

# *The Blooming Bell*



*December 2017*



Members decorate for the Annual Christmas Party on Friday morning. Wayne Schirner was taking directions very well from Ann Lesmeister, Stacye Parry, Gail Koontz, and Carla Harmon.



Ilene Miller, Gail Koontz, and Elaine Passman take a quick break while decorating the Special Events Room at the Expo for the annual Master Gardener Christmas Party.

Bell County Master Gardener Association celebrated at their annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 1st. Awards were presented to 99 members and 4 friends of Master Gardeners. The party featured a traditional holiday meal and culminated with a silent and live auction.



Photos by Randy Brown


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**Bell County  
Master Gardener  
Association**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1 Christmas Party &amp; meeting</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6 Work Day - 8 am* Burger Wed. 10:30 am</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13 Work Day 8 am*</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20 Work Day 8 am*</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>27 Work Day 8 am*</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>						

#### Upcoming events:

- ◆ New MG Intern Orientation Class, Jan. 3
- ◆ First day new MG Intern Class, Jan. 10
- ◆ Seed Exchange, Harker Heights P&R Dept., Jan. 13
- ◆ Bell County Youth Fair, Belton Expo, Feb. 5-9
- ◆ Home & Garden Show, Belton Expo, Feb. 23-25
- ◆ Spring Plant Sale, Belton, Mar. 24
- ◆ 2018 TMGA Conference, Apr. 4-6, College Station

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

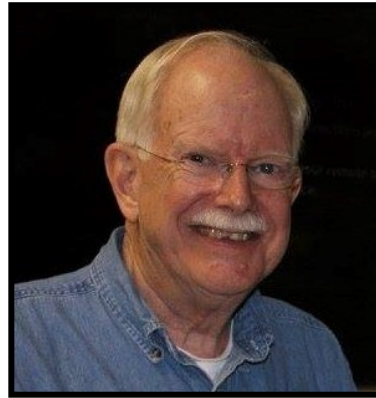
**Remember to record volunteer/education hours.**

Photo by Sylvia Maedgen



# The President's Corner

- Wayne Schirner



This will be a busy month, even with fewer formal MG activities. I would like to again give a big BCMGA hug to everyone involved with planning and executing the annual Christmas party. I hope everyone had a good time. The live auction this year was particularly invigorating under the auctioneer skills of Charles New-some and I saw Bernie Hurta holding her husband's arm down at one point in the active bidding. The silent auction was also rewarding for those who participated. As I announced during the meeting, the Municipal Court donated \$500 to the BCMGA, and we are very thankful for their donation. If you know anyone who works at the Municipal Court, give them your personal thanks. Congratulations to all those who received awards. Any award recipients who couldn't attend will receive their recognition at the first opportunity.

Before the end of the month escapes you, please take time to enter any remaining education or volunteer hours into the VMS system. We are closing in on 14,000 hours for calendar year 2017, and I'd like to see if we can exceed that mark. Based on current valuations for volunteer service, that amounts to \$350,000 worth of volunteer service. I am exceptionally proud of everything you do to support the communities we live in.

Another thing to do before the end of December is to register for the TMGA State Conference being held in College Station April 3-6, 2018. Go to [2018tmgaconference.com](http://2018tmgaconference.com) now! The registration fee goes up \$30 on 1 January, and another \$30 on 16 February. There is a Leadership Conference that will be held on the afternoon of 2 April, and I would like to encourage as many of our officers who will be attending the conference to sign up for this too. The fee is \$25, and there are only 74 slots remaining for this conference.

Did you see the email message announcing the TMGA Handbook modules that are now available online? There are eight modules, with each 4-hour module corresponding to one of the eight chapters in the current Handbook. The cost is \$10 for access to all eight modules, and is designed for individual use. If you are interested in doing this, access to these modules has to be ordered through our county agent office. You will receive a password from the TMGA that will allow you unlimited access on your personal computer for 12 months.

The current Handbook is also in the process of being updated. The TMGA is hopeful that it will be finished by the State Conference. It is intended to be easier to use as an ongoing reference source, and will have new content added as well. I got the impression that the new Handbook will eventually be available for purchase by all current Master Gardeners.

Check out the article later in this issue on the Meredith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy. This is a really exciting project, and there are plans to even do a research project with the 4-year old students early next spring. More to come on that.

It is time to submit nominations for the TMGA Search For Excellence awards that will be presented at the State Conference. The deadline for submission is 20 January. All awards from the BCMGA must go through our own awards committee so we can review them for impact. Many times, simply changing the wording a small amount can make a difference in winning in that category or not. If you have something that you want to submit, talk to Kathy Love.

The new year is rapidly approaching. There are three opportunities for volunteer service that occur in January that will need approximately 10 people each. The 2018 Crops Conference will be held on Tuesday January 16<sup>th</sup>, the 2018 Professional Grounds conference will be held on Tuesday January 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the 2018 Professional Irrigator's Conference will be held on Wednesday January 24<sup>th</sup>. All three events are held at the Expo Center, and our role is to assist with the registration process. We need to be there NLT 0700, and those who volunteer are able to stay for the conference if they would like. Members who are interested in volunteering should email me at [docwas@me.com](mailto:docwas@me.com) and let me know which of these conferences you would like to volunteer for.

I am hoping that every one of you will have a Merry Christmas and that we can all look forward to a great new year. Thanks again for all you do, every day.

# 1 More Thing...

## What's In A Name?

- Wayne Schirner

While signing the certificates for the awards we presented at the Christmas party, I discovered there is some confusion about what our name is, so I hope I can help clarify that for everyone.

I am a Master Gardener, we are Master Gardeners, and we belong to the Bell County Master Gardener Association, which in turn makes us members of the Texas Master Gardener Association.

I frequently see the use of "Gardeners" in the Association names, so I just wanted to clarify. This confusion is not at all unique to us. At the TMGA BoD meeting on 2 December, the 1<sup>st</sup> page of their agenda used "Gardeners" while the rest of the agenda pages correctly used "Gardener."

I know that in the big scheme of things, this is definitely small potatoes, but the motto I try to follow is "whatever you do, do it well." I'm certainly not perfect in many (most) things, but whatever I do, I try to do it well. Thanks for putting up with me this past year. I look forward to one more year as your president.



Bell County Master Gardener Association awards received for 2016: 1st Place - Outstanding MG Association; 1st Place - Outstanding MG Project for the Fort Hood Community Project; and 2nd Place as the Outstanding Education Program for the St. Mary's Learn, Grow, Eat, Go Program.



# Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

## Outdoor Cockroaches

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife Extension Entomologist

Cockroaches develop by gradual, or incomplete, metamorphosis with life stages consisting of egg, nymph, and adult. Eggs are contained in a purse-like structure called an ootheca. The egg case is usually dropped by the female or glued to a substrate. Nymphs look similar to adults, but are smaller and do not have fully developed wings.



Smokybrown cockroach egg case (ootheca) glued to substrate.

Outdoor cockroaches may enter buildings around loose-fitting doors and windows as well as through sewer lines, attics, and where pipes penetrate the structure. Trees that touch or overhang the home create a bridge for cockroaches to get into the home. Cockroaches are omnivores, feeding on numerous plant and animal products such as meats, starchy foods, baked goods, leather, book bindings and wall-paper paste.

Common cockroaches found outside in this area are American and Smokybrown cockroaches. American cockroaches are about 1 ½ - 2 inches long, reddish-brown with yellow markings on the pronotum (the shield-like structure that covers the head). Adults have well-developed wings, but seldom actively fly; they do often glide from high perches. American cockroaches are usually found outside near decayed trees and plants, in crawl spaces and sewers. Smokybrown cockroaches are often mistaken with American cockroaches. Smokybrowns are about 1 inch long and dark brown to black. Adults have fully developed wings and are capable of flight. This species often inhabits leaf litter, compost piles, and ground cover.



American cockroach adult. Smokybrown Cockroach adult

If you find cockroaches in your compost pile, in leaf litter or other outdoor locations, it isn't really necessary to kill them. It is a sign that you want to work on some things to keep the cockroaches outdoors when the weather gets chilly.

- Prune back any vegetation touching or overhanging the home
- If you have a brick or stone façade, stuff weep holes with copper mesh
- copper will not rust and will still allow air flow in and out of void space
- Make sure screens on doors and windows are in good repair
- Replace weather stripping where doorways do not have a good seal
- If you can see daylight around a door when it is closed, then it does not have a good seal
- Repair any water leaks
- Clean debris from gutters
- Place stainless steel screening over vent access in the attic
- Use sealant around pipe penetrations or other cracks or crevices into the home

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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EXTENSION



# What's Been Happening...

## Meridith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy - Seed Activity

- Marjorie Gillmeister

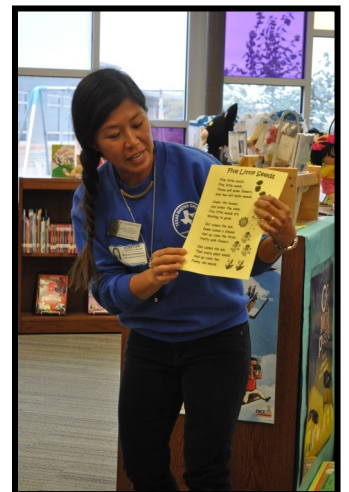
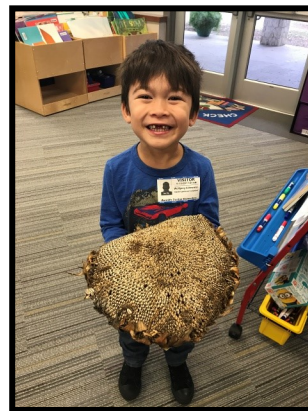
Photos by Sylvia Maedgen and Marjorie Gillmeister

On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, November 6, 8, and 10, Marjorie and Wolfgang Gillmeister shared seeds that they harvested from their ranch garden with the children of Meredith Dunbar Pre-K Academy. Seed Saving with children is an amazing way to spark one's curious mind about the whole lifecycle of a seed, and helps in the development of sensory and motor skills, and tons of fun.

