



Above photo by  
Sylvia Maedgen



Photos by Daisy Klassy



The public is ready and waiting to enter our 2018 Spring Plant Sale on March 24th. Many made their selections from a list they brought. We had a beautiful selection of roses available. Even the children were entertained in the Kids Zone. Overall, the 2018 Spring Plant Sale was a success.

#### INSIDE THIS EDITION:

<b>April 2018 Calendar</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>President's Corner</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1 More Thing</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Wizzie's World of Insects</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Do You Know About?</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>What's Been Happening</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Member Spotlight</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>This and That</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>What's Happening in Your Yard?</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Advanced Learning</b>	<b>28</b>







Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 Work Day - 8 am*</b> <b>Burger Wed. 10:30 am</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10 The Great Outdoors-Austin trip-8:30 am</b>	<b>11 Work Day - 8 am*</b> <b>Plant Swap - 8 am</b> <b>Social - 9:30 am</b> <b>General Meeting - 10 am</b> <b>BCMG Intern Class</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 Work Day - 8 am*</b> <b>BOD Meeting - 9 am</b> <b>BCMG Intern Class</b> <b>Intern Class Local Field Trip</b>	<b>19 Gardening in Bell County – Hummingbirds, Butterflies, &amp; Bees</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21 Rain Barrel Workshop-9 am-12 pm Belton</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25 Work Day 8 am*</b> <b>BCMG Intern Class &amp; bus tour-Austin</b> <b>Blooming Bell deadline</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>					

#### Upcoming events:

- ♦ Meridith Dunbar, Temple, April 9-11, & 13th
- ♦ Un-included Club, Temple, April 11, 16, 25
- ♦ Cavazos Elementary, Nolanville, April 20
- ♦ Chisholm Trail Elem., Belton Learning Center, Apr. 24
- ♦ Douse Elementary, Ft. Hood, April 27th
- ♦ Un-included Club, Temple, May 4, 9, 18, 23
- ♦ Gardening - Water Efficiency, Belton Ext. Off. May 17

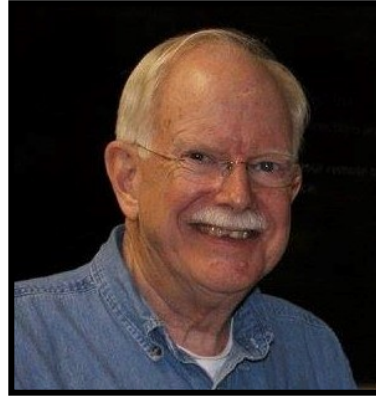
\* In the event of rain, there will be No Workday.

Remember to record volunteer service hours and education hours separately. You may include your travel time to meetings and work projects as service hours.

Photo by Terrie Hahn

# The President's Corner

- Wayne Schirner



March closed out with a huge success at the Spring Plant Sale. Sylvia did a wonderful job in her first time as the overall project coordinator for Plant Sales. The line at 0800 was almost all the way down to the street at the S&W Clinic, and over 700 people attended our sale. The only things that we didn't sell were things that we are able to return. We had more herbs for sale than ever before. We sold all 172 roses. We sold every vegetable plant. Many members joined in to make this not only a great service to the citizens of our local area, but fun for us as well. Everyone contributed in their own special way, and the way we worked together reminds me again why the BCMGA is such a wonderful group to belong to.

I didn't take a count at the March meeting, but it looked like about 15-20 people raised their hands when I asked how many were attending the TMGA State Conference in College Station the first week in April. We will be well represented, and many of our members will receive their specialist certification certificates and pins at the luncheon on Wednesday. I'm confident that the awards banquet on Thursday evening will result in even more recognition for the BCMGA. I'm looking forward to having fun with other members.

Karen Colwick will hold another rain barrel workshop on April 21<sup>st</sup>, and there are a few slots still available. You can sign up with your check for \$60 and go home with a ready to use rain barrel. That's a great deal.

Now that we are in the middle of spring planting season, several new service projects are becoming active. The Un-Included Club has built raised beds for their gardens at the Blackland Research Center in Temple, and planting day is on March 30<sup>th</sup>. This is another great opportunity for use to teach teens about gardening. Janice Smith is the project coordinator, so if you have questions about this project, send her an email. The VA gardens project is getting members through in-processing and soon we will have a crew ready to start teaching veterans.

Kathy and Gail provided a wonderful overview of the VMS system at the March membership meeting that will help us better track the many volunteer projects

we have available to provide service to the citizens of Bell County. I encourage you to explore the VMS site to become better educated on that system. You can volunteer for projects on the site, and we now can use it to see what upcoming events are on the calendar. If anyone has a question or suggestion on how to best use the system, just speak up. The more consistently we use it, the better the data we can gather.

Hard to believe the new class is more than half-way through their training. Graduation is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>, and hopefully most will become certified Master Gardeners on that date. A quick review shows that two trainees have already exceeded the volunteer hours requirement, and several others have documented over 40 hours. If you are a mentor for one of the trainees, encourage them to get their volunteer service hours logged in the VMS system so that they can become certified by graduation day.

We are rapidly approaching the time when we need to be thinking about new officers for the next two-year terms starting in January. There are three Officer positions and three Director positions that will need to be filled. A slate of candidates will be presented at the October membership meeting, and voted on at the November membership meeting, so there is only six short months before we need a slate of candidates. I encourage members to talk to the Officers or Directors and learn about the different roles, so they can decide how they would best be able to contribute to the leadership of the BCMGA.

That's it for this month. Remember, have fun in your garden and thanks again for all you do.

# 1 More Thing...

## The Science of Gardening

- Wayne Schirner

The mission statement for the BCMGA is: The Bell County Master Gardener Association assists the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in providing high quality, relevant, research-based horticultural education and service to the residents of Bell County and the state of Texas through outreach, teaching, and demonstration projects.

When reflecting on our mission statement, I often wonder, what is the evidence behind the information we use and give out so freely? I was excited when I discovered a new course available through The Great Courses called "The Science of Gardening." This is a series of twenty-four 30-minutes lectures taught by Professor Linda Chalker-Scott from Washington State University. The first lecture titled "Garden Science: Weeding Out the Myths" was eye-opening for me, and I will attempt to share some of the ideas presented. I am hoping to have other articles from this course to share in future issues of the Blooming Bell.

Historically, agricultural research has focused on food and fiber-related crops. This is where the money is. Grant money for research is still geared at these crops, not ornamental plants in the landscape. As a result, many of the products and practices that have been developed may not be relevant for home gardeners. In our home landscapes and gardens, we are trying to create a diversity with different types of plants, insects, and birds so the management goals are very likely much different from those of a commercial business focused on a monoculture. We shouldn't assume that the science behind one is necessarily applicable to the other.

In a research void, there is a lot of anecdotal, irrelevant, and unverified information. Disappointing results is only one problem associated with following these types of advice. There can also be a waste of time, money, and natural resources. There is no regulatory agency for most gardening recommendations. Fertilizers and pesticides are regulated, but there is no agency that investigates the "snake oil" often sold to unsuspecting gardeners. There is great emotional appeal to many of these recommendations. You might have learned it from your grandmother or heard it from the old guy next door. Maybe it just sounds like good common sense or maybe it's a do-it-yourself approach.



When you hear about products and practices that are promoted by people who are excited about a particular product or practice, you have to insist on proof i.e. scientific evidence. The onus is on proponents to provide scientific evidence to support their claims. The onus is not on science to prove that it doesn't work. This includes the miracles in your garden attributed to common household chemicals like dish soap, Epsom salts, vinegar, baking soda, molasses, and cinnamon.

To evaluate gardening information, use the CRAP test. How **Credible** is your resource (who's the author, and who's the publisher)? Is it **Relevant** to you as a home gardener? Is it **Accurate**, or is it very dated? What's the **Purpose**, to give you good information or to sell a product?

The printed information on gardening generally falls into three categories: scientific journals, professional journals, and popular books and magazines. Only the articles in the first category are peer-reviewed, so articles in the latter two categories may provide excellent information or it may be questionable information. It's not easy to tell. There are also great online resources. The information on .edu or .gov websites are more likely to be peer-reviewed, while .com websites may or may not have information that will pass the CRAP test. It's great having lots of information available to read, but is it good information?

When basing things on "science", there are different categories to be aware of.

**Science doesn't support the information.** This category is hugely populated with products and practices. One example is vitamin B1 transplant fertilizers found on many nursery shelves. It turns out that plants make their own vitamin B1, so you don't have to add it. It's a waste of money and resources.

**Misapplied science.** A misapplied science has use in one place but is being used someplace else incorrectly. An example is foliar fertilizers, which are great for testing nutrient deficiencies in leaves, but it's not a way to feed plants.

(continued on next page)



# 1 More Thing...

## The Science of Gardening - con't.

- Wayne Schirner

**Over-extrapolated information.** This is where you've tested something in a controlled situation and it works. But when you take it out into the uncontrolled environment it doesn't work.

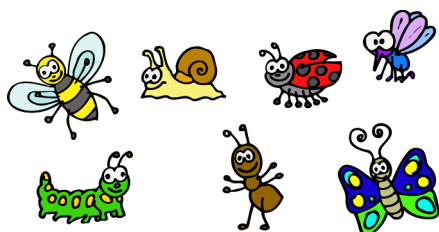
**Scientific errors.** This is where you might have unqualified researchers, researcher bias, and peer-review failure. Scientific errors are difficult for the nonscientist to ferret out. A great example of this is what you might see on the internet or in pay-for-play journals about how glyphosate is the cause of all human health hazards in the world. In fact, thousands of articles have verified the relative safety of glyphosate to humans.

Why should we care about using scientific, validated practices and products? We'll save money, time, and natural resources by avoiding unnecessary products and practices. We'll reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers. We'll understand applied plant and soil science and be able to diagnose landscape problems. We'll pay more attention to the natural processes in our personal gardens and landscapes. We'll be healthier physically, mentally, and spiritually by developing closer connections to our gardens.

All of this will help us as we strive to fulfill our mission in educating the public. I look forward to sharing from future lessons.



From "The Science of Gardening" taught by Professor Linda Chalker-Scott for The Great Courses: "Unfortunately, there are no miracle cures for pests and diseases. There are no magical products that are being suppressed by commercial interests, and there are no forgotten techniques that have recently been rediscovered. But we do have a young and growing body of science-based information that can help us create and maintain sustainable gardens and landscapes."



# Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

## Termites in the Landscape

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife Extension Entomologist

While most think about termites when it comes to their home there can also be termites that get on landscape elements and cause issues. Termites have protozoa in their hindgut that allow them to consume and digest cellulose (wood-based) material.

Native subterranean termites have nests in the soil and must maintain contact with soil or an above-ground moisture source to survive. If native subterranean termites move to areas above ground they make shelter (mud) tubes of fecal material, saliva and soil to protect themselves. Native subterranean termites may sometimes be found on wood elements in garden sheds, potting tables, fences, or other wood-based materials. They may also be found on tree stumps, dead limbs, or firewood.



Native subterranean termites



Formosan subterranean termites

Formosan termites are a more voracious type of subterranean termite. These termites have been spread throughout Texas through transport of infested material or soil. Formosan termites build carton nests that allow them to survive above ground without contact with the soil. Inside structures, nests are often located in hollow spaces, such as wall voids.

Formosan termites feed on a wider variety of cellulose than other subterranean termites, including live plants, consuming both spring and summer growth wood whereas native subterranean termites feed only on spring growth. Formosan termites have also been known to chew through non-cellulose materials such as soft metals, plaster or plastic.

Drywood termites do not need contact with soil and reside in sound, dry wood. These termites obtain moisture from the wood they digest. Drywood termites create a dry fecal pellet that can be used as an identifying characteristic. They have smaller colonies- around 1,000 termites- than subterranean termites; they also do not build shelter tubes. In the landscape, drywood termites can be in trees, stumps, downed logs, dead branches, and can infest sound dry wood in structures, furniture, and other items.

Agricultural termites prefer to eat live grasses and weeds instead of dead wood. They make mud tubes and cover vegetation to protect them while they feed. These termites can sometimes be seen on lawns, fields with forage grasses, or sports fields.

Agricultural termites prefer to eat live grasses and weeds instead of dead wood. They make mud tubes and cover vegetation to protect them while they feed. These termites can sometimes be seen on lawns, fields with forage grasses, or sports fields.



Agricultural termite tubes covering grass

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).

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

*The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service or the Texas A&M AgriLife Research is implied.*

*The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal access in its programs, activities, education and employment, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity.*

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



# Do You Know About...?

## Introduction into Melons

- Rebecca Burrow

Is it just me, or do non-watermelon melons not get much face time in Texas gardens? When I first think of growing melons, I think of excessive water use, fertilizer, and pest issues. Then I decide to plant something else instead. But the rest of the world disagrees.

Melons have been around for thousands of years in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia where melon cultivars are particularly rich in number. The ever-popular watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*) originates in Africa. The other predominant species is *Cucumis melo*, whose subspecies includes practically all of the other things we think of as melons, such as honeydew (*C. melo inodorus*) and cantaloupe. North American cantaloupes are *C. melo reticulatus* while European cantaloupes are *C. melo cantalupensis*. It did not take Native Americans long to take Spanish melons and breed them for their own uses in the 1600s.

As anyone who has grown squash will now, the Cucurbitaceae family tends to get around with each other. Thankfully, this is usually (emphasis on usually) restricted to cross-pollination within a species. *C. melo* melons will all pollinate each other, but the cucumber, *C. sativus*, as well as watermelons and squash will not pollinate *C. melo*. But here is a tip. There is such a thing as a bitter melon. Do not plant these bitter melons anywhere near your sweet melons. If you save seeds and landrace, the children will taste nasty.

Melons are one of those plants that truly benefit from landracing due to the wide water use and humidity tolerance among cultivars, which can make unsuited varieties a pain to grow in Texas. Heat is not an issue however. Many growers have had success landracing melons. One grower in the high mountains of Arizona bred ultra-sweet cantaloupes able to endure the wind, cool temperatures, and short-growing season to effectively produce fruit. Now his customers will not buy anyone else's melons. If you are struggling with melons, it might be because you need to landrace one.

Most Americans think of honeydew and cantaloupe when they think of melons, but in Asia and India, bitter melons are just as common and part of everyday



Charentais melons

cooking. These warty, submarine shaped melons are treated more as a vegetable than a fruit. They are put into stew, curry, fried, stuffed, and pickled. Bitter melons love the heat and humidity and could be an interesting “veggie” to try out in the Texas garden.

*C. melo* has hundreds of cultivars, many with a vibrant cultural history. The French in particular took a liking to melons and developed the Charentais, famous for its intense sweetness, fragrance, and hardly any seeds. The Ashkhabad melon from Turkmenistan is a gold-skinned honeydew type that can reach 10 pounds. A truly American melon despite the sound of the name, the Ananas d’Amerique a Chair Verte was developed by Thomas Jefferson in 1794 and consistently ranks at the top for flavor. I could go on and on about all the cultivars available, like the Ha’ogen, Keli Kheli (a salad-type from India), or the Valencia Winter known for its long-term storage.

Melons are worth looking into, even for the Texas gardener. They are often considered the crown jewel, though they do not have to be so difficult. Have fun selecting cultivars and trying things out. You might be surprised by the successes or failures. Those of you disappointed with the insipid flavor of store-bought melons (I cannot blame you) might even find pleasure in those you grew yourself.





# What's Been Happening...

## Meridith-Dunbar Early Childhood Academy - Seed Activity

- Marjorie Gillmeister

Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

Spring Gardening at Meridith-Dunbar Early Childhood Academy March 19 - Reap what you sow! The four year old children were all smiles to transplant their eggshell pod plants that they nurtured and grew with in the past five weeks. Special Thank You to Janice Smith for working with our youth it was a beautiful day!





# What's Been Happening...

## Montessori School

- Marjorie Gillmeister

Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

Spring Gardening at Montessori of Temple on March 22 with the Infant and Toddler class ages 1-2 years old. Thirteen children helped to weed their garden, prep garden beds with organic compost, direct sowed seeds to watering, and even helped sweep to tidy up their garden area.



Such joy to see an Eggshell Gardening shelf that the Director of the school had purchased after seeing my display a few weeks ago to have in their classroom. I worked with 23 children ages ranges from 3-6 years old. We've got Future Junior Master Gardeners here whom were all willing to garden and most importantly the most attentive. We began with pulling out plants that had reached the end of their lifecycle and Wolfgang showed his friends how to compost the plants to use as green manure. We then prepped all the beds with organic compost, transplanted Eggshell pods plants, direct seed sowed, and watered the square foot garden beds.



I was extremely impressed with all the Eggshell Pod plants that the Primary II Class had nurtured from seed to growth. Children ages 3-6 years old also weeded, prepped beds with organic compost, transplanted their own eggshell plants, direct sowed seeds, and watered. "Children are flowers in the garden growing and blossoming at their own pace."





# What's Been Happening...

## Tigertown 4H

- Marjorie Gillmeister

On March 26th, Marjorie Gillmeister and Gail Koontz were invited to teach Eggshell Gardening to the Tigertown 4H youth ages ranging from 8 to 18 years old. We had an amazing group of fun and super enthusiastic kids eager to plant in an Eggshell pod. 14 of our youth planted and 7 adults as well. Two girls left with a Eggshell garden tray they are planning to grow for their families. Gail and I were gifted with farm fresh eggs from one of the students who raises her own chickens. What an eggcellent gift!



Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

## First United Methodist Church

- Marjorie Gillmeister

First United Methodist Church of Temple on March 21. Perfect day spent outdoors educating our youth on The Lifecycle of a Chicken to Eggshell Gardening. Eleven two year olds and thirteen four to five year olds participated along with their moms and grandmas.



Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister



# What's Been Happening...

## Sugar Loaf Elementary Career Day-Killeen

- Marjorie Gillmeister

We participated in Career Day at Sugar Loaf Elementary in Killeen on March 2nd. We educated 414 children in grades Pre-k to 5th on how to plant in newspaper pots and eggshells.

Marjorie Gillmeister, spoke about her career as a sustainable farmer. Gail Koontz, spoke about her career as a volunteer Bell County Master Gardener. Special thanks to all our new class interns and master gardeners who participated: Sandi Remson, Jo Carlsen, Kerin Grimes, Nancy Novakoski, Juan Anaya, Kathy Harte, Gail Koontz, Sylvia Maedgen and Patricia Parker.



Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister and Sylvia Maedgen



# What's Been Happening...

## Propagation Class

Photos by Daisy Klassy





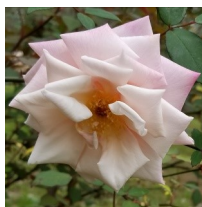
# What's Been Happening...

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

## 2018 Herbal Forum - Round Top, TX

- Sylvia Maedgen

This year we had 18 members attend the Herbal Forum in Round Top, TX at Festival Hill. A few other members came up for a day on Friday or Saturday. We had a great time and learned a lot about ginger. Several attended some of the workshops and got to bring home a bouquet or lightweight concrete planter boxes. The food was really good this year at the luncheon on Saturday. Everyone brought food to share on Friday night plus Ginger beer and a little bit of wine. I guarantee no one left hungry or thirsty.





# What's Been Happening...

Photos by Daisy Klassy

## 2018 Spring Plant Sale

- Sylvia Maedgen

Thank you to all of our wonderful Master Gardeners, who came out to work the weeks before and the day of our Spring Plant Sale. With everyone's hard work in getting the grounds cleaned up, boxes taped up, table, chairs, plant stands, and canopies set-up, plants transplanted, loaded and unloaded, plant descriptions prepared, and at least a dozen more things that I have forgotten to mention, we had a great day! Bernie Hurta counted 725 customers that came through our gate. Elaine Passman and Kelby Kosel did a painting arts and crafts project with 33 children in the Kids Camp and Suzzy Coldwell won the plant raffle. For my first plant sale, I am very pleased and happy. I will have the final breakdown of the expenditures and earnings at our May general meeting. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

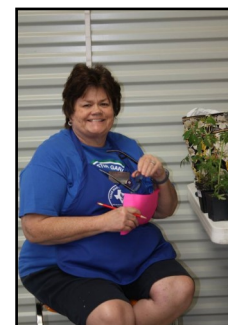
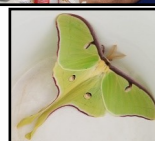




# What's Been Happening...

Photos by Daisy Klassy  
and Sylvia Maedgen

## 2018 Spring Plant Sale

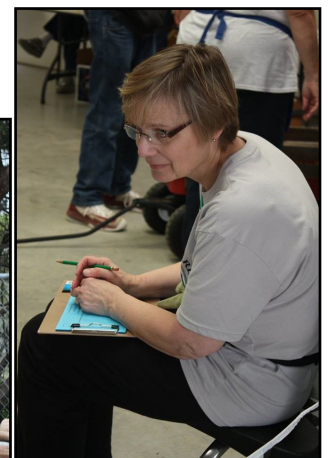




# What's Been Happening...

## 2018 Spring Plant Sale

Photos by Daisy Klassy  
and Sylvia Maedgen





# What's Been Happening...



Photos by Louann Hight





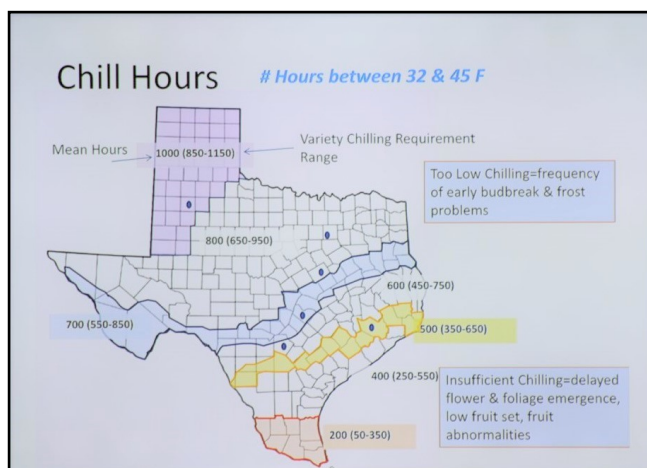
# What's Been Happening...

## Gardening Workshop - Fruit Trees and Black- berries

- Sylvia Maedgen

The March monthly gardening series workshop was on Fruit Trees and Blackberries and was presented by Bill Walker, Master Gardener Class of 2017.

Photos by Daisy Klassy



## Resource Information

- Aggie Horticulture <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>
- Texas Peach Handbook, by Jim Kamas and Larry Stein. Details excellent principles for orchard planning and management for the commercial grower and the home owner.
- Texas A&M and University of Arkansas .edu web sites are excellent for blackberries. TAMU is good for any growing subjects related to TEXAS.
- University of Georgia and North Carolina State .edu websites are excellent for stone fruits and vegetable crops.
- Reference to .edu web sites



# What's Been Happening...

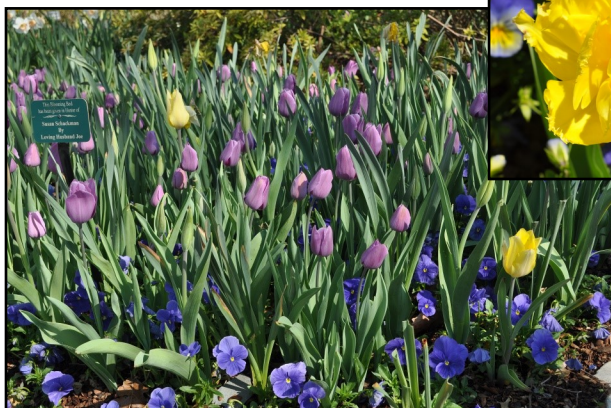


DALLAS ARBORETUM  
AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

## - Sylvia Maedgen

Although I did not get to go with the BCMGA group on the bus trip on March 29th to the Dallas Arboretum, I did go on March 13th with my sister, my niece, and a cousin. The tulips were gorgeous and lots of people were there taking pictures.





# Member Spotlight

- Larry Causey

## Paul & Mary Carter , 2018 MG Interns

Paul and Mary Carter jumped wholeheartedly into the 2018 Master Gardener's class, and it's already paying off.

Both of them took a hit-or-miss approach to gardening for years, until the class on vegetable gardening, taught by Jerry Lewis and Bob Gordon, opened their eyes to what was possible, Paul said. Marjorie Gillmeister's egg shell program with the school children also impressed them. "It has just really blown my mind that something as small as an egg shell can...provide so much for that seedling to survive," he said.

The benefits of the Master Gardeners class are beginning to show in the Carters' home garden. As a part of their volunteer service hours, they worked in the Killeen Municipal Community Garden, and learned a lot. "We have mirrored what the garden has done," Paul said. "We came home and planted it." For example, they learned how to properly cut out and plant potato eyes. "Our potatoes at home are doing really well," he said. "We had only tried potatoes at home once before, but we never even got a leaf to pop up out of the ground. We were doing it all wrong."

Paul got a begrudging introduction to gardening as a child in St. Louis, MO. He was the younger of two children, he said, and when his mother needed help in the yard, he was the one she would call on. "My primary purpose at that time was weed-pulling," he said. "I guess I was around 12 or so when I started appreciating the look of the garden. We just had a small backyard garden, nothing fancy. She loved color. Her garden was all about the color."

"I became interested in gardening the second time after Mary and I got married in October of 1986," he said. In addition to what the Carters are both learning in class, Mary discovered an unusual type of raised bed on the Internet. It's called keyhole gardening, and the Carters now have one in their backyard. It's basically a round bed about six feet in diameter, in her case walled by stones. It has a compost well in the center, and a slot for the gardener's access. From a bird's eye view it resembles an old skeleton keyhole.

It's supposed to be a self-sustaining type of garden that takes very little watering, Mary said. For her compost, she chops up left over vegetables and egg shells. "I put a little water in with that," she said. "It's supposed to retain moisture. It's not like I have to come out and water it every day. It's supposed to grow kind of fast."

She's growing such plants as celery, lettuce, onions, chives, peppers and tomatoes. "Basically it's my salad garden," she said. "It's my first one. I'm experimenting with it. It has very little dirt."

The keyhole garden originated from nomadic tribes in Africa, Paul said. "The whole process is to maximize space."



# This and That...

## **Ilene Miller Honored by Temple Garden Club**

- Gail Koontz

The Temple Garden Club celebrated Arbor Day on March 1 by planting a red oak tree in Miller Park to honor Ilene Miller for the numerous ways she has served the club and the community.

Ilene is not a member of the club but has supported it in many ways, including installing officers and using her expertise as a Bell County Master Gardener to present programs.

The article that appeared in The Temple Daily Telegram went on to say that Ilene has served as past president of the City Federation of Women's Clubs and past president of the United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church of Temple.

Bell County Master Gardeners know what a servant's heart Ilene has and congratulate her on this honor.





# What's Happening in Your Yard

- **Gail Christian**

Photos by Gail Christian

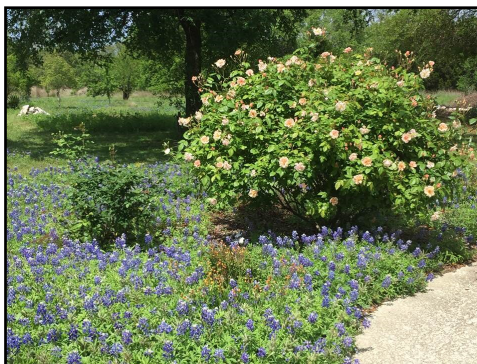
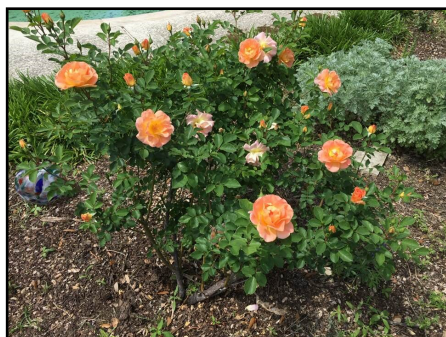
These bluebonnets reseeded from some plants that were given as door prizes at Master Gardener events and planted two years ago. No red ones showed up last year, but look at them now. This is on the Special Needs bed at the Extension Office. The humble wildflowers Four Nerve Daisy looks very nice here with the other native plants. They are all beginning to show lots of growth, along with the weeds.



- **Terrie Hahn**

Photos by Terrie Hahn

Roses are crazy beautiful this year!



- **Crystal Fisher**

Photo by Crystal Fisher

Going to Rehab

Just a reminder to be sure to keep an eye open for all those little critters that need help. No idea what happened to his mother. He's been sitting patiently and waiting a couple of nights for her to return. Time to get him to someone who has experience in feeding babies. This little guy was taken to the Texas Parks & Wildlife office in Temple. Call first to let them know you are coming in with a boxed animal that needs care: They have a list of rehabbers they call.



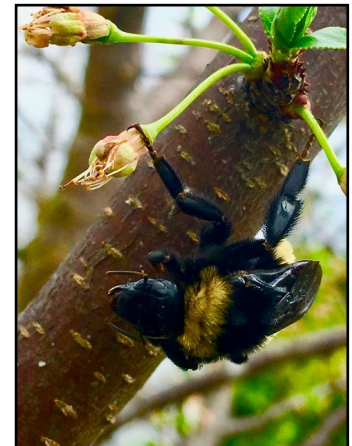


# What's Happening in Your Yard

## - Melinda Arriola

Photos by Melinda Arriola

These are some pictures my yard. Wisteria, blooming nicely; my Crossvine; Collard Greens, ready for harvest; House Wren Nest in my Mohania Holly; Columbine in Bloom; and this bee is checking out a Bruce Plum Blossom.



## - Wayne Schirner

Photo by Wayne Schirner

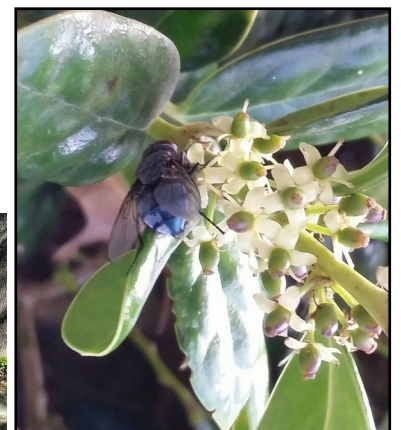
The cover on our patio furniture was askance. I assumed it was the wind. When I moved the cover, I discovered the real reason. Mama possum with at least 4 tiny tails.



## - Elaine Passman

Photos by Elaine Passman

My dwarf buford holly is in bloom. Look what the flowers are attracting besides the bees. Me at the Japanese Gardens in Fort Worth, TX.





