



Photo by Daisy Klassy

# The Blooming Bell

## October 2017



Bell County Master Gardeners group photo taken on September 13, 2017 after our monthly general meeting.

Photo by Randy Brown

Fall Plant Sale on September 30, 2017 was successful. We had over 400 customers.

Photo by Daisy Klassy





**Bell County  
Master Gardener  
Association**

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Work Day - 8 am* Burger Wed. 10:30 am	5	6	7
8	9 	10	11 Work Day - 8 am* Plant Swap 7 am Social - 8:30 am General Meeting - 9 am & garden tours	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Work Day 8 am*	19 Gardening in Bell County – Fruit & Citrus Trees	20	21
22	23	24	25 Work Day 8 am* BOD Meeting - 9 am	26 BCMGA 20th Anniversary Party - 2 pm	27	28
29	30	31 				

#### Upcoming events:

- ♦ Fall Plant Swap, Oct. 11
- ♦ 20th Anniversary BCMGA Party, Oct. 26
- ♦ Christmas Party, Expo, Dec. 1

\* In the event of rain, there will be No Workday.

Remember to record volunteer/education hours.

Photo by Janice Smith



# The President's Corner

## - Wayne Schirner

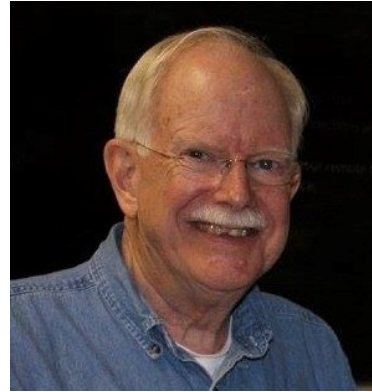
We have three more Class of 2017 trainees who became certified in September. Congratulate Linda Farmer, Janice Smith, and Emily Kuczek when you see them. The final one will probably complete their volunteer service requirement soon. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have 100% of the Class of 2017 certified during our anniversary year?

The Fall Plant Sale is over! Kathy Love and the Plant Sale Committee worked hard to ensure variety for the 412 customers who came to the plant sale to choose from. In addition to the usual fall vegetables and herbs, there were more trees than ever before, and berry bushes too. Annuals, perennials, succulents and grasses helped round out the selection. We added three new tables for the sale, so stooping over to pick things up off the ground was minimized. Kathy has done a wonderful job the past two years coordinating the spring and fall plants sales, but is turning those duties over to Sylvia Maedgen after this sale. I'm confident that the membership will support Sylvia in the same wonderful way they have supported Kathy. Look for photos from the plant sale in this issue of the Blooming Bell.

Have you been to one of the Gardening in Central Texas talks held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month? This series of lectures is rapidly growing in popularity. The September talk on herbs, given by Carla Harmon and Mary Lou Edmondson had 40 attendees, many of whom were not members of the BCMGA. This is a wonderful opportunity to educate the public, not only on the topic of that lecture, but also on the mission of the BCMGA. Thanks to Jan Upchurch, Carol Morisset, and Christy Reese for coordinating this monthly event.

The pergola that I mentioned last month is finished. It is an exceptionally nice addition to the grounds and provides welcome shade when sitting outside at the granite table. Kudos to Carla Harmon, Mike Butts, Glenn Melton, Johnny Jones, and Tom Rennels for their sustained work over many months to bring this to fruition.

Karen Colwick held another successful rain barrel workshop earlier in September, and will plan another one soon with the list she got during the plant sale. If you didn't get a chance to sign up for it at the fall plant sale, let Karen know that you want to attend the next one.



The October general membership meeting will again start at 9:00, with the social time starting at 8:30. Following the announcements, we will then travel to gardens at four different member's homes. This will be the last meeting at the earlier time slot until next May. Come to the October meeting to learn about the candidates for the Board of Directors positions that are open for the next two-year terms. This year we plan to vote on the slate of candidates at the November general membership meeting, and the new officers will be installed at the December Christmas Party/meeting.

Hopefully all the members are planning to attend the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 2:00 pm. If you haven't yet purchased an anniversary t-shirt, there are a few still available. The committee has worked hard to make this a memorable event that I am confident everyone will want to participate in.

With the arrival of fall, we are seeing temperatures drop and even getting some rainfall. Don't forget to adjust your automatic sprinkler system accordingly. October is generally when the frequency of lawn irrigation can be reduced to not more than once a week.

That's it for this month. Thank you for all that you do to keep our organization fun and exciting.



# 1 More Thing...

## Bumper Crop of Green Beans

- Wayne Schirner

How often do you learn something new after you failed to follow a conventional recommendation? That happened to me this past week; at least it was new to me.

First, some background: Green beans are one of my favorite vegetables to grow. They have a fairly long producing season, and in central Texas, two seasons. I plant Blue Lake pole beans in my Square Foot Garden because per square foot they produce significantly more than bush beans.