Each child gained the knowledge of The Lifecycle of a Seed, how to save their own seeds from an actual dried flower, how to store properly in an envelope or brown paper bag, and colored a seed saving activity sheet/ poem song to take home to share with their families. We will have a Spring indoor seed sowing activity sometime in late January/February where the children will sow the seeds they have saved.

Special thanks to all of our wonderful Master Gardener Volunteers Sylvia Maedgen, Karen Colwick, Sandi Lenehan, Marjorie Gillmeister, Youth Director, Gail Koontz, and Wolfgang Gillmeister (future JR Master Gardener in training) who engaged in the activity and were a tremendous inspiration to the children.

Remember, if any more of you want to come and be a part of this world of four year olds, you must complete a Temple ISD Volunteer Application and DPS Computerized Criminal History (CCH) Verification Form and provide a copy of your driver's license. Please contact me for more information at - [mjgillmeister@me.com](mailto:mjgillmeister@me.com) or 347-820-3221.





# What's Been Happening...

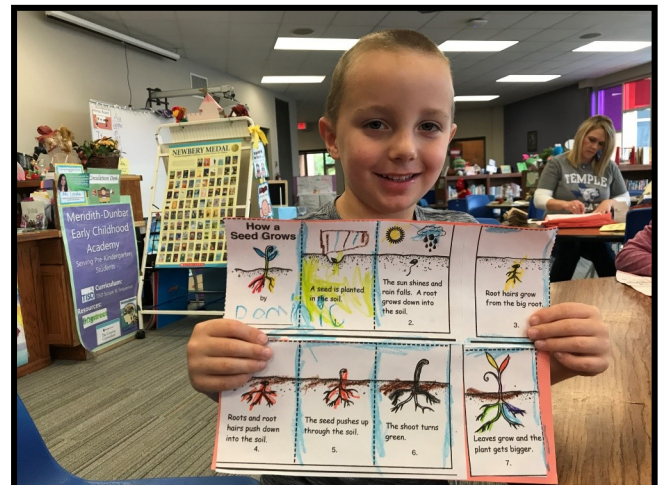
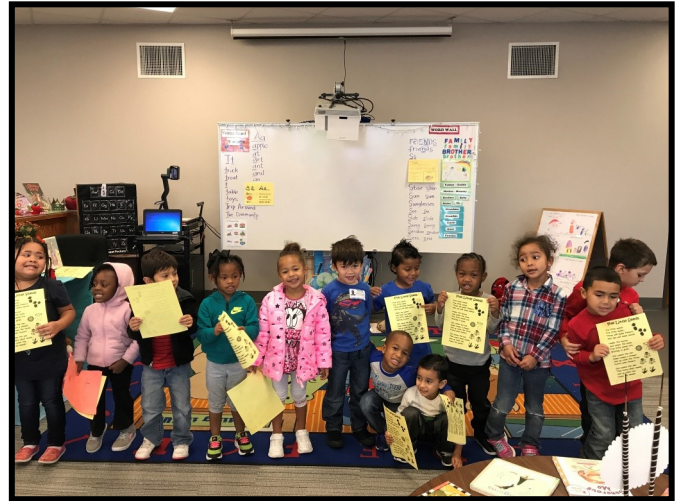
## Meridith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy - Seed Activity - con't.

- Marjorie Gillmeister

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen and Marjorie Gillmeister

Volunteers are much appreciated at the Meridith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy. These are several of the many smiles we receive when educating these young minds of today. We'd love for you to join us and experience a wonderful world of four year olds as they grow with us through all the seasons.

We look forward to an amazing 2018 calendar year with all of you!





# What's Been Happening...

## Lakewood Elementary - Career Day

- Gail Koontz

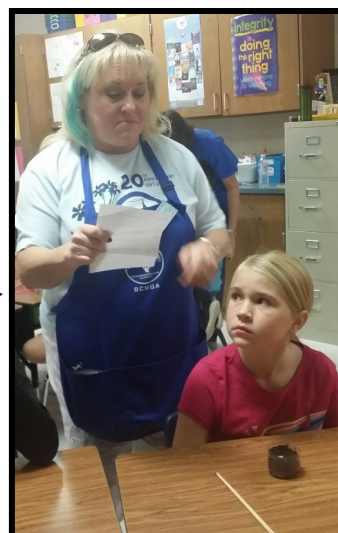
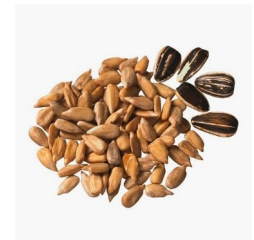
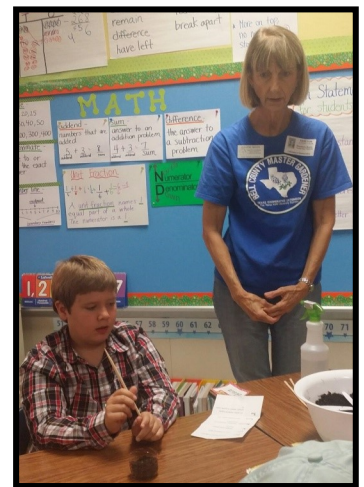
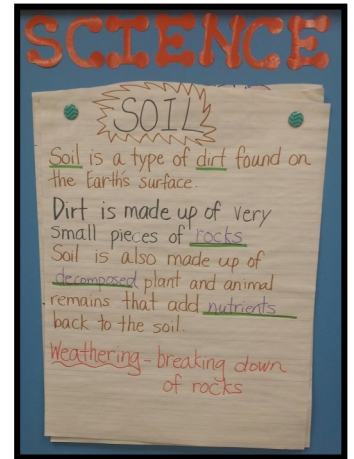
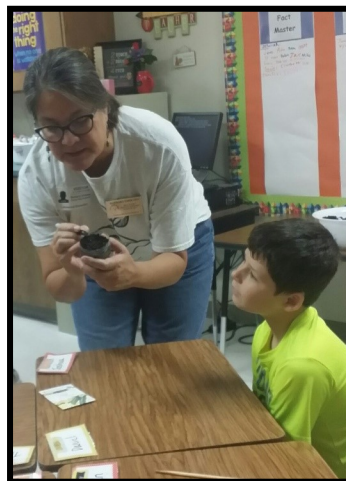
Photos by Gail Koontz

