

The Blooming Bell

October 2016



**Bell County
Master Gardener
Association**



Werner Hahn's
photo of a golden
garden spider in
one of our beds.

Next page is Pas-
sionflower with the
Gulf Fritillary
caterpillars.

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 Work Day 8 am* Burger Wednesday 10:30 am	6	7	8 Salado Garden Tour
9	10	11	12 Work Day 8 am* General Meeting at 10:30-Laura Murphy on Container Garden- ing, Social time is at 10 am	13	14	15 
16	17	18	19 Work Day 8 am*	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Work Day 8 am* BOD Meeting 9 am	27	28 	29
30 						

Upcoming events: Award Nominations deadline: **October 31st**, Service & Education Hours due **October 31st**.
Blackland Income Growth Conference, December 13-14, 2016, Waco, to include Horticulture information for gardeners.
December 2, Christmas Party
Remember to record volunteer/education hours. 2

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

The President's Corner

The plant sale was a real success and I want to thank all of you who came out to help. Your participation was great and helped to make the day. I would also like to express my thanks to Kathy Love for all her hard work and to everyone else, from the committee members who put together the list of plants to the folks who visited the various nurseries, the master gardeners who helped to pot up plants. Also thanks to all of you who worked on the garage sale and who donated items to sell. All in all it took a lot of people and a lot of hard work to pull this off and you succeeded admirably. Plant sale date for spring 2017 sale is March 25th.

Just a reminder that we have a lot of projects in the works and we can use all the volunteers we can get to help with them. Parrie Haynes Ranch, Kennedy Powell Elementary, Killeen Municipal Court Garden, Salvation Army project and we need more volunteers for the speakers bureau. Giving presentations to the public is not that difficult and all the organizations that ask for these lectures are always very appreciative of our efforts. If you have any questions about any of the projects, send me an email.

The rain barrel workshop held on the 24th was a success. Thanks to Karen Colwick and the volunteers Allan Colwick, Carla Harmon, Gail Koontz, Cathy Love and Daniel Perry. Total profits were \$770.

Don't forget the change in time for our general membership meeting. It will be

10 AM social and 10:30 meeting time on October 12th.

- Gary

Below is a photo by Randy Brown of the Extension Center planting during the Plant Sale. Right is a photo from the Romhf garden which is part of the Salado Garden Tour. This photo is courtesy of Margaret Williamson



Fall Plant Sale

- Randy Brown

Time for Deliveries!



Photos by Randy Brown

2016 Fall Plant Sale

- Kathy Love, Plant Sale Coordinator

Our unusual August and September rains were, by and large, a blessing for the 2016 Fall Plant Sale in spite of the 30-45-minute rain interruption during the 5 hours of our sale. With soil loosened by late summer rains as opposed

to the usual dry, rock-like ground we see in September, our customers came in to get their fall garden and landscape plants.

The attendance numbers were somewhat skewed by the rain break

when we had to change our cashier location from the back gates to the inside of our building. Our gatekeepers counted 230 customers at the entrance and estimated they missed an additional 50 customers who came in through the back entrance after visiting the Iris Society vendor booth and our garage sale, for a total estimated attendance of 288.

Membership participation was, as usual, outstanding! 52 members worked the actual sale day, but just as important members turned out

to work Wednesday=>22, Thursday=>31 and Friday=>29. (Greater than because I failed to provide sign-in sheets for these days and only captured those who worked each of those days on September 10th, when I did provide the sign-in sheet at the sale. I

Continued on next page...



Fall Plant Sale...continued

know there were workers who were unable to work the actual sale date but helped with the lead-up dates.) I'll get this sign-in sheet thing down one of these days!

To give you some idea of the scope of our sale and the enormously successful efforts of our members who worked and sold our plants, I am going to go through some numbers for you below. If this is too boring for those of you who don't like numbers, there is a table at the end of this section which summarizes this information.

The total plants purchased from our contracted nurseries was 1,786 individual plants in 4", 1 gallon and 3-5 gallon sizes. For our fall sale we had a mix of trees, small trees and shrubs, fruit trees, berry bushes, perennials, annuals, ferns, vines, grasses, succulents, vegetables and herbs. Our carryover plant inventory

at the end of the sale was 269 plants, meaning we successfully sold 1,517 individual plants! Way to go!!!

All of our shade trees sold at the sale with the exception of one Lacey Oak, and that tree sold at the general meeting on September 14th. Twelve small trees and shrubs were carried over from the sale. Two were sold at the general meeting and two at Bartlett Days. One shrub was returned to Wright's Nursery under our agreement and credited back to the association against our invoice. We plan to overwinter the remaining shrubs for the Spring sale, e.g. 1 Possumhaw, 5 Eve's Necklace and 1 Mountain Laurel

Our experiment with fruit trees and berry bushes was an overall success. Our total fruit tree order was 35 including pear, peach, plum, pomegranate, fig and apricot. We carried over 1 pear tree, 2 Mexican plums, and 3 peach trees. We ordered 10 blueberry and 10 blackberry bushes (5 Arapaho-thornless and 5

Brazos, thorned). All of those bushes sold with the exception of 1 Brazos blackberry which subsequently sold at Bartlett days. Unfortunately, our strawberries came in as bare root and failed

Continued on next page...