In our growing zone, the usual recommendation is to plant them in the spring between roughly mid-March to mid-April. They stop producing when we get into the hot part of the summer, so the usual recommendation is to remove the plants and then replant in mid-August through the first week of September to allow a fall crop before the first freezing weather arrives in late November – early December. This is the recommendation that I have always followed in the past.

This year, for a variety of reasons, I never removed my spring planted beans. I didn't have anything else I wanted to plant in those squares, so I pretty much just ignored them. I have drip irrigation in my garden and I kept that on. My plants had grown to the top of my 7-foot trellises and back down by the time the hot weather arrived, and I harvested regularly through the late spring and early summer.

Over the summer, I noticed a few flowers on the plants, but never any beans. Two weeks ago, I noticed an increase in the flowering, and last week, seemingly overnight, I had beans. I picked about 4 quarts of beans, and three days later another 4 quarts. I've got at least that many waiting now to be picked. Had I pulled the spring planted beans and replanted, I would still be waiting another 3-4 weeks to harvest the first beans from my end of summer planting. I doubt that I will ever again plant a separate fall crop of green beans.





# Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

## Large Canna Leafroller

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife Extension Entomologist

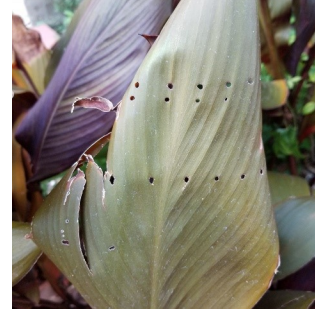
Have you been puzzled before when looking at your cannas and you discover rolled up leaves? Or possibly you have found circular holes chewed in a line across a leaf? If so, then you may be dealing with leafrollers.



The larger canna leafroller is a type of caterpillar that, in the adult form, is called a Brazilian skipper. Skippers are similar to butterflies, but they hold their wings differently and have hooks at the end of their antennae. The Brazilian skipper is brown, medium in size, with 5 transparent spots on the front wing and three transparent spots on the hind wing. Larger canna leafroller caterpillars have a well-developed, bi-lobed head capsule. The body is yellowish-green in color and can reach up to almost 2 inches in length.



Leafrollers consume the leaf around their leaf roll and then move to a new spot when necessary. Numerous large larvae on a plant can cause defoliation. Larvae have an interesting behavior of flicking their fecal material- frass- out of the roll so it collects on the ground instead of where they reside. Pupation takes place within the leaf roll after covering the shelter area with a thin silken mat. The pupal case is bright green with a dark spine at the end.



Leafroller control is up to the person managing the landscape. If you want your cannas to be pristine and not have any chewing insect damage, then you may want to consider control. On the other side, if you want to observe a complete insect life cycle and have Brazilian skippers, then you may need to sacrifice a bite of your foliage. Management can be as simple as squishing and/ or removing the caterpillars from the plant or you could choose a pesticide. You can use naturally-derived active ingredients such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, spinosad, azadirachtin, pyrethrin, or synthetic pesticides. Make sure to read and follow all label instructions.

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](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



## - Gail Koontz

### Tu(r)f Love Principle #3

Aerify once a year; more often with heavy traffic

When we walk on the grass, we press down on the soil, squeezing out air pockets and compacting the clay. Compaction is a physical process that slowly forces air pore space out of the soil by pushing the mineral soil particles closer and closer together. The soil becomes harder but still can hold onto water. It has much less air-filled pore space for gas exchange involving oxygen and carbon dioxide.

To grow and function, grass roots consume oxygen and give off carbon dioxide. In uncompacted soil with good structure, oxygen from the atmosphere moves into the soil through very small pore spaces to the roots, and carbon dioxide escapes through the soil into the atmosphere.

Traffic can destroy soil structure, compacting soil particles in the upper few inches and reducing the amount of pore space available for air and water. As compaction increases, less and less oxygen can enter the soil and less and less carbon dioxide can escape. The result is a thinning turf until ultimately the soil can no longer support any turf growth at all. Only a few weeds, and no grasses, can grow in these compacted, oxygen-deficient soils.

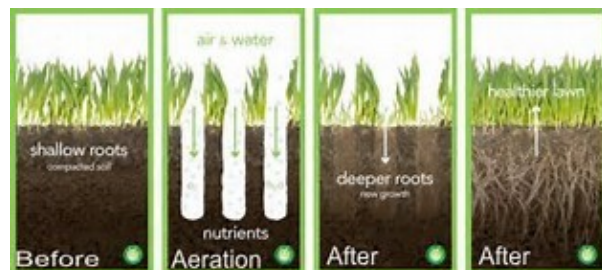
Because compaction is the result of a physical process, it takes another physical process to remedy or prevent. Aerifiers, core cultivation machines, have several hollow or open metal tubes called tines that are used to relieve compaction. If you have an underground irrigation system, flag the sprinkler heads first to avoid damaging them.

