pounding at the same time. Many came by to just see what in the world we were doing. Thank you Mary Ann Everett and Don Wyatt and your Master Naturalist crew for helping us set up. A special thank you to Seleese and Precious Memories and to Frank and Woods Flowers who saved cuttings and slightly spent flowers and greenery for us to use in our activity.

Lines and shapes of flowers and leaves were captured on card-stock bookmarks in our pounding activity. We learned that what you

see is not always what you get when pounding a flower or plant. The color and shape of the flower or plant was not always the color and shape captured on the bookmark.

Smokey the Bear came by to see us and I couldn't resist having my picture made with him. We had enough volunteers that each one had opportunity to slip away during the day and visit the other 60 exhibits.

Who is that blurry person behind the owl?!



Photos by Gail Koontz and Terry Rascoe.



In Ursula's Memory

BCMG's recently installed a memorial stone in the succulent bed of the Killeen Municipal Court Community Gardens in honor of Ursula Nanna. Ursula designed the area and used many plants from her own yard.

Photos by Randy Brown.



Seeds Anyone?!

- Crystal Fisher

Antelope Horn milkweed seeds have been collected by Crystal Fisher and Barbara Beebe.

We are giving them away to anyone who wants any.



The seeds need a 3 month stratification followed by laying on the ground in it's forever location.

Sprinkle no more than 1/16" soil on top. The tap root runs 6' deep.

So, "forever location" was serious.

beebe.78654@yahoo.com

cifisher@vvm.com

October Meeting



The **October General Meeting** had Halloween Festive food.

Photos by Gail Koontz and Randy Brown.



BCMG's Take the Travis County MG's Garden Tour

- Terrie Hahn

MG Diane Calderwood and I went to visit four of the gardens on the Travis County MG Garden Tour in October. We happened upon Vivian Rush who was touring with friends and a group of BCMG's including Laura Murphy, Gail Christian, Jan George and Betty Burkett. Diane and I enjoyed Pam Penick's garden the most with her deer resistant Berkeley Sedge, Bamboo, Lindheimer, Pine and Flamingo Muhly's, Bright Edge Yucca, Butterfly Vine and loads of great garden art. Lots of inspiring yards. Lots of new plants we want to try out.



Announcements

November General Meeting

- Randy Brown

Come to the November General Meeting at 10:30 a.m., Social Time is 10:00 a.m. The speaker will be Patricia Shirey of the Austin Day Spa and Central Texas Gardener and will give a talk on garden tools.

BCMG Dues are Due!

- Gail Christian

The 2016 membership dues for the Bell County Master Gardener Association are payable now. Dues remain \$25.00 for each individual. Checks should be made payable to BCMGA and may be mailed or dropped off at the Agrilife Extension Office at 1605 N. Main St. Belton, TX 76513.

Payments will not be deposited until all necessary forms are completed and turned in. The State Master Gardener program requires that all members have a background check every three years. This is a requirement even if you are not an active participant in our programs.

Starting next year we will have a membership committee. It will consist of Gail Christian and Stayce Parry. Our goals are to help everyone learn the Texas Volunteer Management System program and help standardize how service and educational hours are reported.

BOD meeting

The November and December Board of Directors meeting will be combined to meet December 2nd.

Christmas Party

- Gail Koontz

The Bell County Master Gardener Christmas Party is Thursday, December 3, in the Expo Center Special Events Room (upstairs). Check In and Social Time begins at 6:00pm. Dinner is served at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$15 per person if purchased by November 11 (day of our monthly meeting). Between November 12 and 20, tickets are \$25 per person. Reservations can be made through Charlotte Jones, Gail Garner, or