# Announcements

## Bus Trip to and 2 Wineries in Fredericksburg

- Jan George

I am currently working on a tour to the Wildseed Farm in Fredericksburg and a couple of wineries on May 1st. The cost of the bus will be \$40.00. There is a winery at the Wildseed Farm if you would enjoy a tasting of 6 samples for \$12.00. We will also go to Grape Creek Winery and Fat Ass Winery. Grape Creek charges \$18.00 for six samples and Fat Ass charges \$10.00 for six samples. If you don't care to taste the wines, you can enjoy the beautiful and fun grounds. You can buy soup & a sandwich at Wildseed Farm or bring your lunch. If you bring your lunch, you will have to eat it on the bus as the wineries do not allow food or drink to be brought on the properties. You can sign up tomorrow at our monthly meeting or email me at [jangeorge530@gmail.com](mailto:jangeorge530@gmail.com) or text me at 254-371-5276 if you can't make the meeting. Tomorrow will be the only day to sign up. If we can't get 32 people we will have to cancel the trip and try again in the fall.



Thanks. See you on our next adventure!!

## Spring Plant Swap

- Crystal Fisher

With the Spring Plant Sale behind us now, it's time to focus upon thinning out our own plants. If you'd be so kind, bring your potted extras to the next General Meeting on Wednesday, April 11th, they will be included in our Plant Swap. It would be helpful if you can drop them off ahead of time in the sale arena so they can be sorted:

- Annuals/biennials
- Grasses, herbs
- Perennials
- Shade-lovers
- Succulents
- Trees/bushes/vines
- Vegetables
- Seeds

Labeling your plant tags will help:

- Name of who donated it
- Pertinent info: Perennial, Annual, size, low water, freshly rooted cuttings, and whatever other information you believe is helpful.



The Plant Swap will begin after the April General Meeting. For those interested in volunteering an hour or two, please let me know. It should be listed on the VMS so your volunteer time can be earned and charted. Thanks to all those that will make this a successful plant trade. I'm looking forward to all of us enjoying ourselves while helping each other, too.



# Announcements

## Baylor Scott & White - McLane Children's Hospital Healing Garden

- Kathy Love

The next horticultural teaching opportunity class is May 12th, 1:30-3:30 p.m. - Bees and other pollinators taught by Breanna Care. This provides an opportunity for the children, parents, and staff at the hospital to participate. The class will be held in the hospital's multi-media room. Just check in at the front desk as usual and ask for directions to the multi-media room.



If you can help Breanna with this important addition to our Children's Hospital project please email Marjorie Gillmeister at [mjgillmeister@me.com](mailto:mjgillmeister@me.com) or Breanna at [breannacare@gmail.com](mailto:breannacare@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Youth Program Activities

- Marjorie Gillmeister

We've had a fruitful February month sowing seeds of life with many children and adults throughout the county. If you are interested in volunteering with our youth please contact: Marjorie Gillmeister, BCMG Youth Director, email - [mjgillmeister@me.com](mailto:mjgillmeister@me.com), or phone (347) 820-3221.

- April 9th, 10th, 11th, 13th MDECA- Meridith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy
- April 20th Career Day at Cavazos Elementary, Nolanville
- April 27th Career Day at Douse Elementary on Fort Hood



## 2018 New Class Field Trip

- Gail Koontz



Master Gardeners and friends are invited to join the new class interns for a day trip to Austin on Wednesday, April 25. We will travel together by charter bus. The cost is \$35 per person, which must be paid by Wednesday, April 11, at our monthly meeting.

We will meet at the Extension Office at 7:40am to check in and board the bus which leaves promptly at 8:00 headed to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. There we have a guided tour scheduled, hopefully with some time for shopping. Bring a sack lunch. Water and snacks provided.

We board the bus and eat as we head to Boggy Creek Farms for a tour at 1:00pm. Hopefully, the Market Days morning shoppers will leave something for us to do some shopping. After a day of fun, fellowship, food and education, we board the bus once again to head back to Belton.

There are places left on the bus, so please contact Gail Koontz, Stacye Parry or Kathleen Ramey to register and to make arrangements for payment, no later than Wednesday, April 11. When you register, you will be asked to provide your contact number and an emergency contact name and number.

If you do not want to or cannot ride the bus and plan to join us and travel by car, the cost is \$20. Let's fill up the bus and enjoy a fun and educational day together. My contact information is: Gail Koontz – 254.718.8313 – [gkoontz@hotmail.com](mailto:gkoontz@hotmail.com).



# Announcements

## Gardening in Bell County

- Carol Morisset and Jan Upchurch

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

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

## Rain Barrel Workshop - Mark your calendar!

Saturday, April 21st, 9 am—12 pm, Bell County Extension Building, 1605 N. Main St., Belton, \$60

Payment due in advance. Contact Karen Colwick for info @ 254-913-4459 or [kcolwick@hotmail.com](mailto:kcolwick@hotmail.com).



## Refreshment Roster for General Meetings

- Jane Van Praag

Another round of applause for that Guy Thing! Thanks to Bill Walker, Don Wyatt, Larry Causey, Mike Butts, and Ray Machovsky who not only brought delicious goodies for our March general meeting, they actually made what they shared with us!