The need for aerification as a management tool depends on the amount of traffic and the severity of the compaction. Under a normal maintenance program, areas with only foot traffic may never need aerification. When the traffic becomes heavy enough to thin the turf, it is time to aerify. Heavy-traffic areas may need to be aerified two or three times a year during periods of active turf growth.

The best time to aerify is when the turfgrass is actively growing, and there are four to six weeks of good growing conditions to follow. The roots will rapidly fill the holes, and the area will recover quickly. If the turf is aerified during its dormant period, the open holes may allow winter weeds to increase or too much moisture to escape, drying out the plant.

If you top dress with good quality compost immediately after aerating and water it in, the compost can filter down into the holes to amend the soil and still allow air flow.

I plan to aerate and top dress the second week in October. **Because Tu(r)f Love Principle #4 is Fertilize lightly and only when needed**, compost has been my fertilizer for the past two years.





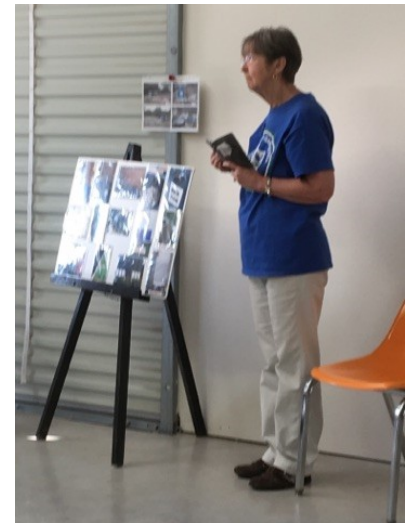
# What's Been Happening...

Photos by Gail Koontz and  
Johnny Jones

## Rain Barrel Workshop

- Gail Koontz

Karen Colwick led a Rain Barrel Workshop on Saturday, September 9, assisted by Allen Colwick, Amazon Muldrow Roberts, Wayne Schirner, Daisy Klassy, Carla Harmon, Johnny Jones and Gail Koontz. Eight students built and took home rain barrels, and learned about water conservation.





# What's Been Happening...

## Fall Gardening Workshop - Herb Class

Photos by Randy Brown



Herb Class presenters were Carla Harmon and Mary Lou Edmondson.



***GETTING THE WORD OUT!***



## Conservation Expo

Photos by Gail Koontz and Whitney Grantham

The 2017 Conservation Expo was held Thursday, September 21, at the Bell County Expo. Gail Koontz and Gary Slanga staffed a Master Gardener booth. Visited with some former and current Master Gardeners, gave away lots of printed material, answered questions, and made new friends. Lyle Zoeller came by to check out the bowl of chocolate.



# What's Been Happening...

## New Project - Meredith Dunbar Elementary

### Nature Explore Gardening at Meredith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy

- Gail Koontz

Photos by Gail Koontz

Built in 1955 as Dunbar High School, Meredith Dunbar is one of Temple ISD's oldest campuses. Since 2000, it has been a pre-kindergarten campus serving families in east Temple. All of their students are 4 years old, and there are 400 of them this school year. These 4 year olds attend MDECA for a year as an introduction to the public school system before they go to elementary school.

A new concept began last year is the Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom. One of these classrooms is the Gardening Classroom. The school has asked Master Gardeners to come and educate, guide, assist, and work alongside them in the gardening area. This is a great opportunity for each of us to make a difference in a child's life.

The first activity we've been invited to take part in is taking a nature walk at Lions Park during the last week of September. We have the opportunity to just walk around and talk with the children as they collect items of nature. Mrs. Gardner said, "The more adults who come and talk with the kiddos, the better. We are all about growing wonderment, curiosity, and vocabulary." The following week, we will go to the school and help the children make nature masks with the items they collected on the nature walk. Another opportunity to interact with the children, many of whom do not speak English. So bilingual Master Gardeners, we need you! On Wednesday, October 4, from 8:30-11:30 am, Marjorie will be helping the children sow seeds in their raised garden beds.

Another view of the gardening area which is being readied for fall planting.



These raised beds will eventually be used by wheelchair bound four year olds.



Four year old size wheelbarrows.





# What's Been Happening...

## New Project - Meredith Dunbar Elementary - con't

- Gail Koontz

Photos by Gail Koontz

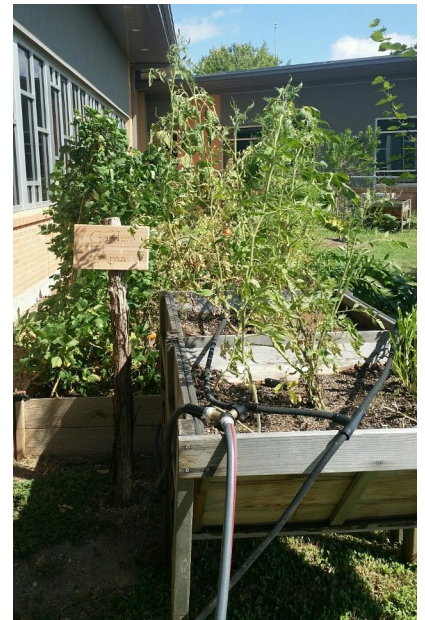
Gardening tools for four year olds.



