

The Blooming Bell



July 2019

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July 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-----|---|---|-----|-----|
| <div>National July Belongs to Blueberries Month</div> | 1 | 2 | 3 Work Day-8 am * Herb Study- Essential Oils-9:30 am, Social-9 am, Natural Grocers Burger Wed.-11 am | 4 Independence Day | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Work Day-8 am* General Mtg-10 am, Social-9:30 am, Expo | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Work Day-8 am* | 18 Gardening Series- Pests/ Diseases in the Garden, 6:30 pm | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Work Day-8 am* BOD Mtg-9 am | 25 Blooming Bell sub- mission deadline | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Work Day-8 am* Whistle Stop Clean- up-7:15 am | • In the event of rain, there will be No Workday. | | |

Upcoming events:

- ♦ Gardening Series-Fall Vegetable Gardening, Aug. 15, Belton, 6:30 pm
- ♦ McLane Children's Hospital Education Program, Aug. 17, 9 am

Mark your calendar:

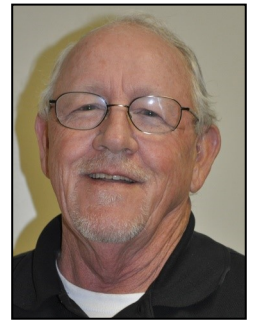
- ♦ Fall Plant Sale, Oct. 18-19, Expo Center Assembly Hall
- ♦ Annual Meeting/Christmas Party, Dec. 10, Expo Special Events Room



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



Well, here we go again. By the time this is published it will be July with all the heat summer brings. While working in my demonstration bed the other day I noticed quite a lot of vegetables in other beds that should be harvested. Please give this your attention before they all go bad. While you're at it don't forget to check your irrigation system for any leaks or other repairs that might be needed. We certainly don't want to waste any water, especially after all the beneficial rain we've had recently.

If you missed the "Lazy Days of Summer" event on Ft. Hood on July 22nd you missed out on a lot of fun. Several of us got together and participated in this opportunity to interact with soldiers and families, many of whom are new to this area. We discussed everything from what vegetables to plant, when to plant them, tree and turf care, and locations for local Farmer's Markets. They were very appreciative, and we have been asked to return next year with an expanded program. We are certainly looking forward to it. Many thanks to Gail Pierce for organizing this annual event and to all the members who helped at this very worthwhile community outreach project.

We will be electing new officers before you know it. Therefore, once again all members are reminded to keep this in mind as we continue to close in on this very important undertaking. Thank you all for everything you do and I hope to see you all at the monthly meeting at the Expo Center in July.



**Water
is
your
friend!**

Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

Fall Webworms

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

Webworms can be found on a variety of trees and are most well-known for the webbing they create on the tips of branches. Webworms are caterpillars, or larvae, of a moth. Caterpillars cause damage by feeding on foliage contained inside their protective webbing.

There are 2-4 generations of webworms that occur each year. The first generation appears April- May and the last generation occurs in the late fall. The last generation is the most damaging generation, which provides these creatures with the name fall webworm.



Webworm larvae are about an inch long when fully grown. They are pale green to yellow with tufts of long hairs projecting from their body. While these are fuzzy caterpillars, they do not sting. Most people notice webbing that webworms create on the tips of branches. Webworms feed within the webbing and use it as protection

from predators. When the caterpillars run out of foliage to feed on, they expand the web to encompass new leaves.

To manage webworms, the size and accessibility of the tree needs to be considered. Egg masses can be pruned from trees before they hatch in early spring. Egg masses are on the underside of leaves and are covered with hairs. Small webs can also be pruned from the tree when they begin to form in the spring. Larger webs can be knocked out of the tree or opened with a stick or jet of water which allows predators inside the web to feed on caterpillars. Do NOT use fire to burn the web from trees! This causes more damage to the tree than if the caterpillars continued to feed.



Insecticides are also available for webworm management. Look for active ingredients such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (this product specifically targets caterpillars), spinosad, azadirachtin, or pyrethrins. Webs need to be opened before treatment with a pesticide so that pesticide gets inside the web where caterpillars are located.

Please note that webbing will remain in trees even after caterpillars are dead. Webbing needs to be removed by you or a strong weather event.

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

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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AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION**

What's Been Happening...

Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden

Randy Brown and Edie Campbell

Photos by Randy Brown and Edie Campbell

Eagle Project Butterfly WayStation under Construction. Onions and Potatoes Harvested. Tomatoes, squash and three Sister Corn being harvested. The Killeen Municipal Court Garden harvested 765 pounds of potatoes that were delivered to the Food Care Center and the two Senior Centers in the 3rd week in June.



What's Been Happening...

Body of Christ Community Clinic - Belton

Janice Smith

Photos by Janice Smith

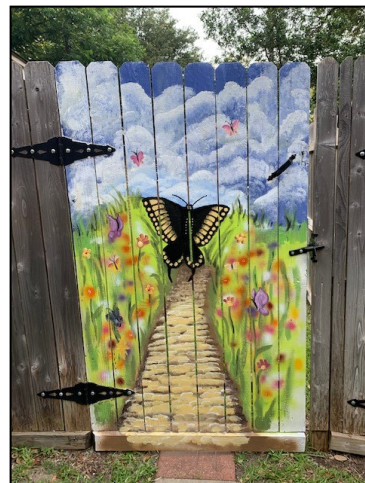
The Body of Christ Community Clinic flower beds in Belton.



What's Happening In Your Yard?



Photos by Gail Koontz



What's Happening In Your Yard?

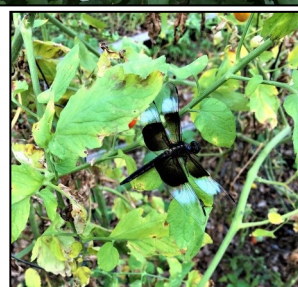
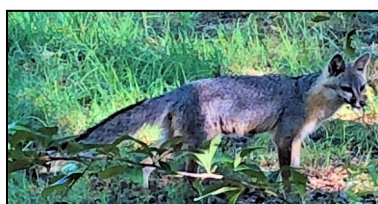
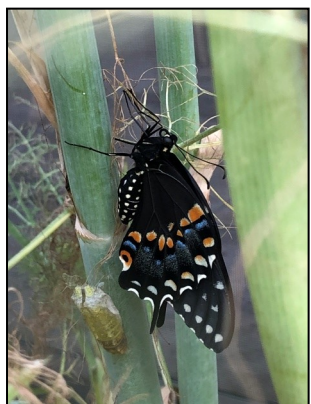
Terrie Hahn

Photos by Terrie Hahn

Our Dill took a hit this spring with black Swallowtail, *Papilio polyxenes* egg, instar and caterpillar on Dill. Not a problem! We planted about a dozen dill plants.

We have a Fennel plant that is 2-3 years old and 5 feet tall. We have had 12 black swallowtail chrysalises, so far on this plant. The plant is starting to look pretty sickly from the heat, so I trimmed it back some to try to get more growth - there are another 10 caterpillars on it! I've never seen so many chrysalises on a plant before. The caterpillars usually seem to crawl away somewhere else to transform into that lovely butterfly. One of the butterflies didn't quite make it though. What I think is a Wolf spider managed to find a butterfly that was about to emerge and pulled it out from behind and gobbled it up.

Some ways you can differentiate a swallowtail caterpillar from a Monarch, according to the Butterfly Ranch, is the Monarch caterpillar is the same width all the way down its body and it has 4 black antennae on it, two in the front, two in the back. If you push on a swallowtail caterpillar, two orange tentacles called osmeterium pop up. They use these to send a sickly sweet odor to fend off predators. And the quickest way is to look to see what they're eating. Swallowtails like dill, fennel, parsley and rue. Monarchs like milkweed. And a few photos of our yard.



What's Happening In Your Yard?

Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

Clockwise from the top right: CoCo is a very good bird dog. She barks at all the birds in our yard, so I have not had much of a problem this year with birds invading my garden. I really have to watch her though as she loves to eat my figs, tomatoes, and bell peppers. With all the recent rains, my lettuce is still producing. This year, I didn't plant as many tomatoes and I'm still going to have more than I need.

My two fig trees are 4 -years old and are loaded with figs. Already planning to make plenty of fig jam.

My okra tastes so good. I especially like the Star of David variety, it is really tender.

The caterpillars are making a harvest out of my fennel. There were 8 on the plant this day.

Jalapenos, bell peppers and my squash plants are putting out the veggies and this year I had lots of voluntary basil plants pop up in the garden.

I tried Japanese cucumber plants this year and the vines are crazy. The cucumbers make great bread and butter pickles.

These are the largest zucchini plants I have ever had. They are almost as tall as I am.



What's Happening In Your Yard?