Fall Plant Sale...continued

to make it prior to the sale. Hopefully we will have better luck with strawberries next fall with a sale date set later in September.

Only one cross vine and three ferns remained after the sale. The cross vine was returned to Wright's for credit and the ferns subsequently sold at the general meeting. Likewise, 15 (3 one gallon, 12--4") annuals were carried over and were sold at the general meeting and/or Bartlett Days.

Of the 52 carried over perennials, 12 were returned to Wright's for credit and the remainder were sold at the general meeting and/or Bartlett Days. All of the grasses were sold at the sale with the exception 10 of our Princess Caroline Napier Grasses (we were obligated to purchase 20 of these as they were obtained by Wright's as a special order, are still a patented plant and were costlier for the nursery to obtain and grow). Four of these grasses were sold at Bartlett Days and 6 will be potted up to larger containers and carried over to the spring sale.

Of the 34 total succulents available at the sale, 23 were carried over. Five succulents were returned to Wright's for credit and the remainder were disposed of at Bartlett Days and/or have been added to demonstrations at the extension office.

The poorest performers at the fall sale were our vegetables. This was due primarily to the quality of the vegetables received from our traditional provider Gabriel Valley Farms. We were warned by GVF when we ordered that our sale date was too early for quality vegetable transplants, and their prediction proved correct, at least for GVF. Fortunately, the 13 flats of cool season greens (260 plants) from Pat's Plants in Grand Prairie sold in their entirety leaving us with 87 of the 230 total vegetables purchased from GVF. Of those remaining GVF vegetables, approximately 49 were lost due to condition problems, 20 were sold at the general meeting and 18 remain. Those will be planted in demo beds at the extension office if they continue to survive (it's been a struggle, but I still have them going!).

Of the GVF herbs, we were left with 44 of the 320 total plants

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Photos by Randy Brown



Fall Plant Sale...continued

purchased. This does not include the nearly 40 calendula plants which Frances Idoux and I took home to try to nurse back from an attack of cabbage loopers. I have lost over ½ of the flat I kept and Frances reports her flat was a total loss. (The flat I took was part of my individual plant purchases.)

Of the 44 remaining herbs, 14 were lost to the loopers (primarily salad burnet and chamomile) and the remainder were sold at the general meeting or Bartlett Days. One flat of comfrey was purchased from Wright's Nursery and 14 were carried over. These plants were small 4" and will be carried over for the spring sale, hopefully in gallons if I can get them to keep growing. A flat of scented geraniums were donated by Wright's in 4" pots and all were sold with the exception of three which were given away at the Bartlett Days event.

The following table summarizes the above:

TOTAL PLANTS	1,786	
SOLD SEPTEMBER 10TH	-1,517	
TOTAL CARRYOVER		269
RETURNED TO WRIGHT'S NURSERY FOR CREDIT		-18
SUBSEQUENTLY SOLD AT GENERAL MEETING OR BARTLETT DAYS		-100
LOST DUE TO POOR QUALITY/CABBAGE LOOPERS		-103
PLANTS TO BE CARRIED OVER FOR SPRING		-18
PLANTS DONATED TO DEMO BEDS, ETC. (approximate)		-30
TOTAL		0

This all adds up to the following approximation of purchases, sales and expenses for the 2016 Fall Plant Sale:

TOTAL PLANT SALE INCOME	TOTALS	
TOTAL DEPOSITS 9/12/16 (PLANTS/VENDOR FEES/GARAGE SALE/	\$9,330.43	
SUBSEQUENT DEPOSITS	\$298.00	
CHECKS PENDING DEPOSIT	\$174.00	
TOTAL INCOME		\$9,802.43
LESS TOTAL PLANT PURCHASES	-\$5,175.44	
LESS PAID ADVERTISING (HANDOUTS/FLYERS)	-\$276.03	
LESS ESTIMATED PRINT ADVERTISING	-\$544.00	
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSES		-\$5,995.47
TOTAL ESTIMATED INCOME FOR 2016 FALL PLANT SALE		\$3,806.96

I have not had a chance to go over these numbers with Don Wyatt, our Treasurer, so complete accuracy is not assured (not to mention I always did well to get a B- or C+ in any math or above class I ever took) but I believe the number to be at the very least "close" to right!

Continued at bottom of next page...

The Veggie Guy

- Wayne Schirner

Fall Check List

October is one of the nicer months for gardening. Temperatures are lower, and being in the garden can be a real joy. Your tomatoes and peppers should be flowering and setting fruit this month. This is an excellent time to plant hardy perennial herbs in your garden, so hopefully you bought some at the fall plant sale. Many shade trees start to drop their leaves in late October and November, so now is a good time to decide how you will use them in your garden. If you aren't yet composting, get started this year! This is the only time of year that I use the bagger on my mower, so I can catch the shredded leaves. You'll even have some grass in the bag, so you have a mix of browns and greens right from the start.

As the warm season crops are harvested and removed, decide what cool season crops can be planted in their place. October is a good month to plant Asian greens, beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collards, kale, garlic, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard greens, radishes, onions, shallots, and Swiss chard.

Beds you do not intend to plant with vegetables or herbs may be planted with a cool-season "green manure" crop, such as elbon rye, vetch, or crimson clover. Just don't let them go to seed. These crops should be turned under when they begin to bloom, if not before. If you don't intend to grow a winter vegetable garden, now is also a good time to do a soil test. If you need to add amendments to your soil, doing it

now will give them time to do their work before planting your spring garden.

October is typically still dry, so your garden continues to need regular watering. Any newly transplanted vegetables or herbs will usually need more frequent irrigation than more established plants. With cooler weather, pest problems are frequently not as bad, but you still need to watch for aphids. Caterpillars can infest your leafy vegetables and cole crops, so make sure you have some Bt readily available. It can be applied as a dust, or a liquid form can be diluted with water and sprayed on your plants. It's organic and considered safe for humans and animals.

One last thing: Did you buy a fruit tree at the fall plant sale, or are you planning to start your garden in a new location? Before you plant, you should determine the drainage of the proposed area to find out if your soil is "well drained." After researching this topic, here is what I found to be the most reliable way to tell if your soil is well drained. Dig a hole that is 12" deep and 12" in diameter. Fill the hole with water and let it drain over night. The next day, fill it with water again and place a ruler in the center of the hole. Then time how quickly water drains out of the hole. The ideal is 1-2 inches per hour. If it drains faster than that, your soil is too sandy. If it drains slower than that, it has too much clay. The solution for either condition is the same; add compost. Of course if you use raised beds for your vegetable garden, you don't usually need to worry about this unless you put your raised bed in a low lying spot that tends to hold water after a rain. If you are planting a tree, the hole you dug for this percolation test is a good start to the hole you need for the tree, assuming the soil drainage is where you want it. That's it for this month. Remember to have fun in your fall garden.

Fall Plant Sale...continued

I am not going to go into the individual names of all of you who were so instrumental in making this plant sale a success—there's just too many of you and besides, you know who you are!!!! I hope I have adequately expressed to each of you my sincere gratitude for all of your efforts and equally hope you will be there this coming spring to work with me on our 2017 Spring Plant Sale featuring:

"The Best of Central Texas' EarthKind® Selections for Spring"

Recently Discovered Pests

- Gary Slanga

My sister, who lives in north Temple, sent me photos of two critters that she discovered in her garden. The first, pictured here eating on a rose leaf or seen in the second photo is a particularly nasty caterpillar known in Texas as an “asp” caterpillar.

It belongs to the **southern flannel moth** (also called the puss moth) *Megalopyge opercularis* pictured below.

The **puss moth caterpillar** has barbs under its furry coat that contain a venom that can cause a nasty rash or red bumps that will develop within minutes of contact with the critter. The result can be a throbbing pain, itching or burning or



and anyone who is sensitive to this venom may need medical intervention. Applying ice to the area and treating with oral antihistamines can relieve the itching or burning. This caterpillar can resemble a dry leaf and could be overlooked, so be careful when gardening especially with small children who might be attracted to this woolly critter.

The other pest is the **canna leaf roller**.

This is the larva of the large brown skipper butterfly shown here.



This pest can destroy the foliage of cannas in no time.

As with other leaf rollers, they spin silk thread to roll themselves into the edge of a leaf. They then pupate within this leaf tube.

Both pests have become active just recently so be on the lookout for them.

Army Worms Looking Bad For Fall in Bell County

- Kathy Love

As you can see from my photos, armyworms are definitely in Bell County this fall. I researched and wrote an article for Lyle on armyworms early this morning and afterwards, when I finally got out to my yard and keyhole gardens, guess what I found? The very problem I had just finished writing about!

The brown kennel area in the first photo was a lush and green Bermuda section of my yard when my nephew mowed it on September 4th. The week of the plant sale and a few days later and this is what it looks like now. The following is the bulk of the article I did for Lyle for the papers. Clearly we all need to be on the lookout for this problem.

The above average rains we enjoyed in August and September were particularly favorable for high egg survival of the true armyworm, the insect that causes the most problems in crops, sports fields, golf courses and home landscapes. Armyworms should be controlled when they occur in large numbers or plant damage is excessive.

Armyworms get their name from the gregarious behavior of the nearly full-grown caterpillars. In years of abundance they are known to form large bands or "armies" of caterpillars munching their ways through prairies, farm fields, and even lawns.



The fall armyworm has four life stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. It has not shown the ability to diapause so it can survive winter, especially when winter is mild like we just had. The adult moths we are now seeing have a wingspan of about 1.5 in. The hind wings are white; the front wings are dark gray, mottled with lighter and darker splotches. On male moths each forewing has a noticeable whitish spot near the extreme tip.

The female moth lays very small eggs which are white, in clusters of 50 or more and covered with grayish, fuzzy scales from her body. Eggs are seldom seen and are laid at the base of host plants.

Larvae hatch from the eggs and when full-grown, are green, brown, or black and about 1 to 1.5 in. long. It has a dark head capsule usually marked with a pale, but distinct, inverted "Y." Along each side of its body is a longitudinal, black stripe, and along the middle of its back is a wider, yellowish-gray stripe with four black dots on each segment.

Several generations (a generation is the development from egg to adult stage.) occur each year and typically the life cycle from egg to adult is 28 days. The cycle can be extended if cooler temperatures occur and can last up to several months. Fall populations of larvae often blend together several generations and may appear to be continually occurring.

Feeding larvae strip foliage and then move to the next available food. Besides warm-season turf grasses, plants attacked by armyworms include grain and forage sorghum, corn, small grains, sweet potato, beans, turnip, clover, tobacco, spinach, cucumber, potatoes, tomatoes, cowpeas, cabbage, bluegrass and others. When food is scarce, they will move to plants that are not normally attacked so they can be found on nearly any plant as they migrate in search of edible foliage. Damage consists of foliage consumption. The small larvae will chew the green layer from the leaves and leave a clearing or "window pane" effect. The first three instars do very little feeding while

Army Worms...continued

the last two instars consume 85% of the total foliage consumed.

Normally, weather and multiple natural enemies act together to control populations of armyworms. Wasps and fly parasites are very effective against armyworms and other predators; such as ground beetles, can also limit outbreaks. Birds, skunks and rodents consume large numbers of larvae and pupae, and insect viruses can also be important.

Homeowners who see the large, tan moths in their yards should not be too concerned. While armyworms can damage lawns, they are more likely to build up large numbers in pastures or farm fields

and then move into adjacent turf grass. Homes on the edges of undeveloped land or wheat fields are most at risk if the caterpillars flourish over the next few weeks. Damaged areas of lawns appear off-color and eventually turn brown as damage progresses from small windowpane strips of damaged leaf tissue to destruction of entire leaves. Armyworms feed any time of the day or night, but are most active early in the morning or late in the evening.

Treat lawns and gardens with a labeled insecticide when leaf damage becomes evident and large numbers of caterpillars are visible. Effective, low-impact insecticides include halofenozide (small caterpillars only) and spinosad. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bt*) products are widely available and will selectively control small armyworm larvae without harm to beneficial in-

sects; however, *Bt* residues do not last on turf for more than 1-2 days. Conventional insecticide choices for armyworms in lawns include bifenthrin, carbaryl, esfenvalerate, permethrin and others. As always, follow all label instructions on pesticide use as well as all restrictions.

In pastures, hay and crop fields, diligent monitoring is essential. Walk in your pasture in rubber boots when the foliage is wet with dew and the worms will stick to your boots. You should also look for the clearing or



“window pane” effect on leaves and the later notched edges on the leaves as the larvae develop.

To decide when it is worth your time and money to act, keep in mind that in just 2-3 days of feeding an armyworm eats 80% of its total intake for development, so it is important to catch the worms in the earliest stage. Break your field into square foot grids and set a threshold of 2-3 worms per grid. When worms exceed the threshold, apply insecticide in the early morning or late evening when the populations are most active. Consider harvesting a field that is near ripe to prevent further damage.

Fall Is For Planting

- Kathy Love

Whether you are wanting vegetables for the table, a new tree to shade the house or color for the perennial bed or border, in our region of Texas, fall is one of the best times for planting.

GROWING FALL VEGETABLES & HERBS

One of the first decisions for planting a fall garden can be one of the hardest. Those producing plants that you nurtured from babies in the spring have got to go. All plants, including weeds, should be removed except okra, cherry tomatoes and pole beans if the foliage is healthy. Large-fruited tomatoes may have small fruit hanging on, but unless you have 20-25 on the vine, pull it up—make chow chow or green tomato relish and give the vines to the compost pile (if disease free) or to the garbage man if diseased-- spider mites will not compost.

Keep in mind when planting in the fall, you still need to do proper soil preparation and provide adequate fertilizer and moisture. Slow release commercial fertilizers are recommended at 2-3 pounds (19-5-9, 21-7-14, 25-5-10) per 100 square feet of garden area. Fully composted horse, cattle or fowl manures may be substituted for commercial fertilizer at the rate of 60-80 pounds per 100 square feet. Watering will need to be a daily function to allow your transplants to flourish in the still mostly sweltering heat of September and October. Mulch helps retain moisture too.

Transplants perform more reliably in the fall and the larger the transplant the better. A recent Texas A&M study confirmed that two larger transplants, even though more expensive initially, significantly out produced six smaller, cheaper transplants which failed after planting. Certainly you believe the Aggies; don't you!

Fall vegetables are categorized as long-term and short-term crops, determined by the first killing frost date and their cold tolerance. Some quick producing vegetable transplants (30-60 days) are leaf lettuce, mustard greens and spinach.

Moderate frost tolerant producers (60-80 days) include broccoli, Chinese cabbage, and kohlrabi, while some slow maturing vegetables (80 days or more) are Brussels sprouts, cabbage and cauliflower.

Herbs grow as either annual, biennial or perennial and grow similar to your vegetable garden. They need a sunny, well-drained location and the application of slow-release fertilizer at the rate of 2 pounds per 100 square feet. Many herbs are from the Mediterranean region so our area's hot, dry weather suits them well.

Some herbs that are best planted in the fall include parsley, calendula and chives.

TREES & SHRUBS

Fall is the perfect time to plant a new tree, shrub or grouping of shrubs. For many trees and shrubs, fall surpasses spring for planting.

While some individuals prefer January-March to plant, the months of September-December have distinct advantages. Plant roots grow anytime soil temperature is 40 degrees or higher, which can be all winter in our area. Thus fall planted trees and shrubs take advantage of the cooler, wetter fall and winter months to develop and become established so when spring arrives, the expanded root system can support and take full advantage of the surge of spring growth.

Recommended trees and shrubs include fast growing shade trees like Mexican White Oak a/k/a Monterrey Oak (35-45 feet total height – up to 3 feet growth per year), the Texas native Lacey Oak (30-35 feet total height – slow growth), and Lacebark Elm (30-50 feet total height – average growth).

Some recommended shrubs are highly fragrant Texas Kidneywood, elegant Desert Willow and a variety of Butterfly Bushes including Black Knight, Nanho Blue, Pink Delight, Royal Red and Honeycomb.

PERENNIALS & OTHERS

Like trees and shrubs, perennials planted in the fall and provided ample water during the hot dry days, will reward you with lush growth in the spring. While a spring planted perennial is only beginning to put down roots since the soil is still cold from winter—and it is used to its warm greenhouse environment--a perennial planted in the fall gets to enjoy fall's cooler soil temperatures and better rainfall chances which helps to develop a good, strong root system for the coming spring. Thus a fall planted perennial gets you a free year of growth, so to speak, and a larger, healthier plant to enjoy come spring.

Q & A

- Terrie Hahn

Q. *We found this on a pathway in our yard. Does anyone have any idea what it is? The dark part is hard and about 2 inches across. The spherical part has a very thin wall with a hole at the top. If you push on the sphere, it dents, but then goes back to its original shape. If you push it harder and it doesn't go back right away, you can blow into the hole and it reshapes itself.*



A. I posted these photos on the Face Book page called Gardening 101 in Central Texas. It's a good page to ask questions and get lots of people hunting down answers for you. A couple of people knew that this is an Earthstar and suggested a website called:

<http://herbarium.usu.edu/fungi/FunFacts/starfact.htm>
They state the following: "Earthstars belong to a group of fungi called Gasteromycetes, or "stomach fungi". Their fruiting bodies are a stomach-shaped sac filled with dry spores. They are related to puffballs."



Young, closed earthstars are onion-shaped. Their peridium (skin) is made up of three layers. The layers allow the earthstar to do something no other fungus can do. Earthstars can *move*!

When it rains, the outer two layers of the peridium split and uncurl, forming a "star" with 4 to 12 rays. The inner layer of the peridium remains a closed sac. The rays spread with enough force to push aside leaves, raising the spore-filled sac above surrounding debris. Sometimes the rays even lift the earthstar high enough to break the connection to the parent mycelium. The rays close when they dry, and the sac lowers.

Some sacs release their spores when the tender inside peridium wears away. Other sacs toughen and form an opening at the top. When a raindrop strikes these sacs, it pushes in the tough wall, puffing spores out of the opening. After the spores are dispersed the sac breaks down, leaving only fragments attached to the rays. In these older specimens, the star-like rays remain open.

Earthstars are found from early June to mid-September."

Oh, the fun things we find in our yards when we really look hard (or get lucky).

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Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

Paper Wasps

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife Extension Entomologist

Paper wasps are reddish brown wasps, and may sometimes have yellow markings. They are about $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 inch in length with smoky wings. Paper wasps make a paper nest out of chewed wood fiber. The nest is open and hangs from a single filament. The nest is typically constructed in protected areas such as under



the eaves of homes, in shrubbery, mailboxes or on fences.

Mated queens overwinter and emerge in spring to start a small, new

nest in which to lay eggs. The colony, if left alone, grows in size throughout spring and summer. During this time workers forage mainly for protein, usually other insects, so they are great at helping to manage pests. Colonies reach their peak size in late summer to early fall. Starting in late summer, paper wasps forage on sugars and may be drawn to human inhabited areas that may contain a food source, such as garbage cans, outdoor patio areas or hummingbird feeders.

Paper wasps tend to be unaggressive, so if the nest is in an area where a stinging incidence is unlikely, it is best to leave it alone. If the nest is built in an area where someone may get stung- in a mailbox, on playground equipment, etc.- then it is recommended to manage wasps and then remove the nest.

Early in the season, when nests are just being started by founding females, it may be possible to discourage paper wasps to nest in a certain area by knocking down the nest repeatedly. This is not recommended



when the nest is larger and contains multiple wasps.

Aerosol formulations- both synthetic and naturally derived- are available for paper wasp management. The nest should be treated either in the early morning or late evening to ensure that wasps are not out foraging for food. Use caution when treating paper wasps nests. Not only are you using a pesticide, but you are dealing with insects that can sting repeatedly. After all wasps are gone, knock down the nest and throw it away. You may want to clean the area where the nest was hanging to rid the area of any pheromones that could quickly attract new wasps to the area.

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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TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Salado Gardens on Tour 2016

- Susan Terry

Saturday, October 8 from 10 am-4 pm Tickets available at keepsaladobeautiful.com

Don't miss these 5 very unique, magnificent Salado gardens. We will also feature 6 of our public gardens.

Earn a few service hours in Beautiful Salado. We need a few people to serve as GREETERS at the Private Gardens; welcome visitors and check-off their ticket as they tour the site. Once you are in our Village you will be able to see the other gardens and stop in at Christmas in October, enjoy a glass of wine or sample a touch of the local brew, "Evil Catfish."

1. Art in the Garden - The Pennington Compound

This five-acre spectacular and unique estate of Joyce and CR Pennington has a commanding panoramic view of the beautiful Salado Creek. It is a natural landscaped parkland composed of multi pocket gardens and fine art sculptures and artifacts that gives it a special spirit of place. Deer resistant and Texas-tough natives are grouped into plant communities that fill various niches around the existing lawn and enhance the vast outdoor sculpture and art collection.



2. The Artistic Texas Native Garden of Nancy and Owen Messenger

The home and garden is located on a hill and the front yard slopes away from the house and plantings are tightly massed in beds. There are gravel paths that glide down the hill where there is a diverse abundance of native and adapted plants, perennials, ornamental grasses and herbs. A side courtyard where under the canopy of oaks and elms is a natural designed area with its use of stones, rocks and trees linked together providing a serene spot.



3. Picturesque Garden of Alice and George Romfh

A delightful garden in harmony with nature brings serenity and calm to mind when touring this beautifully secluded landscape. Located on a cul-de-sac in a quiet neighborhood, the acre plus lot slopes to a wet weather creek and meadow. A variety of ornamental shrubs and a tremendous abundance of flowers provides a mixture of colors throughout. Within the gardens are a collection of stone angels and wind chimes providing delightful peaceful sounds as one tours the yard.



Continued on next page...

Salado Garden Tour ...continued

4. The Secret Garden of Shirley and Bill Pinkston

This secluded home and garden is nestled between a natural area with a seasonal creek and a steep hill that is terraced with Texas limestone interspersed with native plantings. Entering, one crosses a wooden bridge leading to the front garden that was designed as a formal garden to blend with the natural setting. Beds of colorful seasonal annuals, perennials and native plants fill the beautiful and tranquil yard.

5. Hillside Garden of Mickey and Linda Rawls



Linda and Mickey Rawls have combined the art of featuring plants, the natural resources of the land and the imagination to create their garden spaces. They have extensively used local rock and stone throughout their landscape combined with various sized rusted pipe vessels used as containers for potted specimens. Plantings within the hillside terraces are a combination of natives, irises, yuccas and ornamental grasses mostly drought-tolerant, shade loving and deer resistant.



Public Sculpture Gardens

Photos by
Margaret
Williamson

The Girls Hit the Northwest!

- Gail Christian

Kathy Patterson, Pat Allen Edie Campbell and I went to Seattle On July 20 and stayed 8 days. We stayed in a hotel next to the Space Needle and Chihuly Glass Museum. We toured both of them and walked to Pikes Market. We went on a Historical Tour and a Culinary Tour of Pikes Market. Had lots of fun and sampled deli-



cious food. Needless to say, we took the hotel shuttle back after each of these tours. We also went on a whale watching excursion. Saw a few whales and eagles. Then we took a ferry boat to Victoria, BC. We thought

we had a good time in Seattle, but Victoria is wonderful. Of course we went to Butchart Gardens. Kathy had a friend, Donna, we stayed with, she took us to some of the local beaches where we saw lots of eagles. Donna had a friend who just had to meet the



Texans, so she had a British Tea for us. We also went zip lining. It was a blast. Only three of us were brave enough to go. I think we are all ready to go back, especially since the weather was so nice and cool.



Summer Herb Group Gathering

- Terrie Hahn

A group of Master Gardeners interested in herbs got together on August 17th to eat herbal dishes, socialize and discuss tips on how to grow herbs and cook with them. This group started long ago as the Herb Study Group headed up by Kim Pringle, but disbanded after 5 years. However we still get together twice a year just to exchange ideas and eat yummy herbal dishes, of course. And we've gained quite a few new MG's coming to our gatherings.

Mary Lou Edmondson shared her tip of adding a pinch of salt to the water you wash your greens in to kill bugs that may be on the leaves.

Other tips shared during our discussion were:

If you want more flavor from your Bay leaves, cut them down the middle of the vein before adding them to your dish. They make a good addition to cocoa.

Spice Island is a good Rosemary to try.

Use a tea ball for herbs in stew or soup so it can easily be removed.

Don't plant rosemary near the house, because the oils are very flammable.

To make herb infused simple syrups for tea, punch or cocktails, simply heat 1/2 C water in the microwave or on the stove. Add 1/2 C sugar and stir



until the sugar is dissolved. Take syrup off heat and bruise a handful of herb like mint, lavender, rosemary, basil, etc. Add herbs to the syrup. Cover the dish until cool and then remove your herbs. Keep in the fridge for up to two weeks.

And Jeanne Richard uses Olive tree leaves in tea. She says "It is very mild, so I sometimes throw in a tea bag as well. I am after the health benefits (antioxidant & anti-inflammatory) as opposed to the taste. I usually use fresh, but when I went to the Sandy Oaks gift shop, they were selling them as dry, whole leaves. Internet research indicates you'll get more benefit from drying the leaves, grinding them with a mortar & pestle and steeping in hot water...guess I'll start doing that!"



This and That

Garden Song

Sung by John Denver (1970's)

Inch by inch, row by row,
I'm gonna make this garden grow.
All it takes is a rake and a hoe
And a piece of fertile ground.
Inch by inch, row by row,
Someone bless the seeds I sow,
And warm them from below,
'Til the rain comes tumbling down.

Pulling weeds and picking stones,
We are made of dreams and bones.
I feel the need to grow my own
'Cause the time is close at hand.
Grain for grain, sun and rain,
Find my way in nature's chain.
I tune my body and my brain
To the music of the land.

Plant your rows straight and long,
Temper them with prayer and song.
Mother Earth will keep you strong
If you give her love and care.
Old crow watching hungrily,
From his perch in yonder tree.
In my garden I'm as free
As that feathered thief up there.

Inch by inch, row by row,
I'm gonna make this garden grow.
All it takes is a rake and a hoe
And a piece of fertile ground.
Inch by inch, row by row,
Someone bless the seeds I sow,
And warm them from below,
'Til the rain comes tumbling down.

Submitted by Gail Koontz

Plant Swap News

A deserved round of applause to Sylvia Maedgen for creating the magic formula:

1 child's sand bucket +
1 Plaster of Paris +
1 wooden paint stirring stick +
1 spring-load clothes pin +
printed/laminated titles x
12 categories = permanent Plant Sale
& Plant Swap signage

Let's give another hand to Sylvia, along with Carol Morisset, Gena Winston, and Rose Harris for all their work on our Plant Swap Committee, and while we're at it, let's hear it for everyone who participated in our September Swap...lots of healthy plants of all kinds, quite a few no-fooling unusual!

Our Spring 2017 Plant Swap will be on April 12, before and after the General Meeting as has become customary for the convenience of the membership. I'll send reminders closer to the event.

Thank you,

Jane,

Your Friendly Plant Swap Coordinator

Hula Hoop Queen

- Pam Dragoo

This is Kim Pringle at Natural Grocers August 11, 2016.

In celebration of the company's 61st anniversary, Natural Grocers attempted to beat the GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS title for the most people hula hooping at multiple venues simultaneously. Kim kept her hula-hoop up for the whole two minutes.



This and That

2016 Rain Barrel Workshops

By Gail Koontz

Karen Colwick led a third Rain Barrel Workshop on September 24, with 16 people participating. The first two were both held on May 21.

Karen begins the workshop with information on the importance of water conservation in Texas. She then covers rainwater harvesting with rain barrels and reasons to harvest rainwater: 1) The water is free; 2) Rainwater is better for our plants than chemically treated water; 3) Rainwater can water wildlife, livestock and pets; 4) etc.

Everyone went outside to hear Karen talk about the rainwater harvest systems at the AgriLife Extension Service, mainly used to water demonstration gardens and during the spring and fall plant sales.

Everyone then took



a 55-gallon blue barrel to begin building a rain barrel. With rain in the forecast, everyone was anxious to get home to get their barrel in place to begin collecting rainwater.

During this last workshop, Karen was assisted by Alan Colwick, Carla Harmon, Gail Koontz, and Kathy Love.

I made my first rain barrel in May. I can see a big difference in the health of my potted plants now that I use rain water instead of city water. And I acquired a second rain barrel recently (art work by Betty Burkett).

Photography by Gail Koontz



Announcements

Grounds Workdays

- Walter Ponder

Here is the Workday schedule for October:

8 a.m. October 5, 2016 Workday

10:30 a.m. October 5, 2016 Burger Wednesday

8 a.m. October 12, 2016 Workday

8 a.m. October 19, 2016 Workday

8 a.m. October 26, 2016 Workday

October Meeting

- Mary Ann Everett

The speaker for October 12 is Laura Murphy, speaking on Container Gardening. Please come for social time at **10:00 a.m.** and for Laura at **10:30 a.m.**

HELP WANTED: Traditional Mentors for the New Class

- Peg Fleet

It's here again! The 2017 class of Master Gardener interns will begin with orientation on January 4th, 2017. Once again, the New Class Committee is asking Master Gardeners to volunteer during class sessions as traditional mentors. 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 and recording homework, setting out refreshments, providing assistance as needed during classes, and making sure that the room is returned to order afterward. Mentors should plan on arriving no later than 12:00 noon on class days and remaining until the end of that day's class. Signup sheets will be available at the October membership meeting. Master Gardeners who sign up will receive confirmation by e-mail. Because we want to give as many Master Gardeners as possible the opportunity to sign up, we request that you select no more than two signup dates. We will also have a Substitute Mentor signup list available. The response last year was outstanding, and we hope that we will have the same experience this year. Please consider sharing your time and skills to help make this class the rewarding experience that it is meant to be.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY CLASS

MANDATORY ORIENTATION
JANUARY 4, 2017
WEEKLY CLASSES START JANUARY 11TH
AND CONTINUE 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
EVERY WEDNESDAY THROUGH MID-MAY
LOCATED AT THE
BELL COUNTY AGRILIFE BUILDING
1605 N. MAIN, BELTON 76513

ONLY 25 APPLICANTS WILL
BE ACCEPTED FOR THIS
ANNIVERSARY CLASS SO
SUBMIT YOUR \$250 FEE
AND APPLICATION ASAP
BUT NO LATER THAN
DECEMBER 15, 2016

GET YOUR APPLICATION AT
WWW.TXMG.ORG/BELL/ OR
AT 1605 N. MAIN, BELTON OR
CALL 254/933-5305

BE A COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER, &
MAKE NEW FRIENDS

**Spread
the
Word!**

Announcements



Time to Get Into the Christmas Spirit!

- Gail Koontz

It's a Blooming Christmas Party . . . coming your way Friday, December 2 . . . in the Special Events Room . . . Bell County Expo Center. We'll begin gathering at 6:00 pm; dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Put this on your calendar now. Make your reservations soon. We want you to join us for fun, Christmas fellowship, good food, and Master Gardener achievements and recognitions.

You will want to come early to check out the items in the Silent Auction. Mary Ann Everett will once again coordinate this event. So check with her if you have an item or two to contribute.

Your reservation is made with a payment of \$15 per person made to the Registration Committee (Jan George, Joan Bumgarner, Gail Garner). We will begin taking reservations in October. Deadline to make your reservation is November 9; after November 9, you will pay \$25 per person to make a reservation. Absolute deadline for reservations is November 18.

Our meal this year will be traditional holiday. There will also be a salad bar and a dessert bar. When making your reservations, please note any special dietary needs. Drinks include water, tea and coffee (including caffeine free).

The Planning Committee thought it appropriate to include a community service project this year. We as Master Gardeners are blessed in so many ways, and Christmas is a time to share and bless those who are in need. We will be supporting The Friends in Crisis Homeless Shelter, Families in Crisis, and KISD Community Clothes Closet – all located in Killeen. Beginning in October, there will be three large Rubbermaid tubs available for you to bring and deposit specific items, one for each of the agencies, with the name of agency, their Christmas needs, and a Master Gardener point of contact should you have questions or concerns about the agency. Items needed are 1) inexpensive, smaller sized white towels and white or light color thermal blankets (so they can be bleached). They do not have to be new but must be in good repair. 2) Christmas toys for boys and girls, all ages. 3) Christmas candy. 4) Children's underwear (new). 5) Children's shoes and socks (new). We will have flyers with information on the agencies at the monthly meetings in October and November, and the tubs will also be in the Special Events Room the night of our Christmas Party. Be generous, Master Gardeners, and let's fill up those tubs!

FYI

Southern Region Master Gardener Conference Coming Up

The 2016 SRMGC will be held in Arlington and Fort Worth, **November 1-4, 2016!** Check out the information at: <https://2016southernregionmg.com/>

Using Water Wisely – Demonstration Field Day

Saturday, **November 5, 2016**

9 am to 1 pm

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service-Travis County
1600-B Smith Road, Austin, 78721

Learn about the entire spectrum of water saving solutions from high tech to no tech at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office Demonstration Field Day in Austin. You determine the best answer for your situation and pocket book.

Travis County Master Gardeners and Horticulturist Daphne Richards will be available to demonstrate and answer your questions on a one-on-one basis.

Discover various rain water catchment methods. See examples of various watering methods from a wicking bed to drip irrigation. Understand the importance of compost for water conservation and plant health. Gain knowledge about the importance of selecting the right plant for the right place. Look at ways to control heat (summer and winter) to increase vegetable garden production.

Come stroll the diverse garden and ask questions. Enjoy watching the butterflies, bees, blooming flowers, and growing vegetables. Take home lettuce seeds and how-to knowledge to accomplish your next project.

Demonstration Field Day is free and open to the public – No RSVP is required.

For more information, contact Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Service – Travis County, 512-854-9600 or visit the Central Texas Horticulture.

Visit the Central Texas Horticulture website: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/index.html>

Blackland Income Growth Conference

This will be held in Waco **December 13-14, 2016** and will have horticultural seminars for gardeners also. More information will be coming.

Texas Water Days

Please join us for the inaugural Texas Waters Day, **Friday October 21, 2016!**

Texas Waters Day will launch the new curriculum produced by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Waters: Exploring Water and Watersheds and the new Texas Waters Specialist certification program. This program will be given at the Texas Master Naturalist State Conference in Montgomery, TX. For more info, go to: <http://txmn.org/2016-annual-meeting-frequently-asked-questions/>

Save The Date!

**16TH ANNUAL
BELL COUNTY
WATER SYMPOSIUM**

NOVEMBER 16, 2016
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(check in opens at 8:00 a.m.)

New Location:
Texas A&M Univ. - Central Texas
Killeen, TX

Clearwater
water solutions

What's Happening in Your Yard

Squirrel Proof Feeder!

- Cynthia Linzy

I found these 2 squirrels munching down all the bird seed in my squirrel proof feeder.



What's Happening in Your Yard

- Marjorie Gillmeister

Wolfgang Gillmeister, 3 yrs old, (son of Marjorie Gillmeister/ Master Gardener Class of 2016) getting ready for The Walker Honey Farm Farmer's Market (Rogers, TX) on Saturday, October 8th 9am-3pm. Look for Wolfgang's Garden booth... We will have Heirloom Watermelon Sweet Crimson amongst other organic non-gmo veggies we've planted all from seed and Eggshell Gardening at our booth. Follow our Facebook page for all Wolfgang's Gardening adventures at: www.facebook.com/wolfgangsgarden



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Please do not send PDF documents.

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