**One very important bit of information:** Temple ISD requires all their volunteers on all campuses to submit a Volunteer Application, DPS Computerized Criminal History (CCH) Verification Form, and copy of their driver's license. No exceptions! So even though we go through this screening to become Master Gardeners, we must do it again to volunteer at MDECA. I have some applications in my possession, or you can go to [tisd.org](http://tisd.org) to print one. Click on Community. Scroll down and click on Volunteer. Look to lower right and click on Volunteer Application. I have been scanning the applications and sending them to Mrs. Gardner.

If you are interested in volunteering for future activities at MDECA, or just need more information, please email me at [gkoontz@hotmail.com](mailto:gkoontz@hotmail.com) or call me at 254.718.8313. You will be blessed as well as a blessing if you will come and be a part of this newly approved project.

One view of the gardening area.



## October General Meeting - Education Hour

Gary Slanga's presentation was on "Berries".



Photos by Randy Brown

Bill Walker's presentation was on Fruit and Nut Trees.





# What's Been Happening...

## October General Meeting

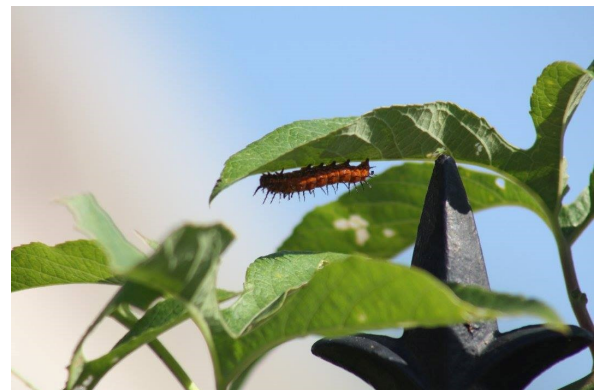
Photos by Randy Brown and Daisy Klassy



MG 2017 Interns Connie Kuehl and Lorraine Brown became certified after completing their service hours.



## Christmas Party Planning Meeting





# What's Been Happening...

## Fall Plant Sale - Friday Workday

Photos by Daisy Klassy and Randy Brown





# What's Been Happening...

## Fall Plant Sale

Photos by Daisy Klassy and Randy Brown





# What's Been Happening...

## Fall Plant Sale

Photos by Daisy Klassy and Randy Brown





# What's Been Happening...

## Fall Plant Sale

Photos by Daisy Klassy and Randy Brown





# I've Always Wanted To Go There...

## Scandinavia & Ireland

- Janice Smith

Photos by Janice Smith

In August, my husband and I took a cruise from Southampton, England to Scandinavia, where we visited several beautiful gardens in Denmark, Sweden and Norway. My favorite was Sofiero Palace and Gardens, located in Helsingborg, Sweden. This site served as the summer palace for Swedish royalty from the late 1880s until the 1970s. Crown Prince Gustav Adolf and Crown Princess Margareta, in 1905, started developing the expansive gardens. In 1950, Gustav became King of Sweden, but still enjoyed his gardens, and was known for planting the largest collection of rhododendrons in the world, with over 500 species. Unfortunately, they were no longer in bloom when we were there in August, but we still enjoyed the beautiful grounds and the amazing displays of dahlias.

Continued on next page...



Sofiero Palace in Helsingborg, Sweden



Fern Forest at Blarney Castle



Muckross Gardens in Killarney National Park, Ireland



Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen





# I've Always Wanted To Go There...

## Scandinavia & Ireland

- Janice Smith

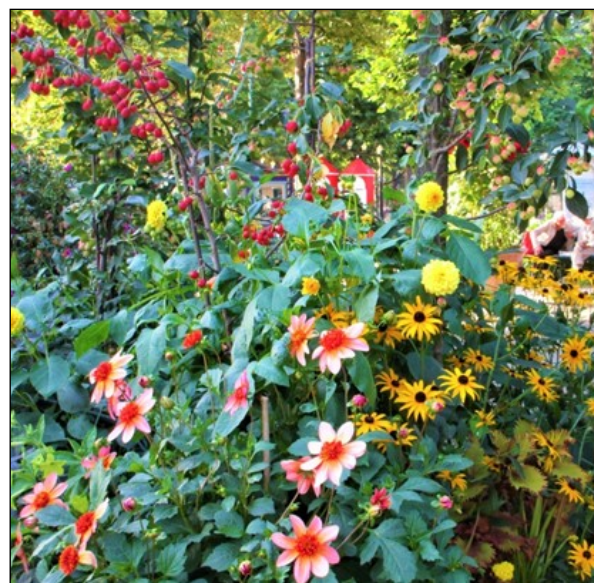
Photos by Janice Smith

We also visited Tivoli gardens in Copenhagen, Denmark, one of the oldest amusement parks/gardens in Europe. It opened in August of 1843, and has exhibits representative of gardens around the world.