On Friday, November 17, six Master Gardeners joined me at Lakewood Elementary for their annual Career Day. Marjorie Gillmeister presented her career as a farmer. Then we all worked with small groups of elementary aged children, planting seeds in a clear water bottle. We talked about recycling and PLANT Needs. Marjorie had planted seeds earlier to show the children what would happen to their seeds, if properly taken care of. We worked with six different classes (115 children). Many thanks to Marjorie, Suzanne Boyer, Janice Smith, Joan Bumgarner, Shellie Downing, and Barbara Ishikawa for helping to make the event enjoyable and educational for these children.

I am about to end my two-year term as Youth Programs Director. In 2016, 28 different Master Gardeners joined me (many more than once) and we worked with 1,618 children. In 2017, 44 different Master Gardeners joined me (again some several times) and we worked with 1,950 children. I thank all of you for helping make these two years most successful. Hopefully, we have been able to spark an interest in gardening with some of these children, and they will someday join a New Member Class.

I will continue to be active in Youth Programs and support Marjorie Gillmeister as the new Director in 2018.

Merry Christmas to all my Master Gardener friends!





# What's Been Happening...

## Pecan Show

Photos by Randy Brown



Several BCMGA members volunteered to help remove pecans from their shells after the shells had been cracked for the pecan Judging on December 6-7 at the Extension Office.



# What's Been Happening...

## November General Meeting



Photos by Randy Brown

- Sylvia Maedgen

The November general meeting included a presentation on Colonial Herb Gardens by Kim Pringle and the Herb Group. Refreshments were provided by Bette Gilmore, Rebecca Burrow, and Sylvia Maedgen.





# What's Been Happening...



## Bell County Water Symposium

Photos by Randy Brown

- Sylvia Maedgen

Several BCMGA members participated at the Bell County Water Symposium in Belton on November 15. Our group set-up a booth for the event and provided plants for door prizes.





# What's Been Happening...

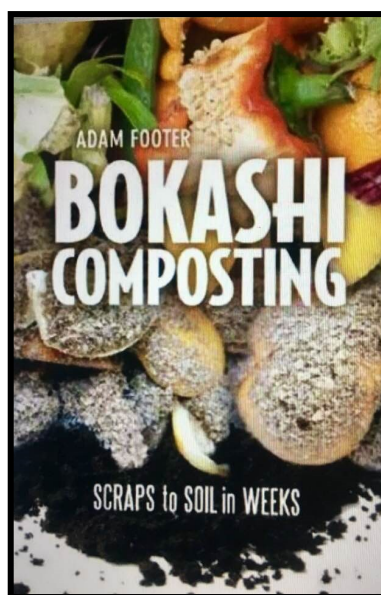
## Gardening in Bell County -

Photos by Randy Brown

## Bokashi Composting

- Sylvia Maedgen

Pamela Dragoo presented a hands-on demonstration on Bokashi Composting. She showed how to use plastic buckets for the composting bin.

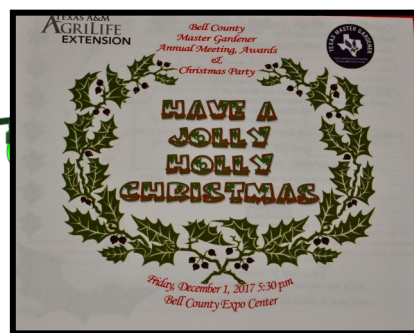




# What's Been Happening...

## BCMGA Christmas Party

Photos by Daisy Klassy and Randy Brown

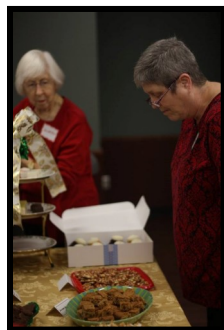




# What's Been Happening...

## BCMGA Christmas Party - cont'd

Photos by Daisy Klassy and  
Randy Brown





# What's Been Happening...

## BCMGA Christmas Party - Service Awards

Photos by Daisy Klassy and Randy Brown

Service Awards were presented to the following Master Gardeners for volunteering between 100-199 service hours. Members include: Pat Allen, Melinda Ariola, Randy Brown, Joan Bumgarner, Rebecca Burrow, Mike Butts, Jo Carlsen, Art Carr, Marjorie Gillmeister, Bob Gordon, Terrie Hahn, Carla Harmon, Louann Hight, Barbara Ishikawa, Daisy Klassy, Jerry Lewis, Ray Machovsky, Tina Mazur, Ilene Miller, Larry Mohenke, Betty Nejteck, Stacye Parry, Mary Lew Quisenberry, Christy Reese, Carol Runyan, Ann Wagner, Bill Walker, and Wayne Zieschang.

Members who completed between 200-299 service hours include: Edie Campbell, Karen Colwick, Peg Fleet, Rose Harris, Bernie Hurta, Pat Johnson, Sylvia Maedgen, Glenn Melton, Carol Morisset, Tom Rennels, Gary Slanga, and Jan Upchurch.

Members who completed between 300-399 service hours include: Gail Christian, Jan George, Johnny Jones, Gail Koontz, and Jane Van Praag.

Wayne Schirner completed between 400-499 service hours.

Members who completed between 500-599 service hours include: Mary Ann Everett and Don Wyatt.

Kathy Love completed between 1,000-1,100 service hours.



Members that completed between 200-299 service hours.



Members that completed between 300-399 service hours.



Wayne completed between 400-499 service hours.



Members that completed between 500-599 service hours.



Members that completed between 100-199 service hours.



Kathy completed between 1,000-1,100 service hours.



# What's Been Happening...

## BCMGA Christmas Party - Awards

Photos by Daisy Klassy and Randy Brown

The Green Thumb winners included: Melinda Arriola, Edie Campbell, Jo Carlsen, Karen Colwick, Marjorie Gillmeister, Bob Gordon, Bernie Hurta, Johnny Jones, Daisy Klassy, and Tom Rennels (not pictured).



The Golden Trowel winners included: Art Carr, Pat Johnson (not pictured), Gail Koontz, Sylvia Maedgen, Larry Moehnke, Carol Morisset, Betty Nejtek, Stacey Parry, and Jan Upchurch.



The New Master Gardener of the Year Award was a tie. Winners were Rebecca Burrow and Bill Walker.



Two Meritorious Service Awards were presented; selectees were Mary Ann Everett and Terri Hahn (not pictured). Wayne accepted the award on Terri's behalf.



New board members and officers were installed for the new 2018 year. They include: Sylvia Maedgen, Marjorie Gillmeister, Gail Koontz, Mary Lew Quesinberry, and Kathy Love.



Kathy Love was awarded the Golden Shovel Award.



Friends of Master Gardener Awards were presented to Allan Colwick, Cliff George, Gordon Harris, and David Quesinberry.





# What's Been Happening...

## BCMGA Christmas Party - Service Awards

Photos by Randy Brown



Ilene Miller received her 20 year pin, (from the class of 1998).



MG's receiving their 5 year pins (from the class of 2013) include: Pat Allen, Melinda Arriola, Marybeth Bradburn, Terry Bradburn, Barbara Dalby, Gail Garner, and Charlotte Jones.



MG's receiving their 15 year service pins (from the class of 2003) include: Gladys Newsom and Mary Lew Quesinberry.



MG's receiving their 10 year pins (from the class of 2008) include: Wayne Baker, Edie Campbell, Gail Christian, Patricia Maskunas, Carol Runyan, Brenda Smith, and Kathy Patterson.

Thank You  
For your  
Service



MG's receiving the Lifetime Awards for 2017 include: Edie Campbell, Beverly and Vernon Chenoweth, Gail Christian, Karen Colwick, Carla Harmon, Bernie Hurta, Betty Nejtek, and Fran Sheppard.



# This and That...

## Unique Plant and Bacterial Relationship

- Bill Walker

The legume family and rhizobia bacteria, *Rhizobiaceae Proteobacteria*, work together to convert atmospheric nitrogen ( $N_2$ ) to a plant useable form of Nitrogen ( $NH_3$ ) or ammonia nitrate.

Our atmosphere is composed of 80% nitrogen in the form of inert gas ( $N_2$ ). Most all plants are unable to use this form of nitrogen. However, legumes are the exception. They can convert atmospheric nitrogen to a useable form of nitrogen for both themselves and other plants. This conversion process is actually a mutual effort in concert with rhizobia bacteria called symbiotic biological nitrogen fixation.

Biological nitrogen fixation is known as the conversion of atmospheric inert gas  $N_2$  into a biologically or plant useful form  $NH_3$ . This type of nitrogen fixation can contribute significant quantities of  $NH_3$  to the ecosystem. Legumes in a natural ecosystem can contribute as much as 25 to 75 pounds per acre and in a cropping system up to 200 pounds per acre.

Legume nitrogen fixation starts when soil rhizobia bacteria invades the legume roots forming nodules and initiating nitrogen fixation. The fixed nitrogen is not free. The legume must contribute to the bacteria a significant amount of energy in the form of photosynthesis sugars and other nutritional factors.

Most of the fixed nitrogen ( $NH_3$ ) generated in this relationship goes directly to the plants use. However, depending on the legume, some nitrogen will "leak" or be available to surrounding non legume plants. This can be as much as 30 to 50 pounds per acre. Most of the nitrogen generated will be returned to the soil for plant nutrition availability when the legume's biomass dies and decomposes.

The practice to incorporate or turn under mature legume "green manure" crops to the soil realizes the benefit of this legume soil bacteria relationship. Some of the top considerations for soil benefit of legume 'green manure' are cowpeas, alfalfa, vetch and clovers.



### Recipe for Christmas All Year Long

by Joanna Fuchs

Take a heap of child-like wonder that opens up our eyes  
To the unexpected gifts in life - each day a sweet surprise.  
Mix in fond appreciation for the people whom we know;  
Like festive Christmas candles, each one has a special glow.  
Add some giggles and some laughter, a dash of Christmas food,  
(Amazing how a piece of pie improves our attitude!)  
Stir it all with human kindness; wrap it up in love and peace,  
Decorate with optimism and our joy will never cease.  
If we use this healthy recipe, we know we will remember  
To be in the Christmas spirit, even when it's not December.



# What's Happening in Your Yard?



Photos by  
Crystal Fisher



Crystal Fisher took all day to finish this one curve. Dry stacking. There is a yellow lantana that she transplanted over behind this area.



Crystal Fisher will lay down a wide path of decomposed wood chips. She will lay down enough cardboard so there is NO light that comes through as she does not want to deal with any weeds anywhere.

Crystal Fisher brought the rocks around to make a cubby hole for another plant. She is looking forward to sticking in all sorts of little sedum into crevices once all the soil is settled down when the rocks aren't moving any more.



Elaine Passman's Christmas cactus is blooming. She has had this plant since 1994 and sometimes it blooms at Easter.

Photos by Elaine Passman

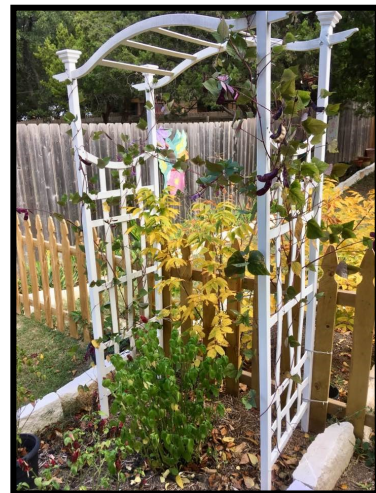




# What's Happening in Your Yard?



Photos by Randy Brown



A couple of gray foxes raiding the sunflower seeds we put out for the birds.

Photos by Terrie Hahn



Forsythia Sage. I had some of these already and then when I was at the Extension Center a few years back, the Grounds Workers were pulling them out and putting them in the dumpster, so I grabbed a couple of them. They love to be at the drip line of oaks where they can get some nice morning sun and then shade. They also do well in completely dappled shade. Last winter, they didn't die back, so they're extra large this fall and blooming like crazy. They take no care, are shade lovers and have great textural leaves. What more can you want?!



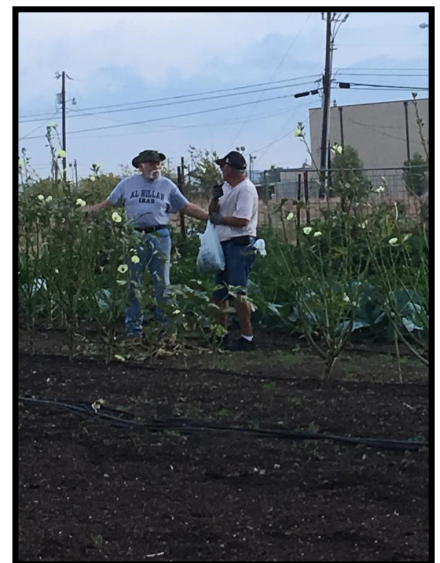
Loads of Bluebonnet seedlings coming up everywhere!



# *What's Happening in Your Yard?*

## Killeen Municipal Community Court Garden

Photos by Randy Brown





# Announcements

## Need Coffee Grounds?

**- Gail Christian**



Arusha Coffee and Tea has coffee grounds to give away if any one would like some. Bring your own container. The address is 126 N. East Street, Belton, 254-933-2233. I would call before going.

## 2018 TMGA Conference - Celebrating 40 Years

## Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present, Embracing the Future



**- Sylvia Maedgen**

The 2018 TMGA Conference is scheduled for April 4-6, 2018 in College Station. The conference will be held at the Hilton Inn with a room rate of \$139 per night and online reservations can be made at 979-693-7500 or - <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/C/CLLCHHF-TMGA18-20180403/index.jhtml>  
The group code is: TMGA18.

There will be seminars and tours (additional costs) throughout the 3 days. Early registration is through December 31 at a rate of \$255. Regular registration is from January 1 - February 15 at a rate of \$285. Late registration is from February 16 - March 30 at a rate of \$315. You can register online at - [https://texasmastergardeners.formstack.com/forms/2018\\_tmga\\_conference\\_registration](https://texasmastergardeners.formstack.com/forms/2018_tmga_conference_registration)

FULL REGISTRATION includes access to all six Keynote sessions plus options for six additional Educational Sessions, three lunches, (Wednesday through Friday, April 4-6, 2018), as well as both receptions and dinners on Wednesday and Thursday, April 4 and 5, 2018! Leadership Training, Parking Passes, Workshops, Tours, Guests and Merchandise incur additional fees. The complete schedule can be found at - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oLCMrS90CCkGLxRUARMUP9IHxpaDZgld/view>

Don't forget to send photos of yourself for the video they are creating for the conference. Email your photos with identification to - [2018tmgaconference@gmail.com](mailto:2018tmgaconference@gmail.com)

# Thank You!

**- Ilene Miller**

A huge **THANK YOU** to the many Master Gardeners who helped to make our Christmas Party such a success. I appreciate the planning and thought that the Christmas Party Committee put into the event, which was our biggest and best ever. Treasurer Don Wyatt reports that the Silent and Live Auctions made \$1602.50! To all who helped decorate, register, provided delicious items for our salad bar and desert bar, donated auction items, or worked on the service projects and auctions, the awards program, or any other part of this special 20th annual meeting and party, our thanks and appreciation.





# Announcements

## Texas Master Gardener Association State Award Nominations are Open

- Kathy Love

Nominations for the 2017, 40th Anniversary, Texas Master Gardener Association State awards are currently open. The BCMGA will tender award nominations in the following categories: Outstanding Individual Master Gardener; Outstanding Project; Outstanding Education Program; Outstanding Written Education; Outstanding Youth Program; and Outstanding Association.

If you want to nominate in any of these categories, please email me at [lkathy021@gmail.com](mailto:lkathy021@gmail.com) or call or text me at 972/672-0999. You can also make a written nomination by dropping it off at the Extension Office or by mail to me at Kathy Love, 11740 Landfill Road, Holland, TX 76534

For all nominations, keep in mind the State Association is looking for our impacts on our community in the areas of horticultural education and service. When evaluating the nominations, the awards committee will look for the following goals established by the State:

1. Must have an educational component
2. Must be available to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, veteran status, political beliefs, sexual orientation, national origin, and marital or family status.
3. Should extend the resources of Texas A&M University or another accredited university to the public wherever they live, helping them use knowledge to solve problems at work, at home, and in their communities.
4. Must contain information that is research-based from Texas A&M University or another accredited university.
5. Should provide home horticultural education in a responsive and timely manner.
6. Should collaborate with local non profit and municipal groups to offer education leadership for better gardening practices in area communities.
7. Should foster a learning environment for volunteers.
8. Should encourage continued education and the recruitment and training of New Master Gardener volunteers.
9. Should offer information and education to Texas citizens through innovative programs with creative and new approaches.

If you nominate in any category, please consider the above goals to be sure your nomination meets as many of the goals as possible. The following is our list of currently approved PROJECTS:

- Bend O' the River Botanic Garden
- Ask a Master Gardener emails, telephone calls, walk-in, home/site visits
- Helping Hands Community Garden
- Home & Garden Show
- Killeen Municipal Court Gardens
- Landscape & Grounds
- McLane Children's Hospital Healing Garden
- Parrie Haynes Ranch
- Plant Sales
- Salado Visitor Center Demo Beds

(continued on next page)



# Announcements

## Texas Master Gardener Association State Award Nominations are Open - cont'd

- Kathy Love

There are also projects in the Other Approved Projects category such as the Rain Barrel Building Classes, writing newspaper articles either published under your own name or for Lyle's byline, the 20th anniversary party, the Christmas party and local awards, the St. Mary's School Garden, St. Luke Church Grounds, and Turf Grass Specialist Training.

Keep in mind that some of the above projects could also be nominated in either the Outstanding Education or Written Education categories along with any of our Outreach Projects, the New Class, Education portions of our General Meeting and the Blooming Bell Newsletter.

There are too many youth activities to list, but if you worked on a youth program that you would like to nominate, please do so.

Likewise, there are many, many members that would be deserving of the Outstanding Individual Master Gardener nomination so if there is someone you want to nominate, please let me know.

If you want to nominate in any category, you may do a written nomination and submit it to me and the awards committee, but it is not necessary for you to do the actual write-up if you prefer not to. Just send in your nomination and I or one of the members of the awards committee will contact you to get whatever information you would like to see used to write the impact statement and we will do so.

The deadline for submissions to the State for 2017 awards is January 20, 2018, so I will cut off member nominations on December 15, 2017.

