

# The Blooming Bell



April 2019



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Customers are lined up outside the gate before the Plant Sale opened at 8 am on Saturday, March 30th.



Record-breaking numbers in attendance at our 2019 Spring Plant Sale. We had 1,141 customers come through our gate and less than \$100 in plants left over at the end of the sale which were purchased by a local nursery.



Even with the long lines for check-out, the process went fairly smooth with 5 lanes for tallying (2 lanes were express lanes) and 3 payment stations. The first 2 hours were non-stop.

Photos by  
Randy  
Brown

# April 2019

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri   | Sat   |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|
|  | 1<br>   | 2  | 3<br>Work Day-8 am *<br>Herb Study-Edible Flowers-9:30 am,<br>Social-9 am<br>Burger Wed.-11 am | 4<br>Bush Library/Leach Gardens Tour-7:30 am                     | 5   | 6   |
| 7  | 8  | 9  | 10<br>Work Day-8 am*<br>General Mtg-10 am,<br>Social-9:30 am<br>Plant Swap-8:30 am             | 11   | 12<br>Earth day, Ft. Hood-8 am  | 13<br>McLane Children's Hospital work day-1:30 pm   |
| <b>NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK</b>   |  |  |  |  |   |   |
| 14   | 15<br>  | 16   | 17<br>Work Day-8 am*<br>BOD Mtg-9 am   | 18   | 19<br> | 20  |
| 21<br> | 22<br><br>Earth Day, Ft. Hood<br>Earth Day-AAMG, City of Temple-10 am & Natural Grocers-3:30 pm | 23   | 24<br>Work Day-8 am*<br>TMG State Conf.-Victoria-Leadership Workshop-12:30 pm                  | 25<br>Blooming Bell deadline<br>TMG State Conf.-Victoria-8:30 am | 26<br>TMG State Conf.-Victoria-8:30 am<br>Douse Elementary, Career Day, Killeen-8 am      | 27<br>TMG State Conf.-Victoria-tours/workshops-9 am |
| 28   | 29   | 30<br>Chisholm Trail Elementary Field Day, Learning Bldg., Belton-8 am | * In the event of rain, there will be No Workday.  |  |   |   |

### Upcoming events:

- ◆ Herb Study-Tropical Herbs, May 1, Belton, 9 am
- ◆ MG Intern Graduation, May 15, CTCOG Conf. Room, Belton, 1 pm
- ◆ Gardening Series-Butterflies & Bees, May 16, Belton, 6:30 pm
- ◆ Central Texas Vines & Wines Seminar, May 16, Riesel, 8:30 am
- ◆ Clark Elementary Career Day, Fort Hood, May 17, 8 am

### Mark your calendar:

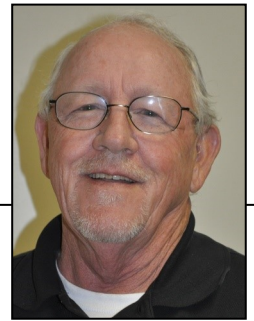
- ◆ World Naked Gardening Day, May 4
- ◆ Cinco de Mayo, May 5
- ◆ Mother's Day, May 12
- ◆ Memorial Day Holiday, May 27



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. You can input your hours on the MG office computer on Wednesdays.

# The President's Corner

Glenn Melton



By the time you read this article Spring should be in full swing. We are continuing our work spreading mulch, pruning plants, weeding, and generally improving the landscape surrounding our facilities. Several of our interns have contributed to this endeavor and our thanks go out to them for their assistance. If the weather continues to improve, we will have this job done by the end of the month. And speaking of Spring and good weather, some members have already started their demonstration beds. It looks like we have a record number of interns maintaining vegetable beds this year. Please wish them luck and provide any guidance and advice they might need to ensure a successful gardening year.

Also, as of this writing, we are researching the possibility of using new venues for our monthly General Membership Meetings as well as the monthly Thursday evening Outreach Presentations. We have made some pretty good progress and just need to work out a few details before everything can be finalized. We will discuss this further at the monthly BOD meetings and will keep everyone posted before any decisions are made.

I want to thank Bill Walker for leading the March General Membership Meeting while Kathy Love and I were at the Tree Care Advanced Training Class in Dallas. I'm sure a good time was had by all. And don't forget that the next Board of Director's meeting has been rescheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>, since many of us will be in Victoria April 24 -27 for the annual State Conference. Hope to see you all there.

The deadline for getting this article submitted for the Blooming Bell is March 25<sup>th</sup>, so I cannot comment on the Spring Plant Sale. I'm sure it will be as successful as it has been in the past, and that's due entirely to the volunteer efforts of all our members. My thanks to all of you for helping out and making this a successful undertaking.

Speaking of volunteers, did you know that April 7 – 13 is National Volunteer Week? This is an annual celebration observed in many countries to promote and show appreciation for volunteerism and volunteering.

President George H.W. Bush mentioned his vision of a "thousand points of light" in his inaugural address in 1989 and from that concept grew the International Points of Light Foundation. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the organization is dedicated to engaging more people and resources in solving serious social problems through voluntary work.

It seems fitting that we take a minute and think about all the work we do as an organization for the citizens of this great state of ours. Because, as we help others, we help ourselves as well. Some benefits of volunteerism include: builds bonds and creates friends, develops emotional security, improves self-esteem, builds community, ends loneliness, increases socializing. The list goes on and on, but I think you get what I'm saying. We must continue doing what we do best; helping others. In doing this we not only ensure the success of the association, we improve the lives of those we touch. So "Hats Off" to all Master Gardeners wherever you are!

Thank you all so much for all that you do for our Association.



**National Volunteer Week**

**April 7-13, 2019**



# Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

## Harlequin Bugs

**Wizzie Brown,  
Travis County AgriLife Extension  
Entomologist**

Harlequin bugs are a type of stink bug and have an incomplete life cycle with three life stages- egg, nymph, and adult. Eggs are keg-shaped, typically laid in two rows on host plants, and are black and white striped. Nymphs range in color, starting out orange, changing to brown and orange, and moving to black and orange/ red in the adult stage.



Harlequin bugs have piercing-sucking mouthparts that they use to feed on plant juices. They prefer plants in the cabbage family and can often be found on collards, cauliflower, Brussel sprouts, radish, turnips, mustard, as well as cabbage. If these plants are not available, then they can move onto other plants in the garden. Damage appears as yellowing, wilting, browning, and sometimes death of the plant.

Harlequin bugs overwinter in the adult stage. Adults merge in spring when weather becomes warm to locate host plants for feeding. Usually in Central Texas, people discover Harlequin bugs on their winter crops that are beginning to decline in early spring. It is important to kill these Harlequin bugs as they can move into new crops planted in the garden.

Adult harlequin bugs can be managed by vacuuming or hand-picking them from plants. Dump captured bugs into a bucket of soapy

water to kill. If you choose to hand-pick, wear gloves as they can bite and release an unpleasant smell. If you discover eggs, you can squish them or remove the infested leaf from the plant and throw it in the trash. For management of nymphs, you can hand-pick, vacuum, or use a pesticide with active ingredients such as insecticidal soap, pyrethrins, azadirachtin (a.k.a. neem), or horticultural oil. Make sure to read and follow all label instructions and ensure that the product you choose can be used on food crops.

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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**TEXAS A&M**  
**AGRILIFE**  
**EXTENSION**

# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **March General Meeting**

Photos by Randy Brown and Sylvia Maedgen

Bill Walker presided over the March general meeting and gave a presentation on Organic Soil Matter. Judy Hoelscher provided the devotional.



Refreshment Hosts for March included: Betty Nejteck, Pam Dragoo, Elaine McSpedon and Bill Walker.

# What's Been Happening...

## Herbal Forum—Tea: Herb of Comfort and Friendship

Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen



About 20 Master Gardeners enjoyed a couple of days at the Herbal Forum in Round Top on March 15-16. We bought a few herb plants or perennials, learned a lot about herbs and teas from around the world, and were treated to some delightful dishes of food. A few of us went to town for lunch on Friday and we had to have a piece of Royer's pies. Some of the best things about being a Master Gardener, we're never too old to learn and we're always around good food!



Clockwise from upper left: Enjoying our Saturday lunch at the Herbal Forum; digging into Friday night dinner that MG's brought to share; enjoying the cocktails; the salmon was a nice treat; and enjoying the landscape at Festival Hill.



# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **Interns Tour the Extension Grounds**

Photos by Jan Stanfield

### **Jan Stanfield**

Kelly Simon, works with Texas Parks and Wildlife and is an author of [Texas Wildscapes](#), shared her passion for maintaining habitats for nature. Habitats include food, water and shelter for animals, insects and birds. Food sources at the top of Kelly's list include: Mexican Plum, Texas Redbud, Cherry Laurel, Agarita, Turk's Cap, Chili Pequin, Coral Honeysuckle, Scarlet Sage and Lindheimer Muhly. She advises to stay away from planting exotics because they require more chemicals and water. Often the exotics require more vigilance and tend to be invasive.

I was nodding my head and thinking about where I would plant some of her recommended plants and fix my water fountain when I started hearing that my standbys for landscaping were invasive. That was a wakeup call for my experience. I love nandina and planted it when I moved into my house 35 years ago. Photina was also on this list. Now I see I will need to tear out a lot of landscape.

My fellow intern was grimacing so I had to ask what was wrong. She too was feeling the badge of dishonor. We both agreed that the list of invasive plants have been the mainstay of landscaping in the past. Kelly's invasive plant list includes: Chinese Tallow Tree, Japanese Honeysuckle, Pyracantha, Ligustrum, Red Tipped Photina and cane.

Kelly did recommend alternatives to the invasive list.

- Pyracantha – Yaupon, Agarita, Possumhaw
- Ligustrum – Evergreen Sumac, Carolina Buckhorn, Cherry Laurel
- Red Tipped Photina – Flameleaf Sumac, Evergreen Sumac, Carolina Cherry Laurel
- Cane – Switch Grass, Lindheimer (Big) Muhly

Later we toured through the garden areas around the extension office. It was helpful to see the plants and hear the names of the plants.

Check out [texasinvasives.org](http://texasinvasives.org) for volunteer opportunities and helpful resources.

Diana Kirby owner of Diana's Designs shared her wealth of knowledge about landscape. She emphasized to approach landscape with intentional design for inspirational landscapes. What is design? It's a



# What's Been Happening...

## Interns Tour the Extension Grounds - cont'd.

Photos by Jan Stanfield

### Jan Stanfield

combination of science and art; nature and function; plants and landscape; vision and practicality.

Knowing the why to landscaping will lead to the need to assess the philosophy: form follows function. Do you need a serene retreat, family and play space, entertaining areas, or pet areas?

You can find Diana at [dianasdesignsaustin.com](http://dianasdesignsaustin.com).

Lately the interns started working with propagation. Hands-on activities are always fun. We began by exploring and planting seeds. We planted seeds in eggshells and in a traditional plant medium. All the plants are in the greenhouse in identical situations. Which planting medium will yield better results?



MG Interns completing service hours while working on the grounds at the Extension Office. Photos by Teri Marceau



Clockwise from above: Barbara Richey & Laura Bridges; above right Barbara Richey; right Darla Lowe and Cathy Askia.





# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **Montessori-Temple**

Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

### **Marjorie Gillmeister**

School's Garden beds are abundant with lush flowers, broccoli, romaine lettuce, and snap peas all started in eggshell pods by the students. We are waiting patiently for the last frost to pass so we can begin new life for their spring garden and butterfly habitat.



March 21, 2019 - Spring gardening with 60 students ages 2-9 years old. It was a beautiful day with parents volunteering as well and learning about native plants, how to vegetable garden, and self seeding flowers from last spring in the butterfly garden. Special thank you to Janice Smith and Yobeth Hebbert visiting from Nicaragua.



# ***What's Been Happening...***

**Meridith Dunbar**

Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

**Marjorie Gillmeister**

MDECA School Garden is filled with abundance grown by the four year old children and to enjoy the fruits of their labor. Rosemary, borage, oregano, thyme, red winter kale, bok choy, to the research bed of kale and lettuce romaine is still growing . Children harvest and prepare a dish such as baking kale chips on a weekly basis. Our BCMG project sign at the school is standing tall with Ms. Sylvia, the school's Nature Explore Gardening teacher who works with 400 four year olds.



## **Cavazos Career Day - Nolanville**

**Marjorie Gillmeister**

March 22, 2019 - Master Gardeners worked with 109 1st grade students for their annual career day. Marjorie Gillmeister shared her career as a sustainable farmer, gave a lesson on how to recycle eggshells, and students planted seeds in an eggshell pod to take home and nurture.



# What's Been Happening...

## Spring Plant Sale

Photos by Randy Brown

A Big Thank You to Christy Reese for organizing a fantastic Spring Plant Sale!



**RECORD BREAKING  
ATTENDANCE!  
1,141 CUSTOMERS**



# What's Been Happening...

Spring Plant Sale - continued

Photos by Randy Brown & Marjorie Gillmeister



We Love our volunteers!



# What's Been Happening...

Spring Plant Sale - continued

Photos by Teri Marceau



I want more plants!



# What's Been Happening...

## Killeen Municipal Community Court Garden

Photos by Randy Brown



# Member Spotlight...



## Patsy Mielnick, Soil Scientist, MG Intern

### Laura Bridges, Contributor

I had a very enjoyable lunch recently with fellow intern, Patsy Mielnick, and her husband, Murray. I feel very fortunate to be able to talk with others who are also passionate about our earth. When Patsy has spoken in our classes, others have been interested too and have asked me to find out more about her. I think many thought as I did - what could a soil scientist possibly be doing in our class???

Patsy said she's been interested in nature as long as she can remember, always being curious about what things were and how they lived. She's already a Master Naturalist and felt that becoming a Master Gardener was a natural lead on, allowing her to go into much more depth on plants. Before retiring she taught at Temple College and was a soil scientist at Blackland Research and Extension Center. But she believes that you never stop learning!

Patsy lives east of Temple in a rural area around Ratibor. We've heard her say in class that she's surrounded by corn fields. She's been working in her garden this spring replenishing soil in the raised beds, weeding (aren't we all?) and lamenting that the hard freezes early in March will cause loss of harvest on some of her fruit trees. She noted that she wished she would have paid more attention to the chill hours some of the fruit tree varieties so that maybe they wouldn't have bloomed so early.

We talked a bit about her PhD work in micrometeorology, a field which I had never heard of. According to dictionary.com, it's the "study of local and small-scaled atmospheric phenomena, usually confined to the physical and dynamic occurrences within a shallow stratum of air adjacent to the ground". She explained that she particularly studied carbon flux in corn - the exchange of carbon in the atmosphere between the plants, soils and soil microorganisms. This led her to becoming concerned about whether plants and microorganisms will be able to adapt as rapidly as atmospheric carbon is increasing from our human

influence.

Another concern she has is water. She believes that water is "the next oil" and that, while we can do without oil if we have to, but we absolutely cannot do without water. She frequently attends meetings of the Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District ([www.cuwcd.org](http://www.cuwcd.org)) whose mission is to protect the underground water resources of Bell County and to support and promote public education and conservation of the county's water resources. Their website says that we have two aquifers in our county, the Trinity and the Edwards, of which they have monitor wells and post their levels. The website also has a drought monitor map, which as of March 19th, showed areas to the west and north of our county in abnormally dry to moderate drought condition. It's not even summer yet! At one of the CUWCD meetings Patsy observed that it takes 40,000 years for water to reach the lowest levels of the Trinity aquifer, but that water is being pumped out way faster that it can ever be replaced, making it essentially a finite resource in our time. She harvests rainwater at her home, with storage of about 22,000 gallons. I plan to take her up on her offer of advice when I set up my own harvesting system one day.

I am looking forward, as I hope you are, with having fellow master gardeners as friends and collaborators in caring for our amazing planet.

Interns, got something you want reported on? Please let me know. Laura Bridges, [sharpeidogs@yahoo.com](mailto:sharpeidogs@yahoo.com), cell: 254-624-7250

Photo by Laura Bridges



# What's Happening In Your Yard?

## Terrie Hahn

Photos by Terrie Hahn

These are photos of my Scabiosa plants (bachelor buttons) and spiderwort that comes up wherever it wants to! The Bluebonnets this year were far taller and more plentiful than in the past. They were trying to gobble up my roses. I did pull some out from around the plants in this bed, but the Bluebonnets keep getting bigger and taller, so you can hardly see three of the smaller rosebushes and 2 compact baby crepe myrtles! Texas Stars and a variety of other wildflowers are popping up among the Bluebonnets.



## Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

I planted this Lady Banks rose 2 years ago and it finally bloomed this year.



## Extension Grounds

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen





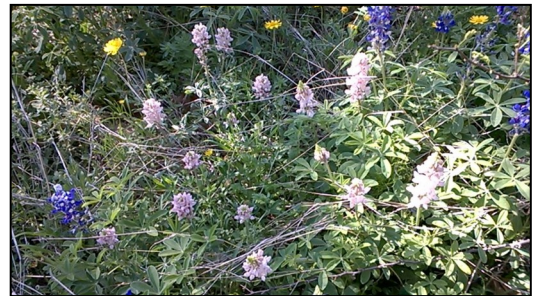
# What's Happening In Your Yard?

## Armand Hufault

Photos by Armand Hufault

Lindheimer Senna  
Senna Lindheimeri  
Velvet leaf Senna

A bushy Perennial 2-6 ft. Yellow flowers are borne in terminal clusters. The soft leaves have soft hairs which makes the leaf soft to the touch. Flowers from August to October. The plant is generally found in colonies which are really showy when in bloom; Generally grows in limestone area. abundant seed producer but seeds are eaten by wildlife which makes the plant not invasive. Propagated easily by scattering seed and allowing Nature to do its job. References: <https://www.wildflower.org> and <https://npsot.org/>



Blue Bonnet New colors - I have enjoyed new Blue Bonnet colors this Spring- pink, white.

## Crystal Fisher

Photos by Crystal Fisher

A couple of months ago, I gave the membership a set of these seeds from the native liatris where I gathered them from a ditch on the way to Blanco. They might like to see how



they grow. I should have sent these photos to you earlier. I had hoped to get the long stems to lay

over the rocks of a raised bed. But, not so, they reached for the sun... all of them. even the one on the curb. The older they get, the more stems they appear produce. Pick which photos you want to use. Absolutely, XERIC.

I'll have more seeds at the end of this year if anyone would like some more.



# What's Happening In Your Yard?

## Seed Pod Iris Propagation

**Karen A. Woods, Belton Iris Society President**

Photos by Crystal Fisher

I received an email from Bell County Master Gardener Crystal Fisher asking, "What is this deviant iris growing in my iris bed?" It was not what she planted. The first picture she sent immediately told me that Crystal just discovered the second method of iris propagation: Seed Pods.

Most people are familiar with the first method of iris reproduction: Vegetative Propagation. This is when the "Mother" iris produces "Babies" on both sides of the rhizome. The "Babies" will be genetically identical to the "Mother". If you are keeping named cultivars (irises hybridized and given a name by the hybridizer) this is the propagation method that you want to use.

The second method of iris propagation is: Seed Pods. When the ovary of an iris flower is pollinated a seed pod may be produced. Each seed pod contains usually three to five round seeds. Each seed will contain half of the chromosomes of the "Pod parent" or "Mother" iris and half the chromosomes of the iris that produced the pollen, called the "Pollen parent". All the seeds in a pod are called "Siblings". When the new seeds are planted, a brand new cultivar of iris is produced.

Hybridization can be manmade where a person called a Hybridizer purposefully places pollen on another iris's ovary to create a new iris cultivar. It can also be created by nature via bees and other pollinators. Without realizing it, Crystal hybridized a new cultivar of iris in her iris bed via nature.

To prevent Seed Pod reproduction in your named iris bed, always cut the stem off below the entire spent iris flower or remove the entire stem from the rhizome. Yes, you must cut off every single dead iris flower in your named iris bed, which we call "Dead-Heading" or remove every stalk, which may be difficult to do without damaging other flower stalks located in the same proximity. Ensure that you remove the ovary, the oval shaped appendage, which is hidden in green folds called a Spathe, located at the base of the flower.

Now I will say, playing with Seed Pods can be fun and interesting. Each "Sibling" may have different characteristics and may look dissimilar from one another. Just plant them far away from your named iris bed and realize that they are not the same cultivar as the "Mother" that produced them.

The second picture that Crystal sent proves that her iris is a Bearded Iris. The American Iris Society says, "Bearded Iris are identified by thick, bushy "beards" on each of the falls (lower petals) of the blossoms." Crystal's iris has bi-colored beards, classic orange turning blue at the tips. This just happens to be a sought after characteristic that hybridizers look for and is also just luck of the chromosomes.

Well done Crystal! Welcome to the wonderful world of iris hybridization.

Source: The American Iris Society's website: [www.irises.org](http://www.irises.org)



## Tidbits of Info...

### **Understanding the mysteries of plant diseases: Prevention, Control and Cure (Part 3 of 3 in this blog series)**

**Dr. Jim Downer**

Date: Feb 2019

<http://gardenprofessors.com/understanding-the-mysteries-of-plant-diseases-prevention-control-and-cure-part-3-of-3-in-this-blog-series/>

From Wayne Schirner—this is a great article on plant diseases.

### **13 DAYS AND COUNTING....**

#### **Crystal Fisher**

There will be an extra special treat this year. I've been following Rain Lilies for years now. For those of you that might be interested, you'll want to do your homework on pink Zephyranthes grandiflora. I'm attaching a link where I will buy 500 bulbs at \$.10 each.



If you want to participate in this purchase, please send me an email with the quantity that you'd like. Money due upon receipt of the bulbs. I will let you know when they arrive, and a date/time will be set to pick them up - either at the Learning Center or the indoor classroom.

DEADLINE to get your email back to me: April 13th

DEADLINE for me to place order: April 15th

<mailto:crystalfisher912@gmail.com>

<http://www.edensblooms.com/product/Z12>

### **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension—Soil & Crop Sciences**

#### **Texas Lawn Companion - Spring 2019 Edition**

<https://conta.cc/2UhEGuL> - copy this link for the latest information on:

- General Spring Management Recommendations
- Pawfect Lawns: Considerations for Pet Owners
- Spring Pest Considerations
- Shade Alternatives
- AggieTurf Research First Look: Landscape Conversion

From Wayne Schirner

*A garden is a living symbol of optimism, proof that patience has its rewards and confirmation that tender loving care cultivates beauty.*

*- Veronica Hunsucker*

# Announcements...

## Herb Study - Tropical Herbs

**Kim Pringle**

Please join the Herb Study on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 from 9:30 am to 11 am for a study of Tropical herbs. Social time starts at 9 am. More details to follow.

## Earth Day Events - April 22

**Kathy Love**

The Earth Day events sponsored by the **City of Temple Keep Temple Beautiful Dept.** and the **Temple Natural Grocer's store** have been calendared in VMS. Sign-up for these events is limited to 20 for the City of Temple event and 10 for Natural Grocers, based on space and other considerations. The Temple event is 4 hours while the NG event is 3. If you do not want to work all of the hours for these events, include a note when you volunteer indicating what hours you would like to participate so we can be sure the booths are both adequately staffed. Further, since participation is limited, if you discover after you sign up that you cannot work the event, please be sure to un-volunteer so space can be freed up for others who may want to participate.



These are back to back events on April 22nd, the official Earth Day. City of Temple event will be 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and NG will be 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. To my knowledge, we have not previously had a booth for the City's event but we have had a booth at NG for the last several years and it is always a lot of fun with many contacts by shoppers in the store as well as free prizes offered by the store throughout the day. Please see the flyers for both of these events which will be posted to our website and Facebook page to get more information. There will also be flyers for both at our upcoming April general membership meeting.

Contact me at 972-672-0999 if you have any questions about either of these events.

## BCMG Spring Plant Sale

**Christy Reese, Plant Sale Coordinator**

Thank you to all of you for your help and support in making the Spring Plant Sale a huge success! We had 1,141 customers attend the sale, which is our new record.

**Marjorie Gillmeister**

A Special thank you to all the Master Gardeners who assisted at the Eggshell Gardening Booth! It was an eggciting day for all the kids and parents.



# Announcements...

## Gardening in Central Texas

**Carol Morisset**

No class for April. Our next class is May 16th with the topic Butterflies and Bees.

## 2019 SPRING PLANT SWAP JUST DAYS AWAY

**Crystal Fisher**

With the Spring Plant Sale behind us now, please remember the upcoming Spring Plant Swap prior to the next monthly meeting on April 10th, starting from 8:30 am till the meeting starts.

If you have any extra plants that you've dug up, we'd all like to have an opportunity to expand our own garden plants with any babies that you might have. So, we'll thank you ahead of time for them. Same goes for any extra seeds. I'm hope you'll all remember the Seed Swap as that is ongoing. We'll need all your cleaned, dry seeds throughout the rest of the year. They can be left in the Ag office with Kathy Love or handed off to any of our SS Group.



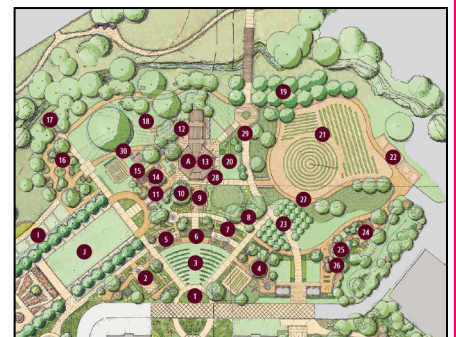
## Spring Garden Tour

**Jan George**

We are going on a Spring garden tour and our bus is full!!! We will leave the Extension office at 8:00 am, be there at 7:30 am, on Thursday, April 4, 2019 for College Station. Our first stop will be the Leach Teaching Gardens where we will have an Aggie student guide us through the Gardens. You can bring your lunch and have a picnic in the Gardens or there is a commons area a short walk from the Gardens that offers sandwiches, pizza, pasta, and etc. Our next stop will be the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library. This is a self guided tour but you can rent head phones. Our final stop will be at the Brazos Co. Master Gardener's Gardens and Arboretum. We should be returning around 5-5:30 pm. Looking forward to seeing you for a fun filled day!!!



**GEORGE H.W. BUSH**  
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY CENTER



# Announcements...



## April General Meeting

**Kathy Love**

The April General Meeting will present a program by Karl Flocke, Texas A&M Forest Service Woodland Ecologist, Austin Division. Mr. Flocke will educate us on the forestry services available to us as Master Gardeners in order to better serve our community. He also plans to cover some of the more troublesome diseases of trees in our region, including oak wilt.

In the business session, we will discuss relocating our future general membership meetings to the Central Texas Council of Governments building nearby due to environmental and capacities issues associated with our current learning center.

Our refreshments will be hosted by Kim Pringle, Jeanne Richard, Sylvia Maedgen, Janet Stein, Jane Van Praag, Barbara Beebe, Carla Harmon, Claudette Hawkins, Joan Stanley, Mary Lou Edmondson, Vivian Rush, and Stacye Parry. Come at 9:30 for our social and enjoy the treats at our Tea Party. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. to be followed immediately thereafter by our business meeting.



# Join Us!

## Board of Director's Meeting

The April Board of Director's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17th at 9 a.m. in the class/meeting room of the AgriLife Building. Please submit your agenda items to Janice Smith, Recording Secretary by Wednesday, April 10th. Date changed due to TXMGA State Conference April 24-27.

## Grounds Workdays

### Johnny Jones and Tom Rennels

Here is the workday schedule for April.

April 3, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday  
April 10, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday  
April 17, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday  
April 24, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday

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

## Refreshments

### Jane Van Praag

We need a few more volunteers to sign-up for refreshments for the monthly general meetings for June-November. You can sign-up in VMS, or at the monthly meetings on the sign-up sheets.

First person to sign-up for a month is the lead and selects the theme, unless you assign someone else to lead the group. Volunteers are allowed to earn service hours for food preparation for 1-3 hours.

# Upcoming Events

## Upcoming Advanced Training

- Apr. 2-3 Budding & Grafting Advanced Training  
Brookshire—Cost \$200  
Deadline to register - Mar. 15
- Apr. 12-13 Plant Propagation Advanced Training  
Fort Worth - Cost \$225  
Deadline to register - Mar. 15
- May 2-3 First Detector Training—Pest & Pathogen Surveillance Program  
Waxahachie—Cost \$135  
Deadline to register - Apr. 15
- May 16-18 Earth Kind® Advanced Training  
Athens - Cost \$250  
Deadline to register - May 1
- May 20-21 First Detector Training—Pest & Pathogen Surveillance Program  
Georgetown - Cost \$135  
Deadline to register - May 3
- May 23-24 Turfgrass Advanced Training  
Conroe - Cost \$235  
Deadline to register - May 3
- Jun. 12-14 Tree Care Advanced Training  
Kerrville - Cost \$185  
Deadline to register - May 24
- Aug. 13-15 Vegetables Advanced Training  
San Antonio - Cost \$ ?  
Deadline to register - Jul. ?
- Oct. 17-19 Greenhouse Management Advanced Training  
Fort Worth - Cost \$225  
Deadline to register - Oct. 7
- Ongoing Earth-Kind On-Line Master Gardener Training modules  
Go to - <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/>

## Upcoming Extension Events

To Be Determined

## Upcoming Events

- Apr. 13 Travis Co. - East Austin Garden Fair  
Austin - Cost is free  
9 am - 2 pm  
Parque Zaragoza Recreation Cntr.  
"Learn. Teach. Grow"  
50 booths
- May 16 2nd Annual Central Texas Vines And Wines—Latimer Vineyard  
Riesel - Cost \$25  
Deadline to register - May 9  
RSVP 254-757-5180  
McLennan Co. Ext. Office

## Tonkawa Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas

### Rebecca Burrow

Monthly meeting is on April 25th at 6:15 on the 3rd floor of the Temple Public Library. Randy Pensabene, a long time member of NPSOT and the Wildflower Center, is speaking about native deer-resistant plants that provide shelter for countless other wildlife too. If you have trouble with deer eating your plants (Salado, looking at you) or know someone else who does, or you just want to learn, come join us!

Master Gardeners and Naturalists are invited and receive one hour of education.



## 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 |

**AgriLife Agent      Lyle Zoeller**

## Board of Directors

|                |                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Communications | Sylvia Maedgen                  |
| Facilities     | Paul Carter & Karen Colwick     |
| KMCCG          | Edie Campbell                   |
| Membership     | Gail Christian                  |
| New Class      | Gary Slanga                     |
| Outreach       | Christy Reese & Carol Morisset  |
| Projects       | Barbara Ishikawa & Stacye Parry |
| Youth          | Marjorie Gillmeister            |

## Contributing Writers and Photographers:

|                      |                |                |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Laura Bridges        | Terrie Hahn    | Kim Pringle    |
| Randy Brown          | Armand Hufault | Christy Reese  |
| Wizzie Brown         | Johnny Jones   | Tom Rennels    |
| Rebecca Burrow       | Kathy Love     | Wayne Schirner |
| Dr. Jim Downer       | Sylvia Maedgen | Jan Stanfield  |
| Crystal Fisher       | Teri Marceau   | Karen Woods    |
| Jan George           | Glenn Melton   | Jane Van Praag |
| Marjorie Gillmeister | Carol Morisset |                |

## Editor: Sylvia Maedgen

Please submit articles of less than 500 words for the Blooming Bell as Word documents. Photos should be sent separately in a folder 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.***

## BCMG Webmaster

Rachel Glass - glass.rachel@gmail.com

Please send your updates for the BCMG web site to Rachel.

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

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

## Bell County Master Gardener web site:

<https://txmg.org/bell/>

## Texas Master Gardener Voluntary Management System

<https://texas.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm?logout=1>



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