

The Blooming Bell

October 2014



**Bell County
Master Gardener
Association**



Above: Close up of Walter Ponder's Hyacinth Bean Vine. Check out the whole beautiful plant on page 10.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Plants delivered	3 Plants Delivered, Sale Set Up Hot Dog Friday!	4 Set up- 6:30 am Sale 7 am- 1 pm Plant Sale
5	6	7	8 General Meeting w/Social Time at 10:00 am Speaker Sarah Mykraine speaks on Seed Paper at 10:30	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Nature Fest
19	20	21	22 Work Day 8 am Board Meeting 9 am	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 	 Award Nominations due

Upcoming Dates: Christmas Party December 4th

Home and Garden Show Feb. 20-22, 2015

Remember to record volunteer/education hours.

2

Photos Terrie Hahn

The President's Corner

The State MG conference was successful for the Permian Basin MG. Even though they had only 308 registered attendees, they were able to raise a large amount of donations to support the conference. Their venue was excellent, nicely carpeted reception areas and seminar rooms. They had a large variety of seminar choices approximately 27 different topics were offered. The usual gardening topics such as shade plants, trees, landscaping with edible plants and other topics on edibles, rainwater and drought subjects. But they also had topics on "Working with a new breed of volunteers", QR Codes for info. sharing, "Citizen Science in the 21st Century" and "Building a successful Speakers Bureau". So there was a wide range of topics to select from.

The trip to Odessa, where the conference venue was located was pleasant. The 335 mile trip crossed a varied landscape and reminded one of the diverse countryside that is Texas. Saw a lot of Mesquite on the way.

So now we have more information on which to base our own planning and ideas for the Spring conference we will be hosting. We will definitely put that information to use at the Expo. When you experience the smooth operation of the Odessa conference it heightens the anxiety levels just a bit as one wonders whether ours will go as well and hopefully better.

I want to thank the large group of folks who made the trip out there to help promote our conference. We had a several positive comments on the speakers, tours and workshops that we are planning. I would like to extend a special thanks to Tom Christian, Cliff

George and Allen Colwick, husbands of BCMG's Gail, Jan and Karen, who helped man the information booth while the rest of us were off to seminars, and to Ilene Miller's husband, MG Michael, who was attending cheering us on. Also, a continuing thanks to all our hard working folks who are doing so much to make our conference a big success.

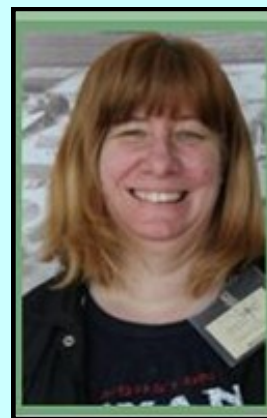
Thanks to All,
Gary



Remembering...

Melissa Fletcher

On a sad note, Melissa Fletcher, who was in the 2013 MG class, has passed away after a hard fight with cancer. She was a vibrant, wonderful person who will be missed. Rest in peace Melissa.



Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

Hackberry Psyllids

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife Extension Entomologist

Late summer into fall, people may notice tiny insects that are mottled grayish-brown collecting near windows, especially if hackberry trees are nearby. Hackberry psyllids (pronounced sill-ids) look like tiny cicadas and are actually closely related to them. Adults are about 1/8 an inch long.

Another name for hackberry psyllids is hackberry nipple gall maker. Adults lay their eggs on hackberry leaves in the spring. When eggs hatch, the psyllid feeds on the leaf and the leaf responds by developing a small pocket around the insect. The pocket is called a gall.



Hackberry trees do not show long term damage from the galls or feeding of the psyllids, but the galls can make the tree unsightly.

These insects are not harmful to humans or companion animals. In the fall, the insects are searching for overwintering sites. They normally overwinter under the bark of trees, but sometimes they will utilize

whatever crack or crevice they can find. This, along with the psyllids being attract to lights at night, can lead them near doors and windows and sometimes they end up inside the home.

To manage fall invasion of hackberry psyllids:

- Use fine mesh (18) screening
- Reduce outdoor lighting or use bulbs that are less attractive to insects
- Use sealant to seal cracks and crevices
- Insects that find their way indoors can be vacuumed up



Left Photo by "Mike Quinn, TexasEnto.net"

Above photo of a hackberry gall psyllid, *Pachypsylla* sp. (Homoptera: Psyllidae), by Drees from <http://texasinsects.tamu.edu/aimg92.html>

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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KMCCG Looking Good

- Randy Brown

Below: Larry Moehnke working in the tomatoes at the Killeen Gardens. We “harvested” a lot of weeds today. Pretty much filled my pickup bed! Below right: Bette Gilmore and Vivian Rush working on cucumbers. As of the second week in September, we harvested 138 lbs of veggies. There is plenty of Spaghetti Squash and ochre coming in.



September General Meeting

- Randy Brown

Fifty-one gardeners were in attendance at the September Meeting to discuss the upcoming Plant Sale.



Q & A

This 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.

2014 TXMG Conference

- Gail Christian

At the State Conference in Odessa, Karen Colwick, right, shows off one of her purchases; left, Jan George shows Mary Beth Bradburn her plants.



Lyle Zoeller, Terry Bradburn, Tom Christian, Allen Colwick, Gail Christian, Melinda Arriola, Cliff George, Ilene and Mike Miller and Jan George. Front row: Gary Slanga, Karen Colwick, Mary Beth Bradburn and Pat Allen.



BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2014 FALL PLANT SALE

SATURDAY, October 4, 2014 7:00 A.M. UNTIL 1:00 P.M.



**Native Perennials
Organic Vegetables
Herbs, Succulents
Native Trees
Roses**

FREE INFORMATION BOOTHS

**COMPOSTING – RAINWATER
HARVESTING**

**KIDS CAMP – ASK A MASTER
GARDENER**

LOCAL VENDORS

**TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**

MASTER GARDENER BUILDING

BELL COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

1605 N. MAIN

BELTON, TX 76513



Mimulus & Checkerspots
by Margo Bors

Agriculture and Natural Resources - Family and Consumer Sciences - 4-H and Youth Development - Community Development

Extension programs service people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

A member of The Texas A&M University System and its statewide Agriculture Program

Announcements

Plant Sale Info

Our Fall Plant Sale is **October 4, 2014**. The sale is from **7:00 till 1:00**. The plant files are on the web at the following location: <http://txmq.org/bell/> Scroll down to the bottom.

These are the plants that we requested. We don't always get everything we request, if that happens, we may have some substitutions.

Please give copies of the flyer to your friends and neighbors. Come early, before the plant you want is gone. We will not have a spring sale because we will be hosting the 2015 State Conference April 16 through the 18th.

Thank you,

- Gail Christian

Plant Sale Info

Just a reminder that our plant sale will be **October 4th** from **7:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** Volunteers need to be there at **6:30 a.m.** Tear down is from **1 - 2 p.m.**

We will need help on **October 2nd, 9 a.m. to noon** unloading plants and on the **3rd 9 a.m. to noon** unloading and setting up plants. If deliveries change, we'll let you know. E-mail, facebook and text all of your friends and tell them about the sale. We will have a nice selection of native perennials, organic herbs, succulents, and 13 new variety of roses. See you there!

- Jan George, Carla Harmon

Preregistration for Conference

We have extended the registration period for those that qualified for Volunteer pr-registration. If you have

not registered, please do so as soon as possible.

Jan George, Registration Chairperson

October General Meeting

At the **October 8th** General meeting, Sarah Myk-raine, an Activity Specialist at the Harker Heights Activity Center/Library will be speaking about Seed Paper. Remember the meeting is at 10:30 a.m., social time is at 10 a.m. - **Randy Brown**

Grounds Committee Hours

Work times in October are as follows:

October 2nd, 3rd unload plants for Plant Sale **9 a.m - noon**.

NO BURGER WEDNESDAY. We will have **Hot Dog Friday** on **October 3rd** after the plants for the Plant Sale are unloaded and set up. Bring along whatever you'd like to have with the hot dogs.

October 22, 8 a.m. Work Day

Any other work days to be announced.

- Carla Harmon and Walter Ponder

Award Nominations

The deadline for Green Thumb, Golden Trowel, and Intern of the Year award nominations is **October 31st**.

The nomination forms are on our website. There will be nomination forms available at the October 8th monthly meeting. Your nomination will not be considered if your nominee **has not recorded 12 education hours and 50 service hours** for the June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014 year. If you have any questions, please contact:

Bernie Hurta at bhurta@gmail.com

Announcements

Education & Service Hours Guidelines

Everyone records their education and service hours, **even recent graduates**. I have made a guideline sheet of what counts as education and service hours at the request of some new Master Gardeners. If you would like a copy, please contact me at bhurta@gmail.com. - **Bernie Hurta**

New Project Approval

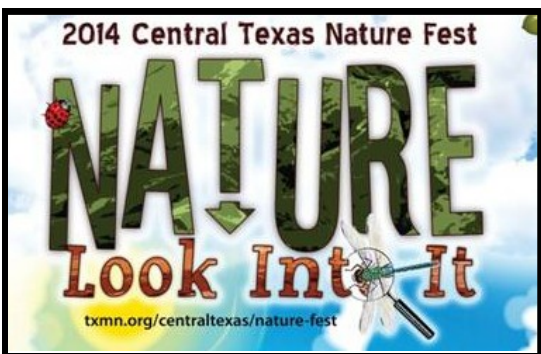
Gail Christian has put a copy of ongoing projects and their contact persons on the Volunteer Management System website. If you are starting a new project, you must fill out a project approval form and submit it to our Extension Agent, Lyle Zoeller, for approval. The approval form should be available soon. For further information, contact Gail Christian or Bernie Hurta.

New Class Info

The next certification classes will begin on Wednesday, **January 7, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.** Classes will be held at the Bell County Extension Office. Orientation is November 19th.

Nature Fest Needs Volunteers

The Master Gardener's have been asked to have a table at the Central Texas Nature Fest **Saturday October 18 at Bend of the River, Temple 9-2**. They are expecting 1,000 adults and children. I would like 8 people to assist me with preparing grass heads. I'm asking you to be there at **8 a.m.** to help set up. If you can help please contact me by October 15 at mscharm35@yahoo.com Thanks. - **Vera Townsend**



Christmas Party

The BCMGA Christmas Party this year will be on **December 4th**.

Home and Garden Show

The Home and Garden Show for next year will be on **February 20th - 22nd**.

Help Wanted: Traditional Mentors for the New Class

It's here again! The new class of Master Gardener interns will begin on January 7th, 2015. The orientation for the interns will take place on November 19th, which is truly just around the corner. Once again, the New Class Committee is asking Master Gardeners to volunteer as traditional mentors for the interns. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with the interns and to gain service hours. Mentor duties include setting up the classroom, monitoring homework, providing assistance as needed during classes, and making sure that the room is returned to order afterward. Mentors should plan on being present from 12:00 noon on class days until 5:15 – 5:30. The class schedule is shorter this year, with a special break prior to the 2015 State Conference. Signup sheets will be available at the October membership meeting. Master Gardeners who sign up will receive confirmation by e-mail. As usual, the response last year was outstanding, and I hope that we will have the same experience this year. We will not be asking for refreshment mentors at the outset, so only one set of signup sheets will be available. Please consider sharing your time and skills to help make this class the rewarding experience that it is meant to be.

Thank you.

- **Peg Fleet**

CHECK OUT BCMG FACEBOOK PAGE! GO TO

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

What's Happening in Your Yard



Heat Lovers

- Bernie Hurta

This is a picture of my Purslane flowers in bloom. They love the heat!

Beautiful Fall Color

-Walter Ponder

This is a picture of a Hyacinth Bean Vine trellis I have in my yard. I bought the seeds at the BCMG spring plant sale. The vine has vigorous growth, the flowers have a delicate fragrance and beautiful color. The seed pods have a deep purple color and are really coming on and beginning to fill out. *Below is the close up that is also on this month's cover.*



What's Happening in Your Yard

Bloomin'

- Randy Brown



What's Happening in Your Yard

- Terrie Hahn

Clockwise:
My various
succulents;
Plumeria in
bloom; Blue-
bonnets com-
ing up al-
ready and
Rain Lilies
after that nice
rain we had
recently;

walkway with Thyrallis, Senna (inset photos), 2
different Rosemarys, Lantana, Russian Sage,
Copper Canyon Daisy and Salvia. The deer have kept the bottom of these
Senna pruned back nicely so that the bushes became trees-pretty that way
anyways!



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Second Vice President	Bernie Hurta
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Corresponding Secretary	Pat Allen
Treasurer	Gail Christian

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*Please submit articles for the Blooming Bell as Word Documents with **photos separate as JPG files** to Terrie Hahn at:*

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Please do not send PDF documents.

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Garden spider and egg sack above and a resident tarantula in our yard. - Terrie and Werner Hahn