## Gardening in Bell County

- Carol Morisset and Jan Upchurch

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

- |              |                                   |                |                                      |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| • January 18 | Tree Care                         | • August 16    | Propagation of Plants                |
| • March 15   | Plant Selection                   | • September 20 | Greenhouse Basics                    |
| • April 19   | Hummingbirds, Butterflies, & Bees | • October 18   | Texas Native Gardening in the Winter |
| • May 17     | Water Efficiency                  | • November 15  | Raised Bed Gardening                 |
| • June 21    | Insects in Your Garden            |                |                                      |
| • July 19    | Fall Gardening                    |                |                                      |

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.morisset@gmail.com](mailto:carol.j.morisset@gmail.com)



# Announcements

## 2018 BCMGA Membership Dues

- Gail Christian



Your 2018 membership dues are due by January 31, 2018. Dues are still \$25.00. You can mail you check to 1605 N. Main, Room 102, or give it to Scarlot in the office. She will hold it for us and send us a notice to come by the office. You can always give dues to Kathleen Ramey or Gail Christian on Wednesday mornings. Thanks,

## More Gratitude to BCMGA Members

- Jane Van Praag



Although Joyce White, who heads up Food For Friends, is shorter than I am, and to walk must wear braces on both legs, she's felt like she's standing ten feet tall ever since I brought over your donations from our holiday party! All told, you gave FFF \$735 which she is going to apply to the purchase of another stove and range-top.

Initially, back in 2007, we'd thought of our program as a stop-gap measure until the new administration got everything straightened out, but to our dismay we soon realized our effort would not only be ongoing but also expanding, so that's when we realized the need to incorporate...those first couple of years we never even got around to naming ourselves (Nelly, Joyce, and I were old enough to refer to what we were doing as our Mini-Marshall Plan). Joyce's son is an attorney retired from IRS, so of course he did the paperwork for obtaining the 501 status without charge. One of our volunteers is a retired CPA and professor of accounting who keeps the books.

About that time, the owner (who wishes to remain anonymous) of the company her son-in-law worked for heard about our initiative; every Christmas it had been his practice to donate to several large charities but he was becoming disenchanted with how much of his money went to steadily increasing administrative overhead, so, upon learning that we were all unpaid, he was quite happy to give us \$5,000. The next year he asked to help prepare and deliver our Christmas meal; we dared hope that from this positive experience he might once again donate the same amount. Imagine our surprise when he gave Joyce \$50,000 to build a commercial kitchen...her choice being whether to remodel her own small Pullman-type kitchen or erect a separate structure! Joyce, who is in her young 80s, chose a separate building (which can be relocated) for the sake of perpetuity. Last year he gave us enough to add on, increasing our work space to almost twice the original size. But, we really need an additional stove to go with the three we already use plus its range-top with another six burners.

I have just finished baking enough huge oatmeal/raisin/pecan cookies for our 200 Friends to each have half a dozen, which took me the better part of two days. Next time I do this, thanks to you, it won't take so long!



# Announcements

## January General Meeting

- **Kathy Love**

The January general meeting will be held on the 10th. The education presentation will be on "Leaves" by Gary Slanga. Social Time is 9:30 a.m., meeting at 10 a.m. in the learning center building.

## Board of Director's Meeting

The January Board of Director's Meeting will held on Wednesday, January 24th at 9 a.m. in the class/meeting room of the AgriLife Building. Please submit your agenda items to Stacye Parry, Recording Secretary by Friday, January 19th.

## Grounds Workdays

- **Johnny Jones and Tom Rennels**

Here is the workday schedule for January:

Jan. 3, 2018 8:00 a.m. Workday  
10:30 a.m. Burger Wednesday  
Jan. 10, 2018 8:00 a.m. Workday  
Jan. 17, 2018 8:00 a.m. Workday  
Jan. 24, 2018 8:00 a.m. Workday  
Jan. 31, 2018 8:00 a.m. Workday

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

## Whistle Stop Playground Clean-up

There will be a clean-up at the Whistle Stop Playground on January 31, 2018, which is the 5th Wednesday. Please plan to join in the clean-up at 7:30 am.

# Advanced Learning

## Upcoming Specialist Training

Feb. 8-6	Master Gardener Plant Health and Diagnostics Educator Specialist Training Gonzales Deadline to register - Jan. 16 Cost \$185
Feb. 14-16	Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist Training Dallas Deadline to register - Jan. 31 Cost \$235
Feb. 26-27	Master Gardener Landscape Design School Series XXV, Course IV College Station Deadline to register - Jan. 1 Cost \$135 Register - Jan. 2 to Feb. 1 Cost \$145 Register - after Feb. 1 Cost \$165 Book cost - \$40

## Upcoming Workshops

TBD	Coming soon in 2018
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## Upcoming Conferences

TBD	Coming soon in 2018
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**CHECK OUT BCMGA FACEBOOK PAGE! GO TO**

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



## Officers

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First Vice President	Mary Ann Everett
Second Vice President	Louann Hight
Recording Secretary	Stacye Parry
Corresponding Secretary	Pat Allen
Treasurer	Don Wyatt

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New Class	Fran Sheppard
Grounds	Johnny Jones Tom Rennels
Plant Sale	Kathy Love
KMCCG	Edie Campbell
Outreach	Carol Morisset Jan Upchurch
Awards	Kathy Love
Webmaster	Pat Johnson
Membership	Gail Christian
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Jan Upchurch  
Jane Van Praag  
Bill Walker

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Sylvia Maedgen

*Please submit articles of less than 500 words for the Blooming Bell as Word Documents with **photos** separate as **JPG files** to Sylvia Maedgen at:*

**txbikerchic7@gmail.com**

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

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