

The Blooming Bell



May 2019

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Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

Several members attended the 2019 Texas MG State Conference in Victoria on April 24-27. At the welcome reception, we toured their gardens, were treated to Mariachi music, Ballet Folklorico dancers and some great food.



May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Work Day-8 am * Herb Study-Tropical Herbs-9:30 am, Social-9 am Burger Wed.-11 am	2	3	4 World Naked Gardening Day
5 Cinco De Mayo	6	7 Leon Heights Elementary-Eggshell Gardening— 7:30 am	8 Work Day-8 am* General Mtg-10 am, Social-9:30 am	9	10	11
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15 Work Day-8 am* MG Intern Graduation-1 pm, CTCOG	16 Gardening Series-Butterflies & Bees, 6:30 pm Central Texas Vines & Wines Seminar, 8:30 am, Riesel	17 Clark Elementary-Career Day, Ft. Hood -8 am	18 Armed Forces Day
19	20	21	22 Work Day-8 am* BOD Mtg-9 am	23 Central Texas Olive Ranch Tour-9:30 am, Walburg	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29 Work Day-8 am* Whistle Stop Park Clean-up-7:30 am	30	31	

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

Upcoming events:

- ◆ Herb Study-Silver Herb Gardens & Belladonna, June 5, Belton, 9 am
- ◆ Gardening Series-Preserving Your Harvest, June 20, Belton, 6:30 pm

Mark your calendar:

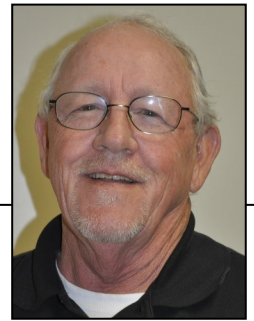
- ◆ World Oceans Day, June 8
- ◆ Flag Day, June 14
- ◆ Father's Day, June 16
- ◆ First Day of Summer, June 21



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



The month of May in Central Texas is one of my favorite times of the year. The bluebonnets have mostly faded but many other wildflowers are in full bloom. It's just a beautiful landscape all around. We have finally completed maintenance of the landscape beds. Our grounds and landscaping team will now identify all plants and update the ID tags as needed. We have asked our interns to help with this project so hopefully, we'll complete this job quickly.

We are also making progress on some upgrades to our Learning Lab & Education building. We may find this building a lot more user friendly soon. At least, that is the goal.

Our class is scheduled to graduate this month and we are looking forward to adding new certified master gardeners to our ranks. Several of our interns have already earned enough hours to become certified master gardeners at graduation. This class has done very well and deserves our recognition and support at the graduation ceremony. Please mark your calendars for May 15th and plan to attend this event. Graduation will be at the Central Texas Council of Governments, 2180 N. Main St in Belton.

Speaking of doing well, our Spring Plant Sale broke all previous records for attendance and revenue. Many thanks to Christy Reese and her team for their tremendous efforts that resulted in such a huge success! We are still looking into the possibility of moving our annual plant sale events to a larger venue to accommodate the growing level of attendance and increase in participation from our various partners. We have not yet finalized the location for the plant sale, but we'll let you know as soon as everything is in order. At the April Board of Directors meeting we decided to hold our monthly General Membership meetings at the Expo Center, at least temporarily. Meetings will be held in the Special Events room for the months of May, June, July, September, October, and November. The August monthly meeting will be held in the Champions Club room. Please share this information with your fellow master gardeners to ensure everyone is aware of these changes.

Several of us attended the State Conference in Victoria and agree it was a lot of fun and a great experience. The presentations were very informative and professionally presented. The Victoria Master Gardeners went out of their way to welcome us and encouraged all of us to be actively involved. And, more good news! We won first place for Written Education, Education (Outreach classes), second place for Outstanding Association and, second for Research (eggshell vs. newspaper pot seed starting). We are all so proud of our members for working so hard making these awards possible. Thank you all! And, thank you all so much for what you do for our Association.