Joan Bumgarner. If you have any special dietary needs, please note when you make your reservations. In addition to a meal of brisket, bbq chicken, pinto beans, cole slaw and potato salad catered by Johnny's Steaks and Barbeque, there will be a salad bar and dessert bar. Gail Koontz is coordinating the salad bar; please contact her to get your name on the list to bring your favorite salad. Beverly and Vernon Chenoweth are coordinating the dessert bar; contact one of them to get on the list to bring your favorite dessert. Mary Ann Everett (with help from Elaine Passman and Illene Miller) is coordinating a silent auction during the Christmas Party; you can bring a contribution for the silent auction to the November monthly meeting or leave it in the office prior to December 3. Randy Brown has prepared a slide show of 2015 happenings that will run throughout our meal time. He and Daisy Klassy will be set up to take individual Christmas pictures. Annual awards will be presented. We'll close with a Christmas music sing along.

It's always fun when a group of Master Gardeners and their spouses and other guests get together. Share this information with a Master Gardener who has not been active in a while and invite them to the party.

Christmas Party Silent Auction

- Mary Ann Everett

It is that time of year again, and as it has been a while since we had a silent auction, we will once again have one at our Christmas Party. If you have an item to donate, either new or very gently used (please no garage sale items), bring to the November Monthly meeting. Also we need to know the value on each item that is donated. Looking forward to having fun at the Christmas Party.

Grounds Workdays

- Walter Ponder

Here is the Workday schedule for November:

8:00 a.m.	November 4, 2015	Workday
10:00 a.m.	November 4, 2015	Burger Wednesday
8:00 a.m.	November 18, 2015	Workday
8:00 a.m.	November 25, 2015	Workday

Announcements

Vote for Change in Bylaws

- **Bernie Hurta**

The following change will be voted on at the November 11th General Meeting.

Change to BCMGA Bylaws Re: Reinstatement

Article II, Section 4: Reinstatement

Upon written request signed by a former member and filed with the secretary, the Board of Directors may, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Board and the approval of the Texas Cooperative Extension Coordinator, reinstate such member to membership **upon completion of those requirements as specified by county policy.**

The change is in bold letters. It used to say: "upon such terms, as they may deem appropriate."

Olive Production and Management Seminar

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Olive Oil Council will be conducting an Olive Production and Management Seminar on Monday, November 30 at the San Antonio Livestock Exposition -Dairy Barn from 10 am – 4 pm. Lunch provided. This seminar is open to commercial olive producers, small acreage farm operators and the general public interested in growing olives. RSVP early with a registration fee of \$30. For more information, call 210-631-0400.

Spring Plant Sale Help

- **Kathy Love**

I have been asked to chair the Spring Plant Sale committee and as an initial objective toward that effort, I want to offer the BCMG membership the opportunity to pre-order plants they may want to purchase at the Spring Sale. I have compiled a list of every plant ordered and received (per invoices) for the BCMG Spring Plant sale since 2010 (there is no guarantee that we can get any of these plants so there is no commitment required if you choose to pre-order.) (MANY OF THESE PLANTS WERE RECEIVED IN

BOTH 4" AND GALLON OR BETTER POTS SO PLEASE DISTINGUISH YOUR PREFERENCE BY CHECKING THE BOX UNDER EITHER 4" OR GALLON OR MORE CATEGORIES)

Check your email for the attachment with the complete list. Even though this list is pretty daunting, I hope each of you will take the time to review it and make note of any plants you would like to purchase at the Spring Sale. This effort has two objectives:

1) Even though BCMG purchases undoubtedly account for a great deal of the success of our plant sales, we may well be shooting ourselves in the foot since we end up buying so many of the plants that our customers cannot find plants they would like to purchase because they are gone before our purchasers ever have a chance to buy them. If the Plant Sale Committee has the opportunity to purchase sufficient plants to satisfy the needs and wants of our membership and still leave a good selection for our community purchasers, "theoretically" we should be able to increase our profit margin. This is a chance to prove or disprove that "theory"!

2) Our second objective concerns one of our more profitable growers who is willing to grow the plants we request if we provide a list no later than early December. Martha Wright of Wright Nursery has advised the Fall Plant Sale Committee that if we provide a list of requested Spring Plant Sale plants by early December, she will grow what we request in sufficient quantity to meet our order. Wright Nursery provides BCMG with a better profit margin than most of the other wholesale growers we purchase from so we NEED to take advantage of this opportunity to increase our profits.

Therefore, I ask that each of you take the time to review the lists and fill out your order. As stated above, this IS NOT an order that you are committed to purchase. In fact, if in your Plant Sale experience you have simply noted that certain plants sell particularly well, I ask that you indicate that on the order form, and in the Other Info/Instructions Column that it is not an order but a suggestion that we purchase this plant because in your experience it sells really well at the Spring Sale.

I am a 2015 BCMG graduate so I do not have the experience that many of you have with the Fall and Spring sales. I have one Plant Sale under my belt-- Fall 2015. I am looking for all the help I can get to be sure we have a very successful and profitable Spring Plant Sale 2016.

Where in the World is:

Randy and Kathleen Brown?

Flowers raised for sale at College of Ozark in Branson; wish we were closer to home.



Where in the World is:

Jerry Lewis?

Longwood Gardens consists of over 1,077 acres of gardens, woodlands, and meadows in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, in the Brandywine Creek Valley. It was developed by Pierre S. Du Pont, famous for opening his personal estate, with its beautiful gardens, fountains, and conservatory, to the public. Its construction was inspired by his international travels, visiting the great gardens of the world.

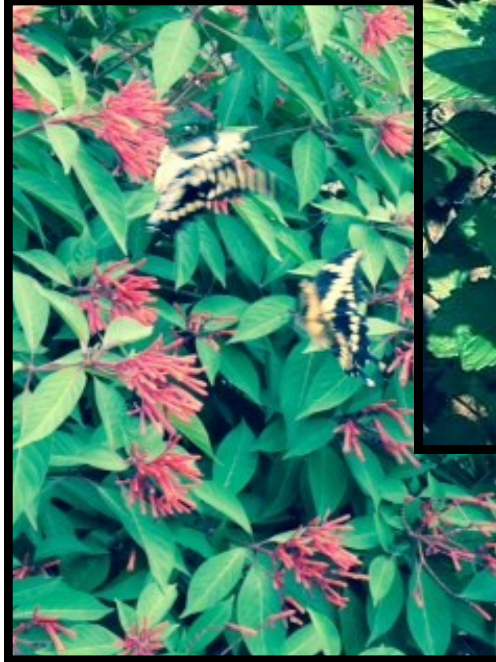


What's Happening in Your Yard

Yard Full of Activity!

- Karen Colwick

These are iris blooming October 6. I don't know if they're repeat bloomers or just confused. Visitors to my garden on the Firebush and Lantana.



Caterpillars Munching!

- Kim Pringle

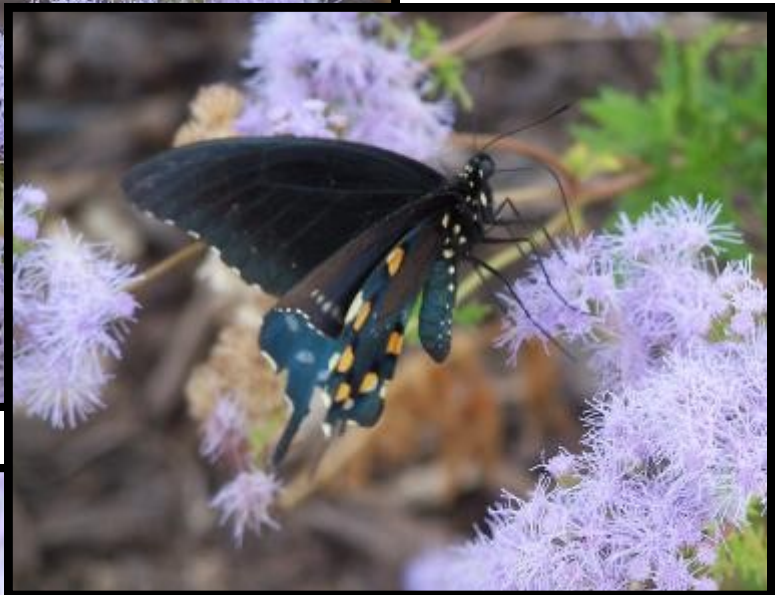
This is a Giant Swallowtail caterpillar eating leaves of a Satsuma.



What's Happening in Your Yard

- Crystal Fisher

From everything I've looked at, these are Spicebush Swallowtails. There was a pair traveling together. If one took off, the other followed. Interesting how close they were staying to each other. Not sure of their sex. For some really good photos of all stages of this butterfly and the plants they need to survive, go to: http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/bfly/spicebush_swallowtail.htm.



What's Happening in Your Yard

- Kathy Love



Clockwise from above: My water catchment system filled up 10 - 55gal. drums during our 7 3/4" rainfall last weekend. Caught water in every other tub, tank and bucket I could find as well!

■Time to add some fall color to my many potscapes." Just love those decorative peppers! ■ I planted six Scarlett runner beans from my guest bag at the State Conference. Suspect I'll be able to repay those six a few hundred if not thousand times over! Beans, Beans and more Beans pouring out of one of my keyhole gardens! ■Some Gerber's in another coconut grass pot matched with a

spike, purple heart shaped sweet potato vine and a leopard plant--a recent addition to my pots. Those yellow spots are not a sign of a problem--they belong there. Looking forward to the blooms as well. This a perennial growing 1-2' high and 1-2' wide. Hardy to 10 degrees F requiring regular water, sun to shade and moderate fertilization. Let you know how it does in my pots! ■For fall color I can never resist violas!

Continued on next page...



What's Happening in Your Yard...continued



Left: My final harvest of the year (and what a harvest it was!) was loofah sponge gourds! This is just round #2 of the harvest. Round #3 is still to come. Will send photos of loofah sponge gourd soaps for next month BB; ■Right: My citrus crops did pretty well this year too! Will have plenty of lemons. . . Key limes are coming on strong. . . .and even added some or-

anges this year! ■ Below: Basil is always my primary herb crop and I use it here for sweet Basil white wine vinegar and Cinnamon Basil red wine vinegar. (I'll send photos next month of the decanted products from these infusions --they need 3-4 weeks to infuse properly). ■Bottom left: Of course all of these

crops result in harvest and after enjoying many of these and other crops fresh out of the garden, I now must preserve as many as I can. In this photo there are Judy Hermann's dried hot peppers preserved in olive oil as Hot Pepper Chili Oil (foreground), Western Pepper Jelly (left upper-more of Judy's peppers), Sweet Basil leaves preserved in olive oil (left foreground), more of Judy Hermann's dried Vietnamese peppers (left upper), Pickled Jalapenos (center), and pickled Carrots with onions and Jalapenos (right upper).



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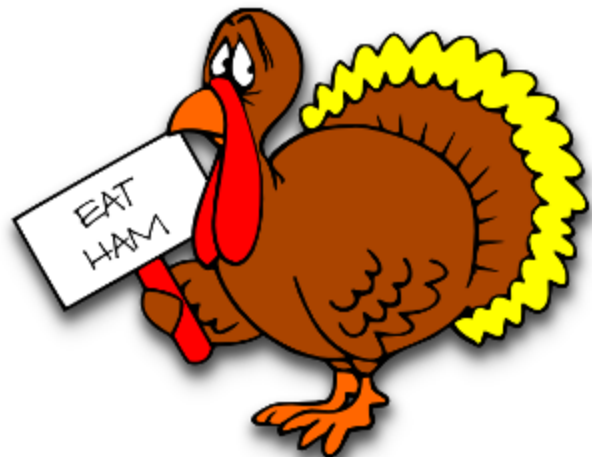
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