

The Blooming Bell

January 2019



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Photos by Daisy Klassy

Members enjoyed the Annual Christmas Party and Meeting on Friday, November 30th at the Bell County Expo. The meal included Roast Beef and Pork Tenderloin and a smorgasbord of salads and desserts. The program included music, a silent and live auction and awards. See more pictures and info inside the newsletter.

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day-Holiday	2 Work Day-8 am* Herb Study-Cooking with Herbs-9:30 am, Social-9 am Burger Wed.-10:30 am	3	4 Personal Mentors Mtg-8:45 am New Class Committee Mtg-9:15 am	5
6	7	8	9 Work Day-8 am* General Mtg-10 am, Social-9:30 am 2019 Intern Orientation 12:30 pm	10	11	12
13	14 Meridith Dunbar-Seeds & Eggshells-9 am	15 From the Ground Up, Waco CC Blackland Income Growth (BIG) Conf., Waco CC	16 Work Day-8 am* Blackland Income Growth (BIG) Conf., Waco CC	17 Gardening in Bell County-Garden Preparation-Composting-6:30 pm	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King Jr.-Holiday	22	23 Work Day-8 am* BOD Mtg-9 am Bell Co. Irrigation Conf, Bell Co. Expo	24 Prof. Grounds Conf., Bell Co. Expo	25 Blooming Bell deadline	26 Bell Co. Crops Conf., Bell Co. Expo
27	28	29	30 Work Day-8 am* Whistle Stop Playground clean-up 7:30 am	31		

Upcoming events:

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

- ◆ Bell County Youth Fair, Feb. 4-7, Bell County Expo
- ◆ Herb Study-Love potions, Aromatherapy, and Essential Oils, Feb. 6, Belton, 9 am
- ◆ Mother Earth News Fair, Feb. 16-17, Bell County Expo
- ◆ Gardening Series-Planting Techniques, Feb. 21, Belton, 6:30 pm
- ◆ Home & Garden Show, Feb. 23-24, Belton Expo, 10 am-5 pm
- ◆ Spring Plant Sale, March 30, Belton

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.

The President's Corner

Glenn Melton



Happy New Year Everyone! I hope you all had a safe and joyous holiday.

Let me express my thanks to Wayne for his dedicated and selfless leadership during the past two years. Wayne, the Board of Directors, and committee chairs have all ensured the success of this organization and its continued support of the AgriLife Extension Office and citizens of Bell County.

I am honored to be elected to serve as your new president and look forward to working with each and everyone of you. Together we will continue to make this organization as successful as it always has been. I know with your assistance and support we, as members, and as citizens of Bell County, will enjoy the benefits that come from a dedicated and hardworking membership.

We welcome a new class this month and Orientation is on January 9th, followed by the first official class on the 16th. Class size is limited to 20 students this year and that should help alleviate the overcrowding we have experienced in the past. Gary Slanga is the New Class Director and he can help you with any questions you may have concerning specifics of the class agenda and administration. I believe that as of this writing there are still some Personal Mentor vacancies.

As we begin year 2019, earning education and service hours is on everyone's mind. There are several opportunities to earn education hours: The Blackland Income Growth Conference is at the Waco convention center on January 15th, and registration is \$25. Also at the Waco convention center is the "From the Ground Up" conference - registration is \$45. And at the Expo Center you will find the Crops Conference on Jan 22nd and the Professional Grounds Conference on the 24th. Don't look for the Irrigation Conference as it has been cancelled. Another opportunity to earn educational hours is at the Mother Earth News Fair on February 16-17.

Service hours may be earned by signing up for the BC Youth Fair scheduled for February 2-9, followed up by the Home and Garden Show on February 22-24, both at the Expo Center. Quite a few hours can be earned at these events and volunteers are always welcome.

One last note. As you read through all those seed catalogs you have undoubtedly received recently

and start planning your 2019 vegetable garden, don't forget that the Killeen Municipal Court Garden is also gearing up for the new season. Preparations are under way to plant onions and potatoes as soon as the weather breaks, and a little extra help would be greatly appreciated, I'm sure.

And since we all know that educational and service hours must be entered in the VMS I'll not belabor that point here.

I wish you all well and extend my thanks for your hard work during this past year. You have made the BCMGA a special organization and your dedication and commitment is so very much appreciated.

2019



What's Been Happening...

Annual Meeting & Christmas Party - Nov. 30th, 2018

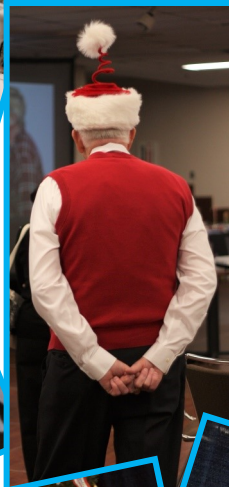
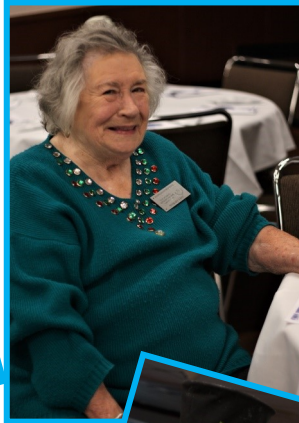
Photos by Daisy
Klassy



What's Been Happening...

Annual Meeting & Christmas Party - Nov. 30th, 2018

Photos by Daisy
Klassy & Randy
Brown



What's Been Happening...

Annual Meeting & Christmas Party - Nov. 30th, 2018



And to all a goodnight...

Photos by Randy Brown

What's Been Happening...

Annual Meeting & Christmas Party - Nov. 30th, 2018 - Awards



Distinguished Service Awards—100+ Hours: Melinda Arriola, Joan Bumgarner, Michael Butts, Jovita Carlsen, Paul Carter, Gail Garner, Bob Gordon, Kerin Grimes, Louann Hight, Daisy Klassy, Laura Ladd, Kathleen Lovelace, Elaine McSpedon, Ilene Miller, Kathy Patterson, Mary Lew Quisenberry, Carol Runyan, Joann Zieschang, and Wayne Zieschang. Not pictured: David Carpenter, Crystal Fisher, Carla Harmon, Rose Harris, Barbara Ishikawa, Jerry Lewis, Ray Machovsky, Betty Nejtek, Sandra Remson, and Bill Walker.

Photos by Daisy Klassy



Distinguished Service Awards—200+ Hours: Edie Campbell, Art Carr, Gail Christian, Marjorie Gillmeister, Bernadette Hurta, Pat Johnson, Johnny Jones, Stacey Parry, Christy Reese, Tom Rennels, Gary Slanga, and Jane Van Praag. Not pictured: Peg Fleet.

What's Been Happening...

Annual Meeting & Christmas Party - Nov. 30th, 2018 - Awards



Distinguished Service Awards—300+ hours:
Karen Colwick, Jan George, and Don Wyatt.



Distinguished Service Awards—400+ hours:
Glenn Melton and Wayne Schirner. Not pictured: Mary Ann Everett.



Distinguished Service Awards—500+ hours:
Gail Koontz and Carol Morisset.



Distinguished Service Award—600+ hours:
Sylvia Maedgen.



Distinguished Service Award—1,000+ hours and 2018 Golden Shovel Award Recipient:
Kathy Love.



Photos by Daisy Klassy

What's Been Happening...

Annual Meeting & Christmas Party - Nov. 30th, 2018 - Awards



5-Year Service Pins: Jovita Carlsen and Walter Ponder. Not pictured: Tina Mazur and Vivian Rush.



10-Year Service Pins: Joan Bumgarner and Michael Miller.

Photos by Daisy Klassy

20-Year Service Pin: Not pictured, Mary Ann Everett.



25-Year Service Pin: Joan Stanley.



2018 Meritorious Service Award Recipient: Ilene Miller.

2018 Golden Trowel Recipients: Marjorie Gillmeister, Glenn Melton and Christy Reese.



What's Been Happening...

Annual Meeting & Christmas Party - Nov. 30th, 2018 - Awards

2018 Green Thumb Recipients: Jan George, Kathy Love, Wayne Schirner, and Jane Van Praag. Not pictured: Peg Fleet, Barbara Ishikawa,

Photos by Daisy Klassy



The 2018 New Master Gardeners of the Year: Paul Carter and Kathy Lovelace.



**Distinguished Service Life-time Membership Award
Recipients:** Louann Hight
and Kathy Patterson.



What's Been Happening...

Annual Meeting & Christmas Party - Nov. 30th, 2018 - Awards

Friends of Master Gardeners Recipients: Allan Colwick, Gisela Melton, and David Quisenberry. Not pictured: Tommy Maedgen.



Photos by Daisy Klassy



**Thank You Award to outgoing President
Wayne Schirner.**

*A Sincere
Thanks*

What's Been Happening...



Ronald McDonald House

Carol Morisset

Photo by Carol Morisset

Kathy Patterson, Gail and Tom Christian, and myself at the Ronald McDonald House in Temple on a December workday.



Extension Office Grounds and Demo Gardens

Photos by Randy Brown



What's Happening In Your Yard?



Wayne Schirner

Photos by Wayne Schirner

Here are two photos of a Mr. Lincoln rose that was picked on Christmas Day. Largest bloom I've ever grown.



Christmas Cactus in Bloom

Sylvia Maedgen

Photo by Sylvia Maedgen

My Christmas Cactus that I got as a transplant from one of our Master Gardener classes last year was in full bloom a week before Christmas.



Tidbits of Info...

Wayne Schirner found a link on YouTube that shows a nice way to easily collect seeds.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAk8eG3h5bU&feature=youtu.be>

Wayne Schirner is providing a link on Myth busting. This link is to a recently published article that was written to help educators such as us in providing research based information to the public. We already teach most of these practices, but this article helps consolidate our information.

<https://www.nacaa.com/journal/index.php?jid=885>

CENTRAL TEXAS CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE AS ADVOCATES

What A Long-term Care Ombudsman Can Do For You

Gail Koontz

Master Gardeners, I share this information with you as a citizen volunteer opportunity. Since this opportunity does qualify under our mission statement, your time would not count as education or service time. But personally, I feel some of you would be perfect as an advocate.

Ombudsman is a funny-sounding word. But long-term care ombudsmen have a serious and important job to do. We advocate for the health, safety, welfare, and rights of residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. We are independent ombudsmen — we don't work for facilities; we work for residents.

We work with residents from all walks of life, with varying interests and wishes. Some residents want to switch doctors or make decisions about their end-of-life care. Some want to find a way to return home or move to a different nursing home. Some residents want to have a say in what they eat, what they wear, or who they spend time with. Residents have the right to make these kinds of decisions.

A long-term care ombudsman visits with residents and listens to their concerns. Our job is to work alongside residents to resolve those concerns. We might meet with facility staff, doctors, or family members. We help resolve problems based on what the resident wants, even if that is different from what facility staff or a family member might want. For us, resident rights come first.

For example, Berniece, a nursing home resident, needed help getting meals that would be appetizing and meet her dietary needs, and was unable to solve it on her own. Her ombudsman, Chrystal Griggs, was there to listen and help resolve the problem. Through meetings with the facility's dietician, Chrystal helped Berniece voice her concerns and work with staff to create meal plans that worked for her. "It has really made a big difference in my life," Berniece said.

It's not an ombudsman's job to decide what's best for the resident or tell them what they should do. We try to empower residents to advocate for themselves whenever possible. And when they need it, we can be their voice. As Chrystal, one of our ombudsmen, puts it, "Being an ombudsman means you stand beside someone. Sometimes people think they are alone, but this program ensures that residents are not alone."

*The **Texas Long-term Care Ombudsman Program** advocates for quality of life and care for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Federal and state authority mandates ombudsmen to identify, investigate, and resolve complaints made by, or on behalf of, residents and to provide services to help in protecting health, safety, welfare, and rights. Information and assistance in choosing the most appropriate living residence is also a valuable service. Across Texas, through all area agencies on aging, certified ombudsmen serve residents, their families, and friends.*

Volunteer ombudsmen must be at least 18 years old, have available transportation, and complete a free 36-hour certification course that includes classroom, self-study, and in-facility training. For more information contact Chrystal Griggs, Managing Local Ombudsman for Area Agency on Aging of Central Texas and The Central Texas Aging, Disability & Veterans Resource Center, (254) 770-2368 or Chrystal.Griggs@ctcog.org.

Announcements...

Herb Study - Herbal Lotions and Potions

Kim Pringle

Please join the Herb Study on February 6, 2019, celebrating Valentine's Day, for a workshop from 9:00 to 11:00 am on "Herbal Lotions and Potions." Herb homework for this month is lavender, patchouli and witch hazel (amended from original schedule).

We will explore the language of flowers and herbs and visit several stations for simple, easy to make projects using herbs and essential oils. The estimated cost of the supplies is \$5.00 if you would like to join in the fun. To be certain to have enough supplies, please submit reservations by February 2 by emailing - kimberpringle@earthlink.net or text 254-421-2593. Proposed projects (subject to change) are a small wreath or tussie mussie, a Mood Boosting Herbal Spray, Loofah exfoliating soap (idea from Festival Hill), and an Herbal lotion bar (like Badger balms).

Finally, it is difficult to select herbal scents that are pleasing to everyone (Terrie did not like the lemon eucalyptus in my diffuser at the Herbal Tea which I really like!) so please bring an essential oil or blend to your liking and to perhaps share at the meeting. And if you have plant material in your garden that could be used in the small bouquets it would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact me with any questions and hope to see you at the February meeting.

24th Annual Herbal Forum - Round Top, Texas

March 15-16, 2019

"Make it a two-day getaway! Spend Friday and Saturday on Festival Hill. [Overnight accommodations](#) are available on campus. You'll have two days to visit the plant sale and gift shop, and even take in a leisurely stroll in the gardens. A *reservation-only* lunch is available on Friday. Herbal Forum Registrants are invited to attend the *reservation-only* Presenters' Dinner in the Victorian-style Menke House on Friday evening, followed by a presentation of the movie, "Tea with Mussolini," in the masterfully restored Edythe Bates Old Chapel lecture hall. After your complimentary breakfast on Saturday morning (yoga is available too), you'll feel refreshed and ready to enjoy the forum." Registration cost is \$80.

Herbal Forum Registration opens Monday, January 7, at 9:00 am.
(<http://www.festivalhill.org/calendar/details.php?id=3184>)

The famous **Plant Sale** and **"Thyme Well Spent" Gift Shop** are open to the public from 9-5 on Friday and 8-5 on Saturday. No registration is required to come to the plant and gift sale.

NOTE: Workshops are not being offered this year.

Tea
Our Herb for 2019



"Herb of Comfort and
Friendship"

Announcements...

Bell County Youth Fair

Betty Nejtek

The Bell County Youth Fair will be Saturday, February 2nd through Saturday February 9th this year. We, as Master Gardeners primarily volunteer and assist with the FCS division – Family and Consumer Science. This division involves several food classes such as cookies, cakes, candy and food preservation. In addition to food, some of the other classes we have are photography, creative arts, art and textile crafts.

First, I want to say 'Thank You' to all my fellow Master Gardeners who have already volunteered to help at the Fair this year. The Fair would not be the successful event it is without the volunteers who work out there all week (and many before the Fair even starts). If you have not signed up to work at the Fair and would like to volunteer, I will have the signup sheet at the January monthly meeting. If you don't get to sign up at the meeting or can't be at the meeting - please feel free to contact me (phone 254-913-4065 or email enejtek@hotmail.com) and let me know the date and time you want to assist. We will be recruiting assistance for the afternoon of Friday, February 1st to assist with moving supplies to the Expo and will need your assistance Monday (the 4th) through Thursday (the 7th).

The Family and Consumer Science division starts Saturday the 2nd with the Fashion Revue and Fashion Show open to the public at 5:30pm in the Special Events Room of the Expo Center. The entire Fair winds down the next Saturday with the Auction at 10 am. This is an opportunity to bid/purchase auction items and/or provide add-ons to any items at the Auction. The Auction itself is a fun event just to attend and watch, and see the winners. It's a positive experience for our Youth and Leaders of tomorrow.

Gardening in Central Texas - January 17, 2019

Garden Preparation/Composting

Carol Morisset

We will kickoff our Thursday night classes on January 17th at 6:30pm to 8:00pm in Belton at the Bell County Extension classroom located at 1605 N. Main. Our first speaker is Wayne Schirner, our past president who just completed advanced training in composting. Wayne has spent his entire life gardening and has vast knowledge to share with all BCMG's as well as the public. Our format will continue to be the same with snacks, prizes, handouts and a good time for all. We will continue to accept a \$5 donation to help cover material costs. Seminars are limited to 45 so be sure to preregister at bellspeakers76513@gmail.com or if a BCMG online on the Volunteer Management System.

Announcements...

BCMGA Membership Dues for 2019 and Background Checks

Gail Christian

2019 Membership dues are \$25 and payment is due by January 31, 2019. All members (except Lifetime members) are required to pay the \$25 dues. In addition, approximately 79 members will also be required to submit a background check form that you should have already received by email before Thanksgiving. Background checks are required every 3 years for all members.

If you are not sure you require the background check, you may send me an e-mail to - gtchrist1@gmail.com. If you are one of the 79 members that requires a background check and you pay your dues and do not return the form, your check will not be deposited until the form is received. If you do not have the required number of service hours, your check will be returned to you and you may ask to be on our Friends list as you will not be a Certified Master Gardener.

You may mail your check and background form (if required) to the Extension office, The address is Bell County Master Gardeners - Membership, 1605 N. Main, Room 102, Belton, TX 76513. Please put Membership either on the envelope or the check. Scarlot in the Extension office will also accept a check and give it to me. Do not put it in our MG office, or give it to anyone else except Scarlot or me (Gail Christian). After I enter the information in our spreadsheet, I will give the checks to Gail Koontz (Treasurer) for deposit. I am also usually at the Extension office every Wednesday morning and will have the forms and a membership spreadsheet with me.



Meridith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy

Marjorie Gillmeister

Aloha Fellow Master Gardeners,

It's that time of the year! Seed starting in eggshell pods for Spring/school garden. Would love 5 volunteers to join us for this wonderful day. We will have five classes 18-20 children in each class. Please sign up onto our VMS system under "youth events" go to calendar date of January 14th and volunteer. Thank you to all of you have supported our youth programs and look forward to another fruitful year! Please feel free to contact me at - mjgillmeister@me.com.

Date: January 14., Monday

Time: 9:00am-2:30pm

Lunch break 11:30am-12:00pm bring a sack lunch, beverages are provided.



Announcements...

January General Meeting

Kathy Love

Barbara Wright of Wright's Nursery, one of our primary Plant Sale providers and a recognized Texas native plant grower and authority, will provide our educational program on Year Round Interest in the Landscape, Gardening is More Than Blooms.

Our refreshments will be hosted by Karen Colwick and other Master Gardeners. Come at 9:30 for our social and get warmed up for the program which will begin at 10:00 a.m. to be followed immediately thereafter by our business meeting.

Grounds Workdays

Johnny Jones and Tom Rennels

Here is the workday schedule for January.

January 2, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday

January 9, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday

January 16, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday

January 23, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday

January 30, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday

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

Board of Director's Meeting

The January Board of Director's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 23rd 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, January 16th.

Whistle Stop Playground Clean-up

Kathy Patterson

There will be a clean-up at the Whistle Stop Playground on August 29, 2018, which is the 5th Wednesday. Please plan to join in the clean-up at 7:30 am. If it is raining, this clean-up day will be cancelled.

Join Us!

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Advanced Training

Feb. 8-9	Fruit & Nut Trees Advanced Training Gonzales - Cost \$185 Deadline to register - Jan. 18
Feb. 13-15	Vegetables Advanced Training Dallas - Cost \$235 Deadline to register - Jan. 15
Mar. 13-15	Tree Care Advanced Training Dallas - Cost \$175 Deadline to register - Feb, 15
Mar. 14-15	Turfgrass Advanced Training Conroe - Cost \$? Deadline to register - Feb. ?
May 16-18	Earth Kind® Advanced Training Athens - Cost \$? Deadline to register - Apr. ?
Jun. 12-14	Tree Care Advanced Training Kerrville - Cost \$? Deadline to register - May ?
Aug. 13-15	Vegetables Advanced Training San Antonio - Cost \$? Deadline to register - Jul. ?
Ongoing	Earth-Kind On-Line Master Gardener Training modules Go to - https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/

Upcoming Extension Events

Jan. 15	From the Ground Up Waco Convention Center Cost \$45 Deadline to register - Jan. 9 (You can earn education hours) Register online at - https://agrifiregister.tamu.edu/productListingDetails/2707
Jan. 15-16	Blackland Income Growth Conf. Waco Convention Center Cost \$25 (You can earn education hours)
Jan. 23	Bell County Irrigation Conf. Bell County Expo Center
Jan. 24	Professional Grounds Conf. Bell County Expo Center Cost \$60 Deadline to register - Jan. 17
Jan. 26	Bell County Crops Conf. Bell County Expo Center Cost \$25



Officers

President	Glenn Melton	2019-2020
First Vice President	Kathy Love	2018-2019
Second Vice President	Bill Walker	2019-2020
Recording Secretary	Janice Smith	2019-2020
Treasurer	Gail Koontz	2018-2019

Board of Directors

Communications	<i>Vacant</i>
Facilities	<i>Vacant</i>
KMCCG	Edie Campbell
Membership	Gail Christian
New Class	Gary Slanga
Outreach	Christy Reese & Carol Morisset
Projects	<i>Vacant</i>
Youth	Marjorie Gillmeister

AgriLife Agent Lyle Zoeller

Contributing Writers and Photographers:

Randy Brown	Glenn Melton
Gail Christian	Carol Morisset
Marjorie Gillmeister	Betty Nejtek
Johnny Jones	Kathy Patterson
Daisy Klassy	Kim Pringle
Gail Koontz	Tom Rennels
Kathy Love	Wayne Schirner
Sylvia Maedgen	

Editor: Sylvia Maedgen

Please submit articles of less than 500 words for the Blooming Bell as Word documents. Photos should be sent separately through a link using OneDrive or Dropbox or in a zipped file. **Photos must be in the JPG format.** Also, do not text your photos. Email your documents and pictures to Sylvia Maedgen at:

txbikerchic7@gmail.com

Please do not send PDF documents.

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

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



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

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