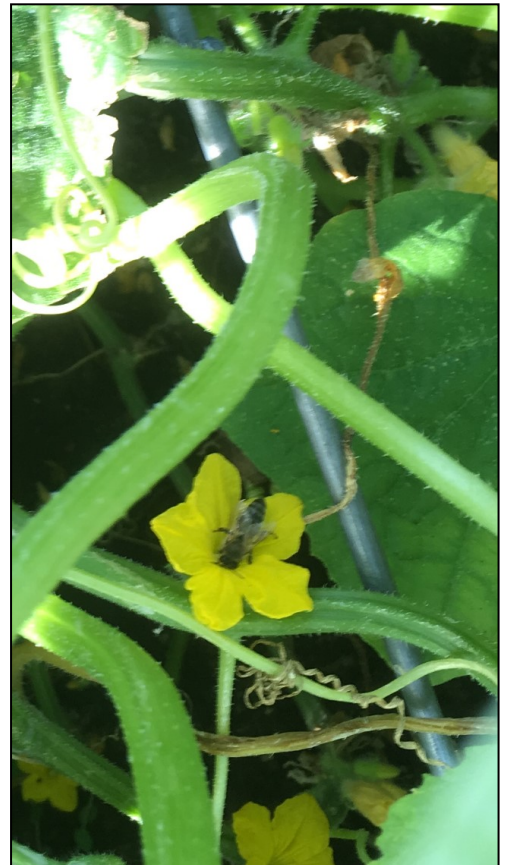
Gail Pierce

Photos by Gail Pierce

I was so happy when I saw this bee on my cucumber blossom. Bees have been scarce this year. I am so use to seeing and hearing them buzzing all over my Salvia, Basil blossoms and in my vegetable garden. I wonder why bees were so scarce this year, so unusual.

Cycle of a Black Swallowtail butterfly in my carrot & squash bed.

ONIONS PICKED AND READY TO EAT!



Announcements...

Herb Study - To Be Continued

Jane Van Praag

Good news for Bell County Master Gardeners wishing to continue our Herb Study Group!

After taking August off, we'll be back in the Ag Extension Office Classroom every first Wednesday morning of each month, starting off each session with thirty-minutes of socializing beginning at 9 am, then promptly at 9:30 am begin sharing what we've learned from our respective homework about each topic until we adjourn at 11:00 am.

The one noticeable difference for the future is that, instead of relying solely upon Connie Rivera, Kim Pringle, and Vivian Rush to lead us, each of us will take turns doing the honors. It takes courage to follow in their most able footsteps, and I, your humble servant, Jane Van Praag, still with some trepidation but holding onto their examples to follow, will start us off.

Here are four items for us to research: Elderberry (and, as its name implies, its berries), Juniper (and its berries), Pomegranate with its jewel-like seeds, and then let's concentrate on how to distinguish Water Hemlock--the most poisonous plant in North America!--from other similar-looking plants, whether also toxic or not.

We well recall that a beverage laced with Water Hemlock is what citizens who'd found Socrates annoying forced him to drink; death usually comes within 15 minutes from ingested Water Hemlock, which might sound merciful, except that the victim's last quarter-hour is inevitably one of sheer agony. You can see why it behooves us to know what to avoid, no matter how pretty, should it pop up in our gardens.

Right now we have the classroom reserved through December. If we want to keep this most worthy project ongoing, please be thinking about which herbs you want to know more about, along with which of the months remaining in 2019 you'd like to lead and/or which in 2020. I'll have a handy sign-up sheet for you, even if you don't immediately know which plants to discuss.

Please mark September 4th on your calendar as 'taken'! Plus, you might want to make some dish to share, not only with us but other diners at Burger Wednesday!

Gardening in Central Texas - Pests/Diseases in the Garden

Carol Morisset

July 18th is upcoming Gardening in Central Texas class at Belton Extension classroom located at 1605 N. Main St. from 6:30 to 8pm. Several Bell County Master Gardeners - Kathy Love, Christie Reese, Glenn Melton, and Carol Morisset have completed advanced training classes in regards to identification of plant diseases found in our Central Texas area and will present how to identify and treat these diseases which includes trees, shrubs, and flowers. Our focus will be on those which are new to diagnose and have been identified in our county. These include: Crape Myrtle Bark Scale, Emerald Ash Borer, Rose Rosette, photinia fungus, etc.

Seminars are free of charge but a \$5 donation is accepted. We will be limited to 45 attendees so register early at bellspeakers76513@gmail.com or if a BCMG online in VMS. We will have treats and drawings for prizes. Hope to see you at class.

Announcements...

Master Gardener Fundraiser Breakfast

Jane Van Praag

WHEN: August 14, 2019, 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Longhorn Steakhouse
4507 S. General Bruce Drive, Temple, TX 254/774-1248

WHAT: A full pancake breakfast with bacon, sausage all the fixings, coffee, juice etc.

WHY: For our August general membership social time and to raise funds to support our many community projects including, but not limited to events at Olin E. Teague VA Medical Center, Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden, McLane Children's Hospital Healing Garden, