

The Blooming Bell's
Trails to Rails
Special Edition

**2015
TEXAS MASTER
GARDENER CONFERENCE**



Bell County Expo Center



**TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION**

Bell County Master Gardeners Association

The President's Corner

Congratulations!!! Master Gardeners. You put on one of the best conferences imaginable. Some folks, who have attended many conferences, said it was one of the best conferences they have attended. I know it was hard work and I want to say thanks to everyone who worked on this event.

We still have several bills to pay, the Expo bill, the "cost recovery" bill, and returning the seed money which came from the State coffers, but we still made a good profit. Needless to say it was several times what we would have made on the plant sale.

Survey went out to 560 attendees to get their feedback (yes typos and all went out) and the responses were overwhelmingly favorable. The most favorable comment was on the idea of having all seminars in one room with everyone able to attend all nine seminars. Many compliments on the quality of sound and ability to see the screens.

While on the topic of compliments, all of you who worked got high praise for being very helpful, courteous, friendly and always available when help was needed. Almost every returned comment mentioned how gracious, and helpful all of you volunteers were.

Once again a big thanks to everyone, it was an unqualified success!!!!

Great job everyone.

Gary

Progression of the Logo

- Terrie Hahn

Work on the Logo for the Conference began in July, 2013. This is the first.



The following list of possible slogans was sent to Robin Pohl, class of 2009, living in San Antonio.

Growing for the Future
Wild about Wildflowers
Ride the Wildflower Trail
Sowing Seeds Along the Chisholm Trail
Springtime on the Chisholm Trail
History and Horticulture on the Chisholm Trail
Heirlooms and Heritage
All Aboard - History and Heirlooms
Keep on Track
Tanks and Trains - Riding the Chisholm Trail
Battling the garden elements
Strategic Moves in Gardening - Come to Central Texas
Bedpans, Bullets and Blooms

This is the November 16, 2013 version that Robin came up with, which 10 days and many emails later turned into the logo we used shown on the cover of this issue. Great Job Robin!!!



THE CONFERENCE ALMOST TWO YEAR'S WORTH OF WORK COMES TOGETHER!

Final Prep Work!

- Randy Brown



Killeen Community Garden gets a final touchup and a mural painted on the shed. Right: Table top Trails to Rails decorations are put together.



Photos by Randy Brown and Charles Newsom



THE CONFERENCE

Setting Up!

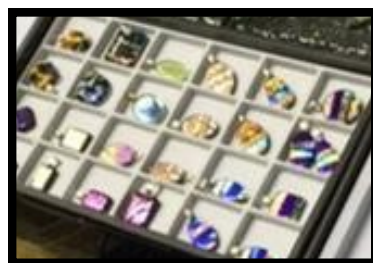


Photos
by
Randy
Brown



THE CONFERENCE

Setting Up!



Photos by
Randy Brown

THE CONFERENCE

Rollin', Rollin', Rollin'! 🎵

- Randy Brown



560 Master Gardeners from throughout Texas attended the Conference April 16-18.

Above: Channel 10 Interview; some of the MG's in the Silent Auction, decorating, catering, registration, t-shirt, info booth stations.



Photos by
Randy
Brown

THE CONFERENCE

Rollin', Rollin', Rollin'! 🎵



Our first speaker, **Greg Grant**, horticulturist and author, spoke of "Gardening for Love." Next up, **Fran Hutchins** of Bats Conservation International answered the question, "Why Bats." **Sandy Winokur**, owner of the first Texas commercial olive orchard talked about "The Perfect Tree for Texas Backyards and Orchards."

Below: Gary hands off the "torch" to Collin County; time for the banquet; lunch is served; and some of the State officials with Lyle.



Photos by Randy Brown



THE CONFERENCE

Rollin', Rollin', Rollin' at the Social



We even had the String Ensemble from the Belton H.S. Orchestra, led by Mr. John Fairlie.

Photos by Randy Brown



THE CONFERENCE



Rollin', Rollin', Rollin' at the Social



THE CONFERENCE

Rollin', Rollin', Rollin,' With More Speakers



Speakers for Friday were **Clint Walker** speaking on Bees-"Would You Want to Live Here?" **Charles Porter**, "Sharing the Common Pool," **Peter Hatch** sharing "Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden," **Felder Rushing** getting a standing ovation for his "Slow Gardening," **Mark Vorderbruggen** taking us through a tour of "Your Edible Secret Garden," and **Art Davidson** speaking about "Saving Heirloom Seeds."



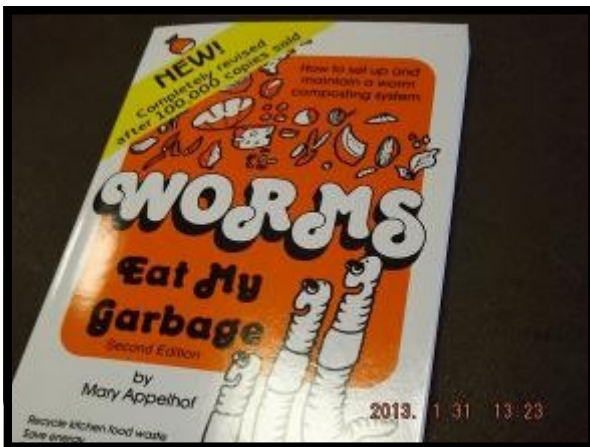
Photos by Randy Brown

THE CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Vermicomposting Workshop

- Barbara Beebe

Jean Flores and Kyle Harrell explains the who, what and where of composting with **worms**.



THE CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Edible Plants Workshop

- Kim Pringle



At The **Edible Plants Workshop**, Mark “Merriwether” Vorderbruggen went hiking with us through Miller Springs foraging for edible plants.

Top Bar Bee Hive Construction Workshop

- Barbara Beebe

Wayne Baker demonstrated how to construct a **Top Bar Bee Hive**.



THE CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Leaf Casting Workshop

- Barbara Beebe

Karen Colwick (left) taught a hands-on Workshop in Leaf Casting. Each participant took home a cement leaf casting that they made.



THE CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

- Barbara Beebe

Norman Northern taught the **Basic Floral Design Workshop**.
Each participant took home the arrangement they made.



THE CONFERENCE TOURS

The Salado Tour- Susan Terry



Gardens of Salado tour included (clockwise from right) the Salado Library Garden; the Garden on College Hill where native Foxglove grows; the Sculpture Garden and the Monarch Way-station at Thomas Arnold Elementary School, where the caterpillar is a favored guest. The tour also went to the KMCCG.

Photos by Gene Terry

THE CONFERENCE TOURS

Fort Hood Tour - Randy Brown



The **Fort Hood** tour featured the 1st Cav Div Horse Det performing maneuvers during TMGA 2015 Conference. We had lunch in Roosevelt DFAC on Ft Hood. And then we headed over to the KMCCG.



THE CONFERENCE TOURS

The Railroad Heritage Tour - Sandra Jones

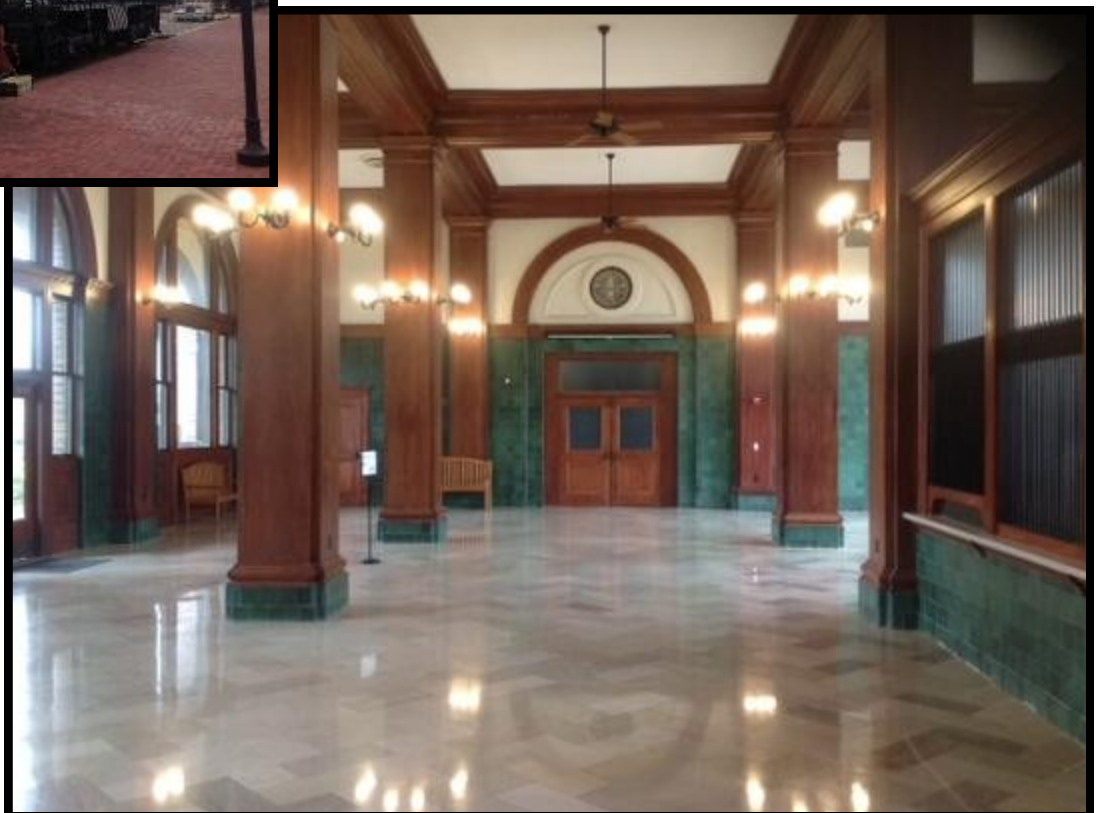


CTAMR opened its facility for **Our Railroad Heritage** tour guests. Their sign says this is FUN TIME and FUN it was! Below: The 1910 Santa Fe Depot. Restoration was completed in June 2000 and the depot became the



home of the Railroad & Heritage Museum and Amtrak. It is believed to be the only surviving "mission style" Missouri Kansas Texas Depot in Texas. See www.txtransportationmuseum.org/history-Missouri-Kansas-Texas.php for interesting and concise history of early rail-roading post Civil War. (Oklahoma was not yet a state.)

Above: Permanent display of Railroad & Heritage Museum. This is adjacent to the gardens first established and maintained by Bell County Master Gardeners.



The Seventh Day

Editor's Note: Georgio sent this the Sunday after the Conference was over. I think he captured the feelings of many Bell County Master Gardeners.

Thank you to the All Mighty, above, for this past week. The Bell County Master Gardeners completed a three day State Conference on Saturday April 18th, late afternoon. It was an amazing event with Inspiring speakers and lecturers, authors, publishers, and environmentalists, each passionate about their place on Earth. Their message had many of us in laughter, in awe, and on our feet in applause. The event also converged some of the most creative artisans, artists; all vendors, who shared their talents with additional classes, and demonstrations. Most importantly, the Bell County Master Gardeners played a valuable host to all corners of this great State of Texas and created a mutual ground of camaraderie, we merged excitingly, and for a magical three days we became one.

It certainly was an act of The Almighty, above, who inspired Sponsors, and Supporters, and countless hours of Volunteers to bond towards this common goal. It was an Act of Faith, which inspired our leaders to focus on the end result, it was a momentum of Good Will, which delegated, orchestrated, and synchronized the importance of our representation to stand above all else, TO RESPECT THE EARTH. It was in our Faith in each other that enabled this vehicle to cross the Line of Success.

Today is the Seventh Day, to give thanks to all of our friends across this amazing State of Texas, for a broader perspective, a renewed alliance, and an exciting future for the passionate at heart. The Bell County Master Gardeners.

- Georgio R. Graf, New Class Intern, April 19, 2015



Plants Anyone?



Officers

President	Gary Slanga
First Vice President	Randy Brown
Second Vice President	Bernie Hurta
Recording Secretary	Pat Smith
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Allen
Treasurer	Gail Christian

Directors

Youth Programs	Mary Ann Everett
New Class	Fran Sheppard
Landscape	Carla Harmon Walter Ponder
KMCCG	Edie Campbell
Outreach	Susan Terry
Awards	Bernie Hurta
Webmaster	Louann Hight
State Conference	Gary Slanga
AgriLife Agent	Lyle Zoeller

Contributing Writers and Photographers:

Robin Pohl
Gary Slanga
Randy Brown
Barbara BeeBe
Sandra Jones
Kim Pringle
Susan Terry
Georgio Graf
Charles Newsom

Editor:

Terrie Hahn

Proofreader:

Werner Hahn

Conference Logo Design by Robin Pohl

A publication of the Bell County Master Gardener
Association sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension of
Texas A & M University

1605 N. Main St.
Belton, Texas 76513
(254) 933-5305



May 1, 2015

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION