

# The Blooming Bell



Pumpkins at the Dallas Arboretum in October.

Photo by Randy Brown

*November 2018*



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Unity Church
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Meridith Dunbar, Seed Saving	<b>7</b> Work Day 8 am* Burger Wed. 10:30 am Herb Study-Instant Gratification, Salad Herbs 9:30 am Awards Committee Meeting, 1 pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Work Day 8 am* Social 9:30 am General Meeting 10 am	<b>15</b> Gardening in Bell County – Raised Bed Gardening 6:30 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Work Day 8 am*	<b>22</b>  Thanksgiving Day	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Blooming Bell deadline	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Work Day 8 am* BOD Meeting 9 am Montessori, Seeds Saving	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Christmas Party, Expo 5:30 pm	

#### Upcoming events:

- ♦ Herb Study, Tea Time-favorite herb books, Belton, Dec. 5

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

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

# The President's Corner

- Wayne Schirner

I hope we have a large turnout for our November general membership meeting so that we can accomplish two very important things for our association. At that meeting we will vote on the officers to replace part of our board, and we will also vote on revised bylaws for the BCMGA. Your participation in both of these votes helps reinforce your commitment to supporting the BCMGA. Isn't it nice to be able to participate in a non-partisan election!

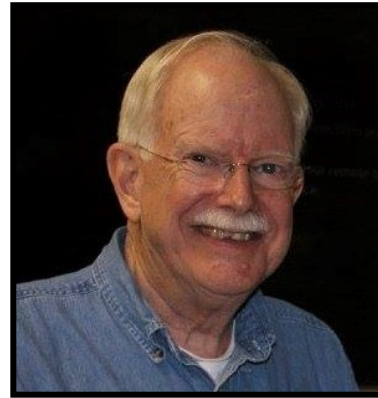
The November meeting is also the deadline for paying for the annual Christmas party at the reduced fee of \$15 per person. After that date, the cost goes up to \$25. The party this year will be on November 30<sup>th</sup>, and we expect a good time will be had by all. Last year's attendance for this event set a record, and we hope to break that record this year. We are continuing our tradition of supporting several organizations who provide support for many citizens of Bell County who are in need. I know that a membership wide email was recently sent out on this topic, and there will be more information at the November meeting.

Before we get overcome by the holiday events, I want to remind the members of several events that will be coming up in early 2019 so you can get them on your calendars. The Annual Blacklands Income Growth (BIG) conference will be held in Waco on January 15<sup>th</sup>. We are contributing sponsors for the horticultural portion of this conference and it would be great to have many of our members attend. January will also be when the Extension holds three annual conferences at the Expo center; the crops conference, the irrigation conference, and the landscape conference. I don't have dates on these yet but stay tuned. These conferences are an opportunity for members to get volunteer service hours by assisting in the registration process, and also to obtain some education hours.

Look for the article elsewhere in this issue for a new project that is being championed by Crystal Fisher. It is a project on collecting seeds from our gardens that we can then distribute at the many outreach events we have every month. I believe this will be a great way to promote the BCMGA, and we can also probably learn more about saving seed from what we grow.

That's it for this month. I look forward to seeing you at the membership meeting and then at the Christmas party.

That's it for this month.



## 1 More Thing...

### New post on Garden Myths

#### Best Way to Harvest Tomato Seeds

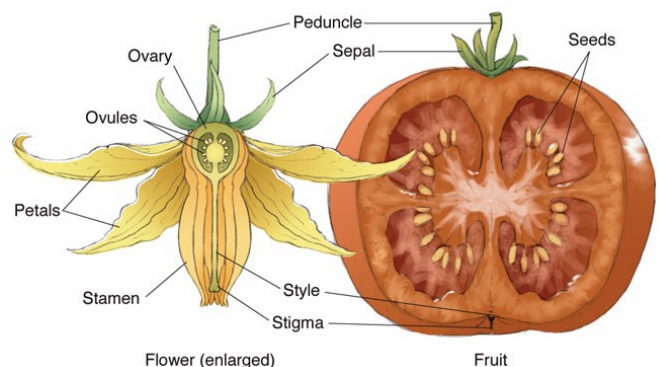
By Robert Pavlis

What is the best way to harvest tomato seeds? There are quite a few methods described on the internet and everyone has an opinion as to what works best. Unfortunately most of these 'opinions' are not based on any reliable testing. To really answer the question we need to find out what science says.

In this post I will review the science behind tomato seed harvesting with a special emphasis on cleaning the seed.

Go to the link below to read more on this process:

[www.gardenmyths.com/best-way-harvest-tomato-seeds/](http://www.gardenmyths.com/best-way-harvest-tomato-seeds/)



# Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

## Mosquito Repellents

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife Extension Entomologist

Have you been outside lately? I went out for about 5 minutes last weekend and came in with 6 mosquito bites, a prime example of why you should always wear mosquito repellent. With all the rain we have high mosquito numbers and it is important that you take precautions to avoid being bitten.

Activity times for mosquitoes can vary. Most people are familiar with the four D's- DRAIN (standing water), DEET (wear some repellent), DUSK & DAWN (stay indoors during dusk and dawn to avoid peak populations) and DRESS (wear long sleeves and long pants). While this is still good advice, it may be a good idea to spread the dress and repellent advice for anytime you will spend time outdoors.



When outside, wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt in light colors to reduce the number of mosquitoes that can reach your skin. Repellent should only be applied to clothing and exposed skin. Do not apply repellent underneath clothing! If you want to apply repellent to your face, spray your hands with repellent and rub it onto your face. Do not spray repellent directly into your face or near eyes or mouth. Make sure to apply repellent outdoors. Do not allow children to handle repellents. Wash hands before eating, smoking or using the restroom.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends

using a product *registered with the EPA* (Environmental Protection Agency) containing one of the following active ingredients: DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE), para-methane-diol (PMD), or 2-undecanone. DEET and picaridin are classified as “conventional repellents” while IR3535, OLE, PMD, and 2-undecanone are “biopesticide repellents”.

DEET, also known N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide or N,N-dimethylbenzamide, was developed by the U.S. Army in 1946 to protect soldiers in insect-infested areas. Pesticides containing DEET have been used by the general public since 1957. Products containing DEET should not be used on children younger than 2 months of age (read the label and check with your pediatrician if you have questions). DEET has a slight odor and may have a greasy feel to some people. It may damage plastic, rubber, vinyl or synthetic fabrics. DEET may be irritating to the eyes and skin for some people. DEET comes in a wide variety of concentrations, so choose the one that will work best for your situation.

Picaridin was first made in the 1980's and resembles a natural compound called piperine (which is found in plants used to produce black pepper). Picaridin has been used in Europe and Australia for many years, but has only been in the U.S. since 2005. Picaridin is non-greasy and is odorless.

IR3535, or 3-[N-Butyl-N- acetyl]-aminopropionic acid, ethyl ester, was developed in the mid- 1970's and became registered for use in the U.S. in 1999. It is registered as a biopesticide by the EPA because it is functionally identical to a naturally occurring substance (an amino-acid). It may dissolve or damage plastics and may be irritating to the eyes.

Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or PMD (para-menthane-3,8-diol) are essentially the same thing; PMD is the synthesized (lab created) version of oil of lemon eucalyptus. “Pure” or “essential” oil of lemon eucalyptus is not labeled as a repellent and has not undergone testing and should not be used as a repellent product. OLE/PMD has been on the market in the U.S. since 2002. OLE/PMD should not be used on children younger than 3 years of age. The natural product (OLE) has known allergens within it while the synthetic version (PMD) has less of a risk of allergens. This product is classified as a biopesticide. OLE/PMD has a varying range of residual, some offering about 20 minutes of protection while other products may last up to two hours.

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# Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

## Mosquito Repellents - con't.

- Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife  
Extension Entomologist

Products with 2-undecanone, or methyl nonyl ketone, are the most recently added products to the list by the CDC. 2-undecanone is a synthesized version of compound that comes from the leaves and stems of the wild tomato plant, *Lycopersicon hirsutum*.

Many factors play into how long a repellent will last for a person. Some of these are:

- The concentration (or percent of active ingredient) of the product. You can find the percentage on the product label.
- Person's attractiveness. Some people are more attractive to mosquitoes than others (and no scientific research has proven that it is because of eating garlic, taking vitamin B, using tobacco products, etc.). A person's genetic code plays a large part on what makes a person so attractive to mosquitoes.
- Frequency and uniformity of application. In other words, how often is the repellent applied and how good of coverage did you get?
- Activity level of the person. The more active the person is, the more sweat they produce which can cause the repellent to wash off the surface of the skin.

As a word of caution, there are products that combine sunscreen and insect repellent. The CDC recommends that if you need sunscreen and repellent, that you choose two separate products. Sunscreen should be applied more often than repellents.

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.

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# What's Been Happening...

## October General Meeting

- Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Randy Brown

The October general meeting included the educational presentation by Louann Hight on the proposed updated by-laws for our organization.



(Left) Judy Hoelscher gave the devotional and lead us in song with one of her own compositions of "Be Still." Pat Johnson and Sylvia Maedgen joined in the singing.



(Right) Ilene Miller informed us about the details of our annual Christmas Party and meeting to be held on Friday, November 30th starting at 5:30 pm at the Bell County Expo Special Events Room.



(Left) Marjorie Gillmeister gave a presentation on her time she and her family spent living in Lübeck, Germany.

(Right) Members will vote on the following slate for Executive Committee & Directors to the Board at the November general meeting. Pat Johnson has withdrawn her name from the ballot.

2019 Nominee Slate Executive Committee & Directors to be Elected TERMS END 12/2020	
❖ President.....	Glenn Melton
❖ 2nd Vice President.....	Pat Johnson & Bill Walker
❖ Recording Secretary.....	Janice Smith
❖ New Class Director.....	Gary Slanga
❖ Outreach Director.....	Christy Reese
❖ Land Scape Director.....	Johnny Jones
❖ KMCG Director.....	Edie Campbell



(Left) Refreshments included a delicious smorgasbord of various foods from Germany. Refreshment hosts for November were Marjorie Gillmeister, Sophia Gomez, Stacye Parry, Jo Carlsen, Debbie Harris, Dolly Wilson, and Pat Maskunas.



Vielen Dank!



# What's Been Happening...

## Meridith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy - Fall Festival

- Gail Koontz

Photos by Gail Koontz & Sylvia Maedgen

Kelby Kosel, Sylvia Maedgen and I assisted 50 children in making Lifecycle of a Butterfly hats at MDECA's annual fall festival on Thursday, October 25. Each kiddo colored a page with egg, caterpillar, chrysalis and butterfly. We helped them cut out each picture, put them in order and glue them on a hat. It's always great when we can learn and have fun at the same time! Many parents joined in by helping their child find a butterfly sticker to add to their hat.





# What's Been Happening...

## McLane Children's Hospital

- Kathy Love

Photos by Kathy Love



### McLane Children's Hospital Healing Garden Education Project

Breanna Care organized the August 18<sup>th</sup> youth education program at McLane Children's Hospital. Members Jane Van Praag, Pamela Dragoo and Christy Reese worked at Wright's Nursery on August 17<sup>th</sup> taking fresh flower cuttings to send up to the hospitalized children in cheerful arrangements. Various members worked August 8<sup>th</sup> helping to decorate cheerful gift bags with the BCMGA logo and flower stickers. Breanna was assisted by Kellie Hussmann to assemble and deliver to 28 hospitalized children a flower arrangement and gift bag containing our color PowerPoint educational program The Imperative Impact of Our Local Pollinators, wildflower coloring sheets, a box of crayons, a Native American Seed Packet of a wildflower mix named "Bee Happy" and a Feel Better Card from the BCMGA

Left to right: Master Gardener Breanna Care presents 28 gift bags and fresh cut flowers to Child Life Specialists Leah Woodward and Ashley Blackmon on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

### McLane Children's Hospital Healing Garden Work Day

On October 12<sup>th</sup> over 60 members of the Salado High School football team spent their Friday night by performing community service at McLane Children's Hospital in Temple. With the help of Master Gardeners, many members of the team moved and spread three pick-up loads of mulch in the garden beds. They also added fall color and cheer by setting up several bales of hay and several dozen pumpkins around the grounds. Thanks to Mike Butts for hauling a pick-up load of free mulch from the Brazos River Authority along with MG tools and wheelbarrows and to Claudette Hawkins for helping to supervise the unloading and spreading of the materials.



Salado High School football team members pitching in to spread mulch in the garden beds.



# What's Been Happening...

## Gardening Series - Native Gardening in the Winter

- Carol Morisset

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

On Thursday, October 18th, Armand Hufault presented the Texas Native Gardening in the Winter program. The class was attended by Master Gardeners and the general public.





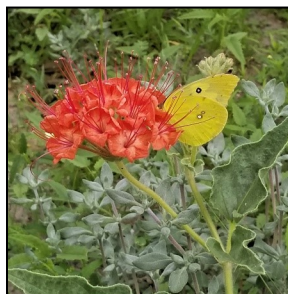
# What's Happening in Your Yard

## Butterflies Heading South

- Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

While at the deer lease in South Texas with my husband, we saw literally thousands of butterflies fluttering all around. It was very difficult to catch them sitting still, but I did get a couple of pictures.



## Confusion in the Garden

- Kathleen Brown

Photo by Kathleen Brown

Confusion in the garden, fall irises.



## Grasses

- Jan George

Photos by Jan George

(Below Left) This is a "White Cloud" Muhly mixed with Pink Gulf Muhly.



(Above Right) This is a triple hibiscus that Gail Christian propagated and gave to me!

## Artic Frost Satsuma

- Wayne Schirner

Photos by Wayne Schirner

Container grown Artic Frost Satsuma, in third autumn. Nearly died last January when temps dropped below 15 F.



Butterfly stopover.



## Oranges

- Kathy Love

Photos by Kathy Love

My ripening container grown Miho oranges. Looks like I'll get a total of 11 this year. Pretty tasty.



Check out this early Christmas pepper from my fall pepper crop.





# Announcements



## BCMGA Herb Study 2018-2019

- Kim Pringle

Please join us for our Herb Study on November 7, 2018 from 9:30 to 11:00 am in the meeting room at the Extension Office. Social time from 9:15 to 9:30 am so study can begin promptly at 9:30. This is a participatory study, not a lecture, open to all members of the BCMGA. The study should be manageable around Landscape and Burger Wednesday activities.

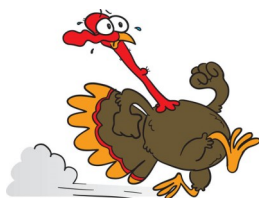
The purpose is to educate volunteers about herbs, service the two herb demonstration beds at Extension Office and coordinate public program requests through Speakers Bureau.

Let's be creative and have lots of fun. Recommended books for growing herbs in central Texas: Southern Herb Growing by Madelyn Hill and Gwen Barclay, and Herbs for Texas by Howard Garrett. Attendees participate in study by doing one of the following, or something similar, for each herb listed:

- (1) research the herb and report one finding about growing conditions or uses, etc.;
- (2) if you grow the herb, describe your experience;
- (3) use the herbs in a project, bring a recipe using the herb or a sample to taste or
- (4) bring a photo of herb used in the landscape.

Please see schedule below. The Herb study has been added to VMS for education and service hours. Questions can be directed to Kim Pringle - kimberpringle@earthlink.net, Vivian Rush - vivjimrush@gmail.com and Connie Rivera - cjrivera20@icloud.com. We look forward to seeing you there and be prepared!

Month/Year	Program	Herbs
November 7, 2018	Instant gratification: Salad herbs	Arugula, Basil, Cilantro, Dill
December 5, 2018	Tea Time. In addition to study, lets talk about your favorite herb books	Lemon balm, Lemon verbena, Scented geraniums, Chamomile and Stevia
January 2, 2019	Cooking with herbs	Marjoram, Oregano, Rosemary, Sage, Thyme, Winter Savory; Caution: Salvia divinorum
February 6, 2019	Love potions, Aromatherapy, and Essential oils; we will make something	Lavender, lemon verbena, patchouli
March 6, 2019	More salad herbs	Dandelion, Salad burnet
March 15 - 16, 2019	Herbal Forum at Round Top	
April 3, 2019	Pretty edible flowers	Borage, Calendula, Dianthus, Nasturtium, Roses, Violets
May 1, 2019	Tropical herbs	Ginger, Rungia Kossel (mushroom plant)
June 5, 2019	Silver Herb Gardens and Belladonna	Artemisia, Germander, Lamb's ear, Santolina
July 3, 2019	Let's choose the last topic	



# Announcements

## Classroom Monitors Needed for Class of 2019

- Elaine McSpedon & Kathy Lovelace

Hello from Kathy Lovelace and Elaine McSpedon! We will be replacing Peg Fleet as the newly re-named Classroom Monitor Coordinators for the new class starting January 9, 2019 ("Classroom Mentors" have been renamed "Classroom Monitors" to avoid confusion with Personal Mentors).

We are in need of Classroom Monitors to help set up the classroom, check and record homework, set out refreshments, provide assistance as needed during the classes, and return the room to order when the class is completed. Classroom Monitors will be asked to arrive at 11:30am on class days and remain until the end of the class.

This role is a great way to get to know your fellow Master Gardeners while completing volunteer hours. If you're interested, sign-up sheets will be available at the October membership meeting. Master Gardeners who sign up will receive confirmation by email.

As in the past, we request that you select no more than two sign-up dates in order to give as many Master Gardeners as possible the opportunity to volunteer in the classroom. We will also have a Substitute Classroom Monitor sign-up sheet available.