**Note -
Membership
Meeting
Location
Change!**



What's Been Happening...

April General Meeting

Photos by Randy Brown and Sylvia Maedgen

Sylvia Maedgen

Prior to our meeting, MG's participated in the semi-annual plant swap. Our program for April was presented by Karl Flocke, Texas A&M Forest Service Woodland Ecologist from Austin. He talked about various tree diseases, insect infestation, fungus, pruning, bacteria, herbicides, fertilizing, and mulching. Marjorie Gillmeister recognized and thanked her egg shell donor, Lynette's Church Street Bake Shoppe, Salado. We were treated to "Low Tea" refreshments from the women that attended the Herbal Forum in March.



THANKS TO OUR HERB LADIES FOR THE APRIL "LOW TEA"

Barbara Beebe
Pam Dragoo
Carla Harmon
Claudette Hawkins
Jane Van Praag
Janet Stein
Jeanne Richard
Joan Stanley
Kim Pringle
Mary Lou Edmonson
Stacye Parry
Sylvia Maedgen
Vivian Rush



What's Been Happening...

Arbor Day - Central Texas Veterans Cemetery

Jan George

Photos by Jan George

Sandra Blankenship and I represented BCMGA at the Arbor Day Tree Dedication at the Central Texas Veterans Cemetery. We are pictured with Tuke Shoemaker whose husband, General Robert



Spring Plant Sale Raffle Winners

Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen



Shely Sissom, from Troy was excited to win one of the raffle prizes. She said she comes to all our plant sales.

Succulents are cool!

Niki Villarreal, from Temple was so happy to come to our Plant Sale. She is originally from the northeast and said gardening is very different in Texas. She hopes to become a Master Gardener one day.



Dallas Arboretum

Randy Brown

Photos by Randy Brown



What's Been Happening...

Texas A&M Leach Gardens Tour

Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

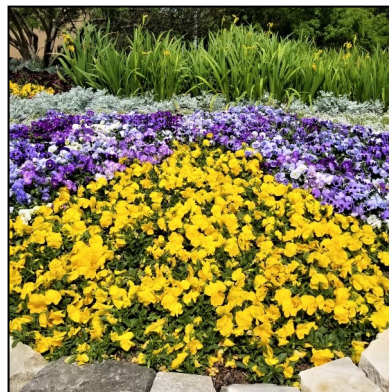
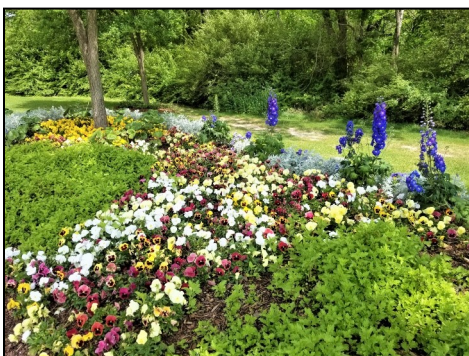
On April 4th, a busload of Master Gardeners traveled to College Station to the Texas A&M Campus to tour the Leach Gardens and the Bush Library. We also visited and toured the Brazos County Master Gardeners' Arboretum.



What's Been Happening...

Bush Library Tour

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen and Jan George



What's Been Happening...

Brazos County Master Gardeners' Arboretum Tour

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen



What's Been Happening...

Texas MG State Conference - Victoria, TX

Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

Several of our BCMG's attended the Texas MG State Conference in Victoria from April 24-27. On Wednesday afternoon, a few of us attended a Leadership Workshop. Thursday and Friday included 4 speakers each day and a luncheon. Thursday afternoon we got to tour the Victoria County Gardens located at the airport and the welcome reception. Friday evening we concluded with the Awards Banquet. A few stayed through Saturday and went on tours.

Throughout the conference, we got to visit with friends, do a little shopping in the vendor's market, did a little bidding at the silent auction and listened to some good speakers.

Next year we hope to have more MG's in attendance as the McLennan County MG's will be hosting the state conference in Waco at the convention center on May 12-14, 2020.



What's Been Happening...

Texas MG State Conference Awards - Victoria, TX

Kathy Love

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

The BCMGA Awards Committee submitted nominations in four of eight categories for the 2018 Texas Master Gardener Search for Excellence Awards. The Association was recognized with a 1st place award in the Education category for its publicly available monthly horticultural class, Gardening in Bell County. The monthly classes, launched in 2017 provide research based horticultural education to the citizens of Central Texas on a variety of topics on the 3rd Thursday evening of each month. This was the first time the awards committee submitted this education opportunity for state recognition in the large county category.

The Association also received a 1st place award in the category of Written Education for the *Belton Journal/Harker Heights Evening Star* Spring Home & Garden 2018 newspaper supplement. The horticultural education articles printed in this supplement were entirely written by BCMGA members on a variety of topics, from protecting pets from fire ants to starting a vegetable garden.

For the 3rd year in a row, the Association was recognized as an Outstanding Association in the state's Large County category, but unlike the last two years when the recognition was a 1st place award, this year the association received a 2nd place award, behind Galveston County.

Finally, the awards committee submitted a nomination in the Research category for the fun project undertaken with the 4 year-old students at Meredith Dunbar Early Learning Academy. The project, undertaken as a research effort, had the children comparing the productivity of seeds started from eggshell pots vs. newspaper pots. The results showed the seeds started in eggshell pots were more productive by weight in a variety of greens which the children harvested, weighed, cleaned and made into healthy salads to enjoy at school. The project received a 2nd place Search for Excellence Award in the Research Category!



Glenn Melton accepts the 1st place award for Educational Program.



Wayne Schirner accepts the 1st place award for Written Education.

Gail Koontz accepts the 2nd place award for Research.



Glenn Melton accepts the 2nd place award for Outstanding Large Association.



What's Been Happening...

Earth Day on Fort Hood - April 12th

Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

Marjorie Gillmeister

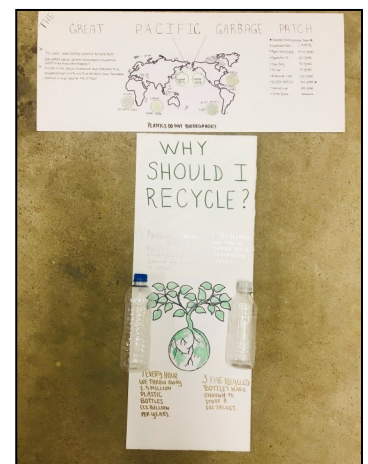
Our amazing Master Gardeners and New Class Interns celebrated Earth Day with 334 students in 3rd and 5th grades. We educated the students on how to recycle materials that are commonly accessible in their own households. We had two stations: (1) Plastic water bottles and how it effects our environment; and (2) Eggshell recycling and it's many benefits.

All students were given a giveaway gift, a pre-planted eggshell pod plant to take home and nurture. Special thank you to Kelby Kosel for creating these wonderful educational charts on plastic water bottles.

Career Day at Alice Douse Elementary, Killeen - April 26th

Marjorie Gillmeister

We had an eggcellent day educating and planting seeds with 215 -1st graders. Special thank you to Nancy Novakowski and new class intern Sonya Gonnella for all your dedication to our youth. We even had a friend of Master Gardeners show up to volunteer for this day.



What's Been Happening...

Chisholm Trail Elementary Field Trip

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

Sylvia Maedgen

We had about 140 second grade students from Chisholm Trail Elementary tour the grounds of the Extension Service and rotated through six different stations learning various things about gardening and water conservation. The presenters included Karen Colwick, Carla Harmon, Marjorie Gillmeister, Bill Walker, Debbie Harris, and Wayne Schirner. Helpers for the presenters included Sherry Oermann, Teri Marceau, Ryan Coleman, Paul Carter, Betty Burkett, and Kathy Lester. Other volunteers rounding out the team for this event included Gail Koontz, Jan Upchurch, Carol Morisset, Sandy Mikesell, Cathy Askia, Barbara Ishikawa, Candy Morgan, Glenn Melton, Jan George, Angie Hernandez, Joan Bumgarner, Sandra Carney, Barbara Richey, Elaine Passman, Laura Bridges, and Sylvia Maedgen.

Marjorie Gillmeister educated 137 - 2nd grade students on the lifecycle of a chicken, lifecycle of an egg-shell plant, benefits of recycling eggshells, how to plant an eggshell pod, and how to grow cantaloupe seeds started in eggshells. The students all received a gift from Marjorie's son Wolfgang, who saved heirloom cantaloupe seeds last year to share with everyone.



What's Been Happening...

Class of 2019 is Winding Down

Jan Stanfield

Master Gardeners' Class of 2019 is winding down. I think most of the class would agree that the propagation class has been a great hands on experience. Each of us has left with lots of baby plants to pamper and plant. More important, we each have the knowledge of using these skills in the future. I'm planning to use the plants I have to help landscape other areas in my yard. It's been fun checking on the "babies" or the propagation plants after taking them home. Wayne shared a propagation technique I had not seen in my limited knowledge of gardening. He used a 10" pot, filled it with soil and sunk a tiny clay pot in the bottom to use as a watering well. All my plants are doing well. Easy to fill the tiny clay pot (there is no hole in the bottom) with water and not guess how much to water.

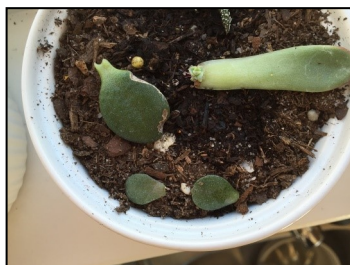
Dr. Keven Ong presented LOTS of information on plant diseases. I never knew there was so much to learn. Dr. Ong's class has been our longest class, but he had such great information that no one was watching the time. Dr. Ong had all of us ready to listen as he talked about rose rosette disease in roses, the impact, and process of identification and treatment. A very sad situation for rose producers and consumers. The Ag office has brochures to share if interested.

The next class was divided between information about turf grass and pesticides/herbicides. I did not realize how much most of us over water turf grass and fertilize way too much. Great to know these facts because I bet each of our class members will have questions from frustrated homeowners. Lyle Zoeller brought many products to show and share purpose and best uses for herbicides and pesticides. The take away for me is to read the label and know the product names and not the name brand for each product. I think I'm safe saying that Lyle DOES NOT LIKE WEED AND FEED.

We missed our field trip to local master gardener's yards due to weather. I hope we get to make that field trip up soon. Our chapter is lucky to have so many knowledgeable gardeners willing to share what they know based on research and also share plants. My greenhouse is full with many plants that generous members have offered. My family says, "Where are you going to plant that?" I say like so many other gardeners, "I don't know but I'll find a place."

We are about to finish. We have a field trip to the Waco area May 1. Last but not least, a few good ladies from the herb study group will share information about herbs.

Graduation is May 15. Each of us would say, "---and a good time was had by all." Looking forward to more opportunities and getting to know more members.



What's Been Happening...

Interns Go to Propagation Heaven

Laura Bridges

Three classes in propagation. Surely this is heaven! Seeing what can be done with seeds and plants is really miraculous. I think we take it for granted for sure. But these are miracles we can participate in. And who doesn't want more plants?

Back in March we looked at seeds. Did you know there's sometimes more information on the inside of the seed packet? It was interesting to learn about different ways to go about stratification and scarification. Awhile back I read that okra can be easier to get to spout when the seed is scarified. One way to do that is to put an okra seed in each section of an ice cube tray, fill with water and freeze. Then you plant the ice cubes. The freezing breaks the hard outer shell (scarifies) of the seed and provides initial moisture at planting. My neighbor sure looked at me really funny when he saw me planting ice cubes. In class we got a damp paper towel and folded some radish seeds into it and put it in a zipper bag. Three days was all it took for them to sprout. Absolutely incredible. Planted and hope to eat them soon.

Then we experimented with planting seed a couple of different ways, in egg shells and in a traditional nursery 6 pack, just to see if we could tell any difference. I planted cucumber seeds and basil. We put them in the greenhouse on warming mats and under grow lights. They got so big so fast we had to take them home before the plant sale because they were taking up all the room in the greenhouse! I haven't really seen a difference yet, but just getting them in the ground, so we'll see. Lesson learned: right temperature, moisture and light and plants will zoom.

In the next classes in April we learned about cuttings. We learned what different nodes look like on plants, about rooting hormone and about keeping tools and pots very clean to prevent disease. We took some rosemary cuttings and made a soda bottle greenhouse. Mine are doing very well and should I should be able to plant this summer. We examined plants such as althea, lemon balm, barbados cherry, St John's wort, coral berry and salvia for proper place to take a cutting and placed them in pots. In one pot we used a clear plastic bag, tied at the top with a rubber band, to act as a greenhouse. In another pot we put an olla. Our homemade ollas were made of a small unglazed clay pot with the bottom hole plugged. Placed in the middle of the rooting pot and filled with water, they leach out just the right amount of water for proper moisture. I'm going to try this kind of olla in some of the containers I have that are difficult to keep moist throughout the summer. So far my salvia, St. John's wort, althea, Barbados cherry and lemon balm are doing well. I did lose the coral berry, but am having way more successes than failures. I have some things at home that I want to try, like wisteria, coral vine, jasmine, beautyberry and coral honeysuckle. It's fun to think of all the more I can make and give away.



What's Been Happening...

Interns Go to Propagation Heaven - cont'd.

Laura Bridges

We also looked at a plethora of plant materials for other propagation methods such as root and rhizome division. We learned about sedums and cacti, and how to let the piece callus before planting. We talked about propagation mediums such as perlite, vermiculite and sphagnum moss. We made an interesting propagation set up for doing African violet leaf petiole propagation using a perlite and peat moss mix. The set up was a 16 oz. styrofoam cup with a 2 inch deep saucer. Holes were placed in the bottom and midway sides of the cup that pull water up from the saucer to keep the moisture right for rooting. Doing a begonia that way too. We even learned about bulb chipping, which is a way to divide a bulb, ensuring a piece of the basal plate is maintained, to get more bulbs. And air layering, what a fascinating process I can't wait to try. This video shows a container being used to hold the rooting medium: <https://youtu.be/1OvVjHC2JV0>

In all we had three chock full propagation labs and I'm wishing for more. The teachers were all our Master Gardeners who shared their knowledge most expertly and were so generous in bringing in plant materials for us to play with! I am so very grateful to them for giving me and all of us interns so much KNOWLEDGE (and fun).

Interns, how are your plants doing from these labs? Let me know. Laura Bridges



Plants Can grow by leaps and bounds - just like us.



Disney World with the Grandkids

Jeanne Richard

Photos by Jeanne Richard

Recently I travelled to Disney-world with my son and his family of five children, ranging in age from 7 years to six months old! I was invited along as the Granny/Nanny and had no illusions about it being too much of a vacation for me. However, I am delighted to report that on our third day we went to Epcot, which was having a special garden celebration. There were numerous topiaries depicting different Disney characters, as well as giant butterflies and flowers. The pictures don't do them justice, but I will tell you...they really were breathtaking. I wasn't able to get real close to them, but they appeared to be primarily comprised of fig ivy and succulents. There was also a butterfly house and a special "gardener-type" gift shop. My previous comment about it not being much of a vacation for me is not withstanding the fact that I am absolutely crazy about all of my grandchildren and would go again. God is so good, and for "such a time as this," I am happy in my role of MiMi.

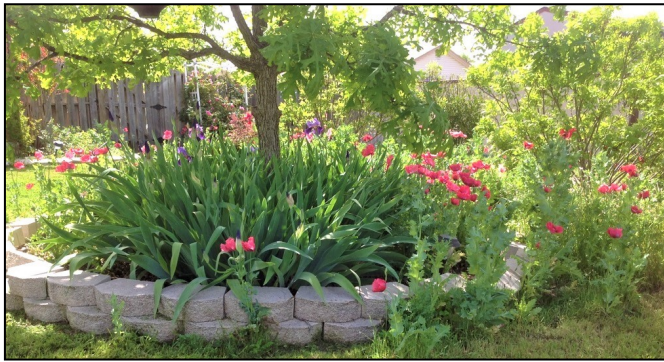


What's Happening In Your Yard?

Randy Brown

Photos by Randy Brown

Poppy and iris explosions.



Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

I found this tortoise walking across the road onto our property.

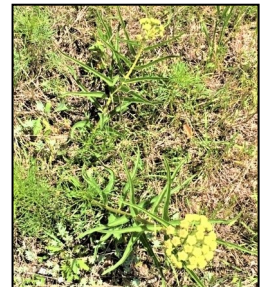


Ding Dong is Blooming!

Jan George

Photos by Jan George

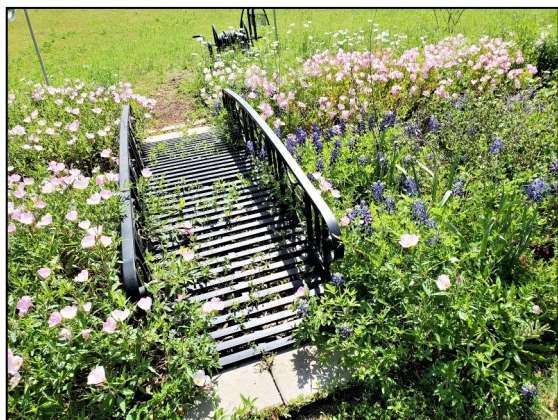
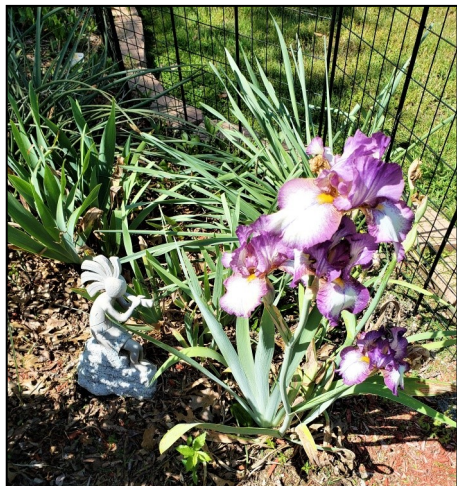
Cross vine, Poppies, Bluebonnets & Antelope Horn Milkweed are in bloom in Ding Dong.



What's Happening In Your Yard?

Vivian Rush

Photos by Vivian Rush



Crystal Fisher

Photos by Crystal Fisher



Tidbits of Info...

Blossom-End Rot in Tomatoes

Wayne Schirner

Now that the spring planting of tomatoes is finished, we eagerly await the first tomatoes of the year. Unfortunately, some tomatoes will be lost because of a condition called blossom-end rot, or BER. In addition to tomatoes, this condition can occur in peppers, cucumbers, as well as other vegetable crops. If you do an internet search for treatment, you will find numerous sites eager to sell you something to spray on the leaves or place in the soil that is supposed to prevent or stop BER. Before you spend any money on products like these, it is important to understand what the evidence indicates as the cause. Pretty much everyone agrees that the problem is a calcium imbalance in the plant, specifically in the fruit. Many stop looking for answers at that point and just assume that by adding calcium to the soil or spraying it on the leaves will fix the problem. Calcium transport from the soil to the fruit is a complex issue and can be affected by numerous items. The recent studies suggest that inadequate calcium in the soil is rarely the problem, so adding more calcium in any form usually won't help. Magnesium is one of the macronutrients that can reduce calcium transport in the plant when found in excess amounts, so adding Epsom salts in the absence of a soil deficiency of magnesium can actually make the problem of BER worse. Calcium is poorly taken up by the leaves from a foliar spray, and even the calcium that is absorbed usually can't get to the fruit, which is where the calcium deficiency exists. The primary issues that have been identified with BER are an inconsistent water supply, too much or too little; cooler

weather; and excess nitrogen, especially of the ammonium form. Some varieties of tomato are also more susceptible to BER. Several of these issues are more common in the spring, such as cooler temperatures and inconsistent amounts of water, so the first fruits of the season are more likely to be affected. Tomatoes like to get about 1.5 inches of water weekly. When we have spring thunderstorms that can drop 4-5 inches of rain in a few hours, it is difficult to adjust for that. We also frequently see temperatures vary from the 40's to the 80's and back to the 40's when the early planted tomatoes are setting fruit. If the cause of BER in your tomatoes is related to these environmental issues, just wait and you should still get a good crop after the weather starts cooperating. If you plant tomatoes in containers, recognize that more frequent irrigation may be required to maintain a consistent soil moisture, sometimes even twice a day. Mulch will help equilibrate your soil moisture, so don't forget to place mulch around your plants once they are established.

Here is a link to the best article I have found about BER. It is written for California growers, but still very applicable to gardeners in central Texas.

<https://ucanr.edu/sites/placernevadasmallfarms/files/86509.pdf>

I've also added a link to information about Epsom salts, since so many sources on the internet think this is the cure all for many vegetable problems. Some even recommend regularly adding it to the soil when planting, without ever checking for a magnesium deficiency.

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/epsom-salts.pdf>

Rose Rosette Identification and Control

**Greg Church, Ph.D., Horticulture Agent, Collin County
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service**

You can view a short 5 1/2 minute video on rose rosette disease on YouTube at the following link.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ksNIwfdM9ZQ>

Shared by Crystal Fisher

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.

Only 2 more classes of Herb Study remain, June and July. If you have any ideas for the topic of our last class, please let us know.

McLane Children's Hospital

Breanna Care—Howeth

Greetings gardeners! Our next opportunity to bring a little love to the children at McLane's is Saturday, May 18th. We will be delivering roughly 25 small wildflower assortments and educational materials to the Childlife Specialists in the Lobby at 1 pm.

What I ask of anyone interested in helping, is that you would meet at the extension office at 9 am with freshly picked wildflowers. (You may cut the top off an old milk jug and fill it if you like with a little water to house the flowers until you arrive). You could also pick them Friday evening if you would like. What a great excuse to escape and spend time with the Lord, offer Him thanks, and pray! Anywho y'all, I will have the gift bags and materials to fill them as well as small vases for the flower assortments for us to work with. I will need roughly 2-5 sets of hands and hearts to help piece the bags and assortments together and also deliver them to the McLane's Lobby by 1 pm. (I will bring boxes with shirts in them for transferring flowers if anybody would like to help deliver them. It works well for the commute and you may borrow a box.

****Please get with me via e-mail or phone (text or call 254-444-9226) to let me know if you will be helping!!**

Enjoy the Spring.....



For Summer is Coming.....



Announcements...

Gardening in Central Texas - Butterflies and Bees

Carol Morisset

Our May 16th this class will be one you don't want to miss. Butterflies and Bees will be presented by Mary Ann Everett, who has been a Master Gardener for 20 years and has advanced training in Plant Propagation, Vegetables, Compost, Fire wise Landscaping, Earth-Kind Landscaping, Tree care, etc. and is always the go to person for all native plants, insects, invasive plants, and butterfly and hummingbird gardening. This lecture will include those plants which attract the above.

Class will be held in Belton at the Bell County Extension classroom located at 1605 N. Main St. from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. We will not restrict registrations. If we have over 50 registrants, we will move to the Bell County Master Gardener Learning Center building which is located at the same address. Seminars are free of charge but a donation of \$5 will be accepted. Snacks and drawings for prizes will be a part of the program. Register at bellspeakers76513@gmail.com or if a Master Gardener on the Volunteer Management System.

Seed Saving Group

Crystal Fisher

Our supplies of seeds have dwindled as we give them away at our AAMG booths and events. There are some upcoming events in which your seeds could make a big difference.

With all the members that have good plants in their own yards, it would be greatly appreciated if you'd collect any of your Spring seeds as they will be starting to subside soon. Remove the chaff and leave them for us in the MG office with Kathy Love. Or hand them off to anyone from our SS Group, or we will provide a bowl next to the sign in sheet at the next general membership meeting. You can record service hours for your time collecting and preparing the seeds in VMS. Your seeds will make a difference. Thank you.

If you have any questions, contact Crystal at crystalfisher912@gmail.com.

Central Texas Olive Ranch - Walburg, TX

Jan George

We will have a tour of the Central Texas Olive Ranch at Walburg on May 23, 2019. We will car-pool to the ranch, leaving the extension office at 9:30am. Josh Walker, one of the owners, will give us a guided tour telling how they got started & explaining how the olives are picked, oil extracted, & how the meat & seed are separated. We toured this olive ranch about 7-8 years ago when they first got started & it's amazing how far they've come in this short time. They also have a wine testing & olive oil testing if you are interested. Please sign up through VMS or contact me at jangeorge530@gmail.com or text me at 254-371-5276. There is no charge for this tour but you might want to give the person you ride with a couple of dollars. Please let me know if you are going as I need to let them know how many will be going.

Announcements...

May General Meeting

Kathy Love

The monthly general membership meeting is on May 8th. The meeting location has changed. We will meet at the Expo Center, Special Events room, located at 301 West Loop 121 in Belton. This is the same room as our annual meeting and Christmas Party at the end of the year. Our meeting times will no longer change in the summer months.

The May General Meeting will present a program by Gail Koontz on Financial Peace for Master Gardeners. Gail describes her program as a talk about her 20 year Biblical Financial Journey and she will close with a discussion of the class she is graduating on this topic at Memorial Baptist Church that evening.

In the business session, we will discuss the meeting location change in greater detail.

Our refreshments will be hosted by Jane Van Praag, Jo Carlsen, Kathy Love, Pam Dragoo, and Stacye Parry. Come at 9:30 for our social and enjoy the treats. The program will begin at 10:00 a.m. to be followed immediately thereafter by our business meeting.

Whistle Stop Park Clean-up

Kathy Patterson

Please join us for a clean-up day at the Whistle Stop Park on Wednesday, May 29th at 7:15 a.m. Bring gloves and a bucket or garbage sack. We will have breakfast afterwards at a local restaurant.



Board of Director's Meeting

The May Board of Director's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 22nd 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, May 15th.

Grounds Workdays

Johnny Jones and Tom Rennels

Here is the workday schedule for May.

May 1, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday
May 8, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday
May 15, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday
May 22, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday
May 29, 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

May 2-3	First Detector Training—Pest & Pathogen Surveillance Program Waxahachie—Cost \$135 Deadline to register - Apr. 15 CANCELLED
May 16-18	Earth Kind® Advanced Training Athens - Cost \$250 Deadline to register - May 1 CANCELLED
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 - ?
Sep. 24-26	Junior Master Gardener Training Corinth - Cost \$? Deadline to register - ?
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://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/

Upcoming Extension Events

May 8	Safety Day Bell County Expo
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Upcoming Events

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 May 23rd at 6:15 on the 3rd floor of the Temple Public Library.

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

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Johnny Jones	Tom Rennels	

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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