Our Herb Group will treat the membership at April's general meeting. Fresh as we are from attending the Herbal Forum near Round Top a few weeks ago, where the spicy herb 'ginger' was celebrated as the herb of the year, every dish we bring will have ginger in it!

Sylvia Maedgen could benefit from help to put out the Spring-themed spread for May. Bill Walker, too, for June (strawberries) and July (fresh corn on the cob) and nobody has yet signed up for August. Or November. Meanwhile, I will welcome volunteers to help me with Mexican dishes for September and Marjorie Gillmeister the same for German food in October.

Be thinking where your interests and skills will best fit in so you can sign up for one or more of these slots on April 11th!



# Announcements



*Central Texas Vines & Wines Program  
Country Spring Vineyard and Wine Garden  
1625 Country Spring Road  
Lorena, Texas  
May 17, 2018*



*Hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Horticulture  
Committee and Master Gardeners of McLennan County.*

*Registration opens at 8:30 a.m. and program starts at 9:00 a.m. Registration fee is \$20 per person. Registration fee includes breakfast sponsored by Capital Farm Credit, lunch sponsored by Lone Star Ag Credit and the program will have sessions on the following topics:*

- *Basics of Vineyard Establishment – Fran Pontasch, Viticulture Specialist*
- *Importance of Soil and Tissue Testing – Jake Mowrer, Soil Nutrient Specialist*
- *Everyday Vineyard Management – Mike Latimer, Latimer Vineyard*
- *Grape Varieties, Root Stock & Table Grapes – Justin Scheiner, Viticulture Specialist*
- *Vineyard Disease and Pest Management – Michael Cook, Viticulture Specialist*
- *Virus and Trunk Disease – Professor David Appel, Plant Pathology Specialist & Sheila McBride, Plant Pathology Associate Specialist*
- *Lessons learned from the Vineyard – Central Texas Vines & Wines Growers*

Interested persons **Must Pre-Register before May 11, 2018** by calling the McLennan County Extension Office at (254) 757-5180. 2 IPM CEU's will be offered.

*The members of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunities through Texas A&M AgriLife. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.*



# Announcements

## April General Meeting

### - Kathy Love

The April general meeting will be held on the 11th. The education presentation will be on "Pecan Pests" by Bill Ree, Jr., Extension Program Specialist II-IPM, Bryan. Mr. Ree will be presenting primarily on the problems being caused by the pecan weevil in Texas, although he will discuss other pecan pests as well. Mr. Ree is always looking for new detectors and believes we Master Gardeners can help.

Social time is 9:30 a.m., meeting at 10 a.m. in the learning center building. If you have non-member friends whom you believe would be interested in this program, bring them along. Remember, our monthly education program is always open to the public.

## Board of Director's Meeting

**Date Change** - The April Board of Director's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 18th 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, April 13th.

## Grounds Workdays

### - Johnny Jones and Tom Rennels

Here is the workday schedule for April:

Apr. 4, 2018 8:00 a.m. Workday  
10:30 a.m. Burger Wednesday  
Apr. 11, 2018 8:00 a.m. Workday  
Apr. 18, 2018 8:00 a.m. Workday  
Apr. 25, 2018 8:00 a.m. Workday

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

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

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

# Advanced Learning

## Upcoming Specialist Training

Apr. 30-May 2 Rainwater Harvesting Specialist  
Training  
Dallas - Cost \$250  
Deadline to register - Apr. 24

May 23-25 Greenhouse Management  
Specialist Training  
Kerrville - Cost \$185  
Deadline to register - May 1

Sep. 18-20 Texas Superstars Specialist Training  
Tyler—Cost \$ TBD





## Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Wayne Schirner</b>
<b>First Vice President</b>	<b>Kathy Love</b>
<b>Second Vice President</b>	<b>Louann Hight</b>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Stacye Parry</b>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	<b>Mary Lew Quesinberry</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Gail Koontz</b>

## Directors

<b>Grounds</b>	<b>Johnny Jones Tom Rennels</b>
<b>KMCCG</b>	<b>Edie Campbell</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>Kathleen Ramey</b>
<b>New Class</b>	<b>Fran Sheppard</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Sylvia Maedgen</b>
<b>Outreach</b>	<b>Carol Morisset Jan Upchurch</b>
<b>Youth Programs</b>	<b>Marjorie Gillmeister</b>

## Committee Chairpersons

<b>Awards</b>	<b>Kathy Love</b>
<b>Plant Sale</b>	<b>Sylvia Maedgen</b>
<b>Webmaster</b>	<b>Pat Johnson</b>
<b>AgriLife Agent</b>	<b>Lyle Zoeller</b>

## Contributing Writers and Photographers:

Melinda Arriola  
Wizzie Brown  
Rebecca Burrow  
Larry Causey  
Gail Christian  
Crystal Fisher  
Jan George  
Marjorie Gillmeister  
Terri Hahn  
Louann Hight  
Johnny Jones  
Daisy Klassy  
Gail Koontz  
Kathy Love  
Jackie McLaughlin  
Sylvia Maedgen  
Carol Morisset  
Elaine Passman  
Tom Rennels  
Wayne Schirner  
Jan Upchurch  
Jane Van Praag

**Editor:** 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**

Photo by Daisy Klassy



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

**TEXAS A&M**  
**AGRI LIFE**  
**EXTENSION**