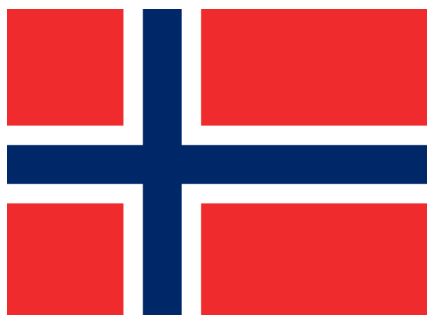
After that, we traveled to Ireland, and visited the gardens of Blarney Castle (no, we did not kiss the Blarney Stone). They had a special "Poison Garden" where poisonous as well as medicinal plants were displayed, as well as a beautiful fern forest. Muckross House and Gardens is located in Killarney National Park, a great jumping off spot to enjoy the beauty of the Ring of Kerry, where we enjoyed the beautiful countryside full of moss, heather and wildflowers growing along the narrow coastal roads.



Dahlias at Sofiero Palace



Poison Garden at Blarney Castle





# I've Always Wanted To Go There...

## New Mexico Mountains

- Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

At the end of August we finally took our bike trip that we had delayed for 1-1/2 years. We traveled to New Mexico and Southern Colorado on our motorcycles. The state looked a little different without any snow as we had only traveled in the winter to go snow skiing. In Albuquerque, we traveled up to Sandia Peak (10,378 ft) on the tramway. At the base we were a little over 6,000 feet elevation and the flowers were really beautiful. We enjoyed the cooler weather, but after 8 days and 2,700 miles on my motorcycle, it was good to get home.





# I've Always Wanted To Go There...

## Pagosa Springs, CO

- Ilene Miller

Photos by Mike & Ilene Miller

Pagosa Springs, CO started an interesting new community project using hot water from the city's many thermal springs to heat the greenhouses year round. This is their first growing season and they have only completed the first of 3 greenhouses, but if you are in the area, be sure to stop in and learn about the project.





# This and That

## Salado Sirena Fest

- Susan Terry

Photo by Susan Terry

### Sirena Fest celebrates Salado's local mermaid legend and our Salado Creek!

Come learn about the Legend of Sirena and about creek conservation and wildlife. You are sure to be delighted and have an amazing time. This year's festival is raising money for Keep Salado Beautiful.

### Parade begins at Pace Park at 2 pm.

This half mile parade is all about KIDS! Bring your bikes, your wagons, even your golf carts decked out in the most mer-tastic decorations your can dream up. You can register to be in the parade by contacting Tiffany Schreiner Humphrey at cosmicbanditastx@gmail.com

**Festival runs 2:30-6:30 pm on the South banks of Salado Creek.**



### We have amazing vendors and delights for you to enjoy!

Artists galore!  
Salado Museum and College Park  
Bell County Museum  
Texas Fish and Wildlife  
Temple Children's Museum  
Rock Climbing  
Variety - the Children's Charity of Texas Therapy  
Horses  
Food Trucks  
Children's Authors  
Amurica TX photo booth  
Invacare  
LoneStar Ebikes  
Keep Salado Beautiful  
Performers from CIRCUS PICNIC  
Live music!

## Concho Valley Master Gardeners' 6th Annual Fall Landscaping Symposium

- Gail Christian Photo by Gail Christian and Randy Brown

MG members Kathy Patterson, Gail Christian, Jan George and Randy Brown attended the Annual Fall Landscaping Symposium in San Angelo last month.





# What's Happening in Your Yard

- Armand Hufault

Photo by Armand Hufault

## Cowpen Daisy

Golden Crown-beard

*Verbesina encelioides* (Cav.) Benth. & Hook. ex Gray

Family :Asteraceae Longevity :Annual Origin :Native Season :Warm

<http://uvalde.tamu.edu/herbarium/forbs-common-name-index/cowpen-daisy/>



Cowpen Daisy can be found in various disturbed soils of the Edwards Plateau and the South Texas Plains. It is an upright to sprawling annual that reaches a height of one to four feet. The leaves are coarsely toothed and measure two to four inches in length. The yellow flower head consists of numerous disk flowers and approximately 12 ray flowers and blooms from April to October. Cowpen Daisy was once used by Indians and early settlers to treat skin diseases and spider bites. Warning: self-seeds readily.

- Gail Koontz

Photo by Gail Koontz

This beautiful and huge Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly lit on the summer arrangement on my front door just long enough for me to run inside to get my phone and snap a picture. Then he was gone.



- Terrie Hahn

Photos by Terrie Hahn

This is my Rue *Ruta graveolens* covered in Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillars, *Papilio polyxenes*. I stopped counting at 2 dozen at various stages of development. Rue is a hardy evergreen plant. It was considered a medicinal herb, but is no longer recommended medicinally. It's a great landscape plant that handles poor soil well. It's a good companion to roses and vegetables because it is thought to help deter Japanese Beetles. It gets small yellow flowers in spring and on and off throughout the summer. The one I have is 3 years old and is about 3' x 3'. Some people are sensitive to the oils in the leaves, so gloves should be worn while handling.

And yesterday we had a full rainbow with a second one starting to form above.



- Crystal Fisher

Photo by Crystal Fisher

I'm bringing the 4" pots to the Plant Swap. If you haven't grown any Chocolate Daisies, you need to. They have a strong chocolate fragrance in the morning when they bloom. I'm starting more pots so I can spread them here to a site next to the driveway. Obviously the larger the bed, the stronger the fragrance will waft into the air. These are xeric, but need moisture till they can grow roots in their new homes.





# What's Happening in Your Yard

## The Beauty of Life & Death of a Mammoth Sunflower From Wolfgang's Garden

- Marjorie Gillmeister

Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

The plant starts life as a seed, which germinates and grows into a plant. The mature plant produces flowers, which are fertilized and produce seeds in a fruit or seedpod. The plant eventually dies, leaving seeds which germinate to produce new plants.

Seed saving is one of my favorite activities with my son, Wolfgang. We preserve various seeds each season to sow for the following year's season. Saving seed from a mother plant keeps its history alive season after season. The seed stores memory within its DNA cells and becomes stronger, pest resistant, and vigorous each season if seeds are saved season after season. This will be our third season of saving Sunflower seeds that have already acclimated into the soil in our garden. This past spring season we sowed Mammoth sunflowers that grew up to 11-12 feet tall and once it completed its lifecycle of about three months, we saved over 1,000 seeds per Sunflower. Last year's seeds saved off one Sunflower was half of that (500) seeds. Life and death of a plant is quite miraculous as death brings an abundance of life to continue.

Sunflower Fun Fact:

Sunflower seeds are a treat for birds in our ecosystem and we love keeping our sunflowers up even after they've completed their lifecycle in order to feed the birds.

Sunflower seeds are a delight for chickens to feast on. Sprinkle dry Sunflower seeds from its head on the ground and the chickens will flock right to you. The gizzards within a chicken is an organ that will help to break down those seeds in their bodies.





# What's Happening in Your Yard

- Elaine Passman

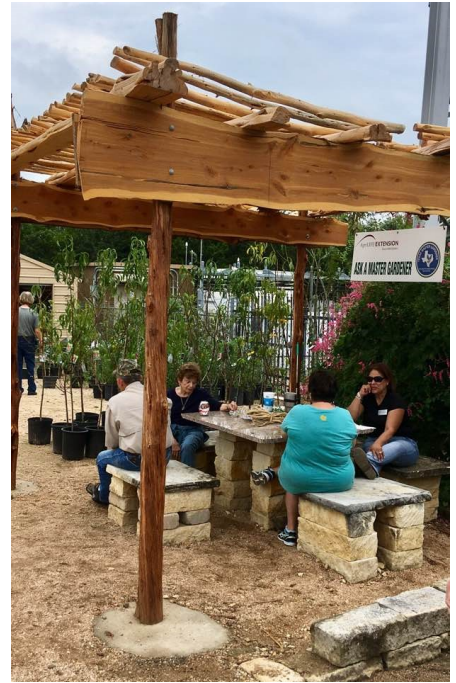
Photos by Elaine Passman

Fall Vines in bloom : hyctitan, red cardinal, and blue morning glory.



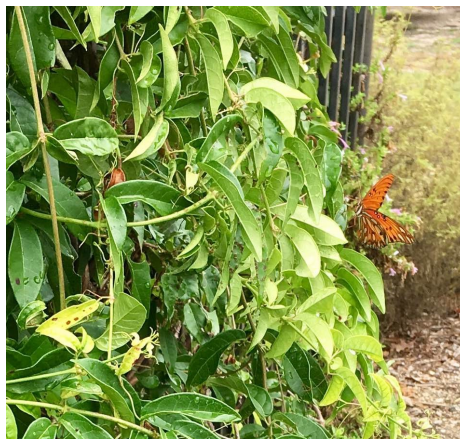
The Pergola is complete.

Photo by Randy Brown



The BCMGA Learning Center grounds.

Photos by Randy Brown and Johnny Jones

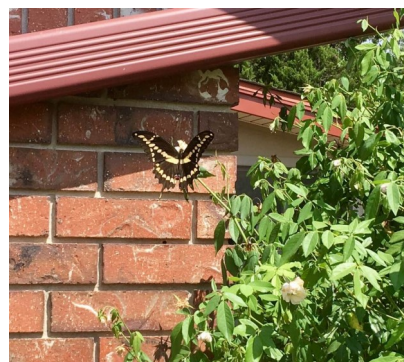
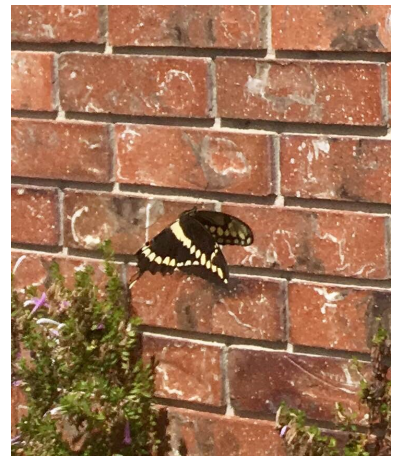


Art Carr on clean-up duty.



# What's Happening in Your Yard

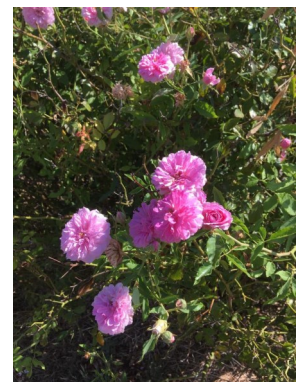
- Randy Brown



Photos by Randy Brown

## Killeen Municipal Community Court Garden

Photos by Randy Brown





# Announcements

## Fall Plant Swap - October 11, 2017

- Jane Van Praag



We Master Gardeners are going to have a full day on the 11th! We start at 7 am that morning with our Plant Swap--committee members Carol Morriset, Jan Upchurch, Rose Harris, Sylvia Maedgen, Gena Winston and I will be waiting for you, along with incoming chair Crystal Fisher, outside our Education Building!--which will continue until our general meeting begins inside at 9 am. Afterward, most of us will be touring four of our members' own gardens, and then once we return to HQ, if there are any plants left to swap, we'll keep on a-swapping until everybody has all they want.

## Help Wanted

### Classroom Mentors for the 2018 Class

- Peg Fleet

It's almost here again! Orientation for the next class of Master Gardener interns will take place on January 3, 2018. Once again, the New Class Committee is asking Master Gardeners to volunteer as classroom mentors. This is separate from the Personal Mentor program, and it is a wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with the interns and to gain service hours. Classroom Mentor duties include setting up the classroom, checking 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. We hope that we will have the same outstanding response as we did last year. Please consider sharing your time and skills to help make this class the rewarding and enjoyable experience that it is meant to be.



## Gardening in Bell County

- Carol Morriset and Jan Upchurch

We are proud to present the following educational opportunities for our neighbors and fellow gardeners:

October 19                      Fruit and Citrus Trees

November 16                   Bokashi Composting

Location:            Bell County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office - Conference Room  
1605 N. Main, Belton, TX

Time:                      6:30-8:00 pm

Cost:                      Our seminars are free of charge but the BCMGA will accept donations of up to \$5.00 per class  
Seminars are limited to 25 participants so register early.

For Information Contact one of the following: [j-upchurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:j-upchurch@sbcglobal.net) OR [carol.j.morriset@gmail.com](mailto:carol.j.morriset@gmail.com)



# Announcements

Master Gardener Christmas Party  
Friday, December 1, 2017  
Bell County Expo Center  
5:30 - 6:30 pm Social time  
(Check-in, get seated, photo time, visit with  
friends, and view silent auction items)  
6:30 pm - Meal served  
Program to follow

Come one, come all as we continue celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Make your reservation soon. Jan George and her team will be taking reservations beginning at 8:00 am at our monthly meeting on October 11 because of the Garden Tours. The meal is \$15 per person until November 8; after that, the price goes up to \$25 per person.

Our meal will be traditional holiday. When making your reservation, you will choose ham or turkey. There will be a salad bar and dessert bar. Drinks include water, tea and coffee.

The meal will be served at 6:30 pm, followed by entertainment and program.

You will want to come early to get checked in, have your picture taken, check out the silent auction items, and visit with friends you haven't seen in a while.

Mary Ann Everett is coordinating the Silent Auction. See her about donating an item, or two, or three.

We have three community service projects you can donate to this year. Information will be available at the October 11 meeting. We are supporting Helping Hands Ministry in Belton, Friends in Crisis Homeless Shelter in Killeen, and Food For Friends in Bartlett. Pick up info about these projects in October. You can bring donated items to the November meeting and to the Christmas Party in December. Be generous Master Gardeners, and let's fill up those tubs!

Look forward to seeing all of you on Friday, December 1, for fun, Christmas fellowship, good food and Master Gardener achievements and recognitions.

- Gail Koontz



# Announcements

## 2018 Texas Master Gardener Conference

- Ilene Miller



The 2018 Texas Master Gardener Conference will be held in College Station, April 4-6, 2018 at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center. Join us as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Master Gardener Program in the state of Texas and unveil the Earth-Kind® Gardens within The Gardens at Texas A&M University. The Theme is Celebrating 40 Years...Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, and Embracing the Future. The hotel is located at 801 University Drive East, College Station, TX 77840. Phone is 979-693-7500. They are holding a block of rooms for TMGA, so be sure and ask about the conference rate if you call.

The website will be: [www.2018tmgaconference.com](http://www.2018tmgaconference.com). The group code is: TMGA18 at [www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com).

★ The Texas Master Gardener Association is already making plans for next year's state conference in College Station in April 2018. They want to feature as many Master Gardeners for an exclusive video to be featured at the conference. Send them your photos with identification to:

[2018tmgaconference@gmail.com](mailto:2018tmgaconference@gmail.com).

Examples include:

- a selfie with you in MG attire
- a photo of your association
- a photo of a project your association is involved with or has completed
- and a photo showing what you do outside of working in the dirt

## Congratulations! It's a boy!

Emily Kuczek, MG Class of 2017 gave birth to a baby boy on October 2. John Jackson Kuczek and proud mom and dad are pictured below. What a cutie! We can't wait to meet the new bundle of joy.



Hopefully a future Master Gardener.



Photos by Emily Kuczek





# Announcements

## October General Meeting

- Mary Ann Everett

The October general meeting will be on the 11th. After the general meeting, we hit the road to tour 4 member's gardens: Wayne Schirner-Belton, Bill Walker-Holland, Joyce Richardson-Salado, and Mary Ann Everett-Temple. The garden tour will count towards 2 hours of education. Social Time is 8:30 a.m., meeting at 9 a.m. in the learning center building.

Don't forget, we are having a baby shower for Emily Kuczek and her new baby boy during the social time.

## BCMGA 20th Anniversary Party

- Jan George

The Big Day is almost here! Our 20th Anniversary Party will be held at the education building on October 26, 2017, from 2:00 pm-4:00pm. We will be burying a time capsule that day. Please don't forget to help in pulling weeds and making our grounds beautiful. Also, don't forget to wear your anniversary T-shirt that day. Thanks in advance for helping make our 20th Anniversary a very special occasion.

## Grounds Workdays

- Johnny Jones and Tom Rennels

Here is the workday schedule for October:

Oct. 4, 2017 8:00 a.m. Workday  
10:30 a.m. Burger Wednesday  
Oct. 11, 2017 8:00 a.m. Workday  
Oct. 18, 2017 8:00 a.m. Workday  
Oct. 25, 2017 8:00 a.m. Workday  
In the event of rain, there will be No Workday.



Photo by Daisy Klassy



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

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



# Advanced Learning

## Upcoming Specialist Training

- Oct 17-19      Master Gardener Vegetable  
Specialist Training  
San Antonio  
Deadline to register, Oct 5  
Cost \$200
- Oct 30-31      Master Gardener Plant  
Propagation Specialist Training  
Kerrville  
Deadline to register, Oct 1  
Cost \$225

## Central Texas College Education Classes taught by Rebecca Burrow

### Creating a Home Orchard or Food Forest

Saturday, Oct 21, 12:20-2:30pm, 2 hours, \$19

### Soil, Compost, and Worms (offered twice)

Saturday, Oct 21, 10-12pm, 2 hours, \$19

Saturday, Nov 18, 12:30-2:30pm, 2 hours, \$19

### Water Conservation Techniques (offered twice)

Saturday, Nov 18, 10-12pm, 2 hours, \$19

Email [smylcraine@ctcd.edu](mailto:smylcraine@ctcd.edu) for more information or go to:

<http://www.ctcd.edu/students/continuing-education/>  
to download the catalog and learn how to pay and register.

Courses are held at the CTC campus off of Hwy 190 and Clear Creek.

## Upcoming Conferences

- Oct - 2-3      Texas Fruit Conference  
New Braunfels  
Deadline to register, Sept. 10  
Cost \$65

## Upcoming Workshops

- TBD      Coming soon in 2018





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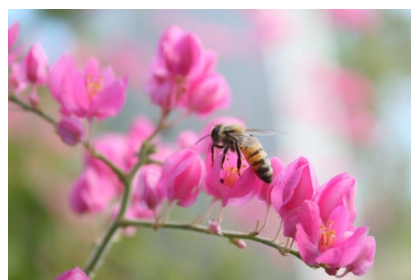
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***Please do not send PDF documents.***

*Photo by Daisy Klassy*

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