Thank you for your willingness to help the classroom run smoothly. We look forward to working with you!



## New Project - Seed Collections

- Crystal Fisher

BCMGs will begin saving seeds. They will be packaged and used as giveaways at events where we participate. As the year ends, the seeds on our plants will soon be dropping soon. Collecting them now will be a big kick-start on this project. Otherwise, we'll have to wait till after Spring. This will go a long way in our community involvement and undoubtedly excite a lot of people to be able to go through some varieties of seeds they may want to plant in their yards.

If you can you save some seeds this for this project, they'll need to be dried, cleaned and labeled. Please leave them at the table where we sign in at the monthly meetings. Formal approval is pending but expected shortly. Keep track of your time, but nothing can be logged in until Lyle has signed off on it. More information is coming and will show up in an upcoming Blooming Bell.

**2019 Texas Master Gardener  
State Conference**

**April 25-27, 2019  
Victoria, Texas**



**2019 International  
Master Gardener Conference**

**June 17-21, 2019  
Valley Forge, PA**



# Announcements



## 2018 Bell County Master Gardener Christmas Party & Meeting

*Friday, November 30, 2018*

*Bell County Expo - Special Events Room*

*Social Hour - 5:30 pm*

*Dinner at 6:30 pm*

*Entertainment and Program to Follow*

*Tickets must be purchased by November 14th. Cost \$15 per person.*

*Menu Selection: Pork Loin or Roast Beef*

*Charitable Donations for the Following:*

*Canned Food Drive for Temple/Belton and Killeen Pantries*

*Friends in Crisis - Killeen, TX*

*Food for Friends - Bartlett, TX*

## Gardening in Bell County

**- Carol Morisset and Christy Reese**

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

- 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 40 participants so register early in VMS.

For information email: Carol Morisset - [carol.j.morisset@gmail.com](mailto:carol.j.morisset@gmail.com) [OR](#) Christy Reese - [hotmixworld@yahoo.com](mailto:hotmixworld@yahoo.com)

# Announcements

## November General Meeting

**- Kathy Love**

The November general meeting will be held on the 14th. The education program will be presented by Barbara Wright of Wright's Nursery, one of our primary Plant Sale providers and a recognized Texas native plant grower and authority. The theme is Keeping Color in Your Landscape Year Round.

We will meet in the learning center building with the social time starting at 9:30 a.m., education program at 10 a.m., and the general membership meeting to follow. Refreshment hosts include: Ilene Miller, Gail Garner, Sandra Mikesell, Michael Miller, Linda Hunter, Pat Allen, Charlotte Jones and Pam Dragoo featuring A Bountiful Harvest of warming soups, sides and sweets. So come with an appetite.

Remember we will be voting on the new proposed by-laws during the business session as well as the new officers who will be installed at the annual Christmas party on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Individuals who have offered to serve on the Board of Directors beginning in 2019 are Glenn Melton, President; Bill Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Janice Smith, Recording Secretary; Gary Slanga, New Class Director; Christy Reese, Outreach Co-Director; Johnny Jones, Landscape & Grounds Director and Edie Campbell, Killeen Municipal Court Gardens Director.

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

The November Board of Director's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 28th at 9 a.m. in the class/meeting room of the AgriLife Building. Please submit your agenda items to Stacye Parry, Recording Secretary by Wednesday, November 21st.

# Advanced Learning

## Upcoming Specialist Training

Dec. 5-7	Composter Specialist Advanced Training Rosenberg - Cost \$225 Deadline to register - Nov. 14
Feb. 7-8	Home Fruit Advanced Training Gonzales - Cost \$185 Deadline to register - Jan. 18
Mar. 13-15	Tree Care Advanced Training Dallas - Cost \$175 Deadline to register - Feb. 15
Ongoing	Earth-Kind On-Line Master Gardener Training modules Go to - <a href="https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/">https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/</a>



## Grounds Workdays

**- Johnny Jones and Tom Rennels**

Here is the workday schedule for November.

November 7, 2018 8:00 a.m. Workday

November 14, 2018 8:00 a.m. Workday

November 21, 2018 8:00 a.m. Workday

November 28, 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>



## 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>Gail Christian</b>
<b>New Class</b>	<b>Bernie Hurta</b>
<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>Sylvia Maedgen</b>
<b>Outreach</b>	<b>Carol Morisset Christy Reese</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>

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Robert Pavlis  
Kim Pringle  
Christy Reese  
Tom Rennels  
Wayne Schirner

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*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:*

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

Photo retrieved from the BCMG Facebook web site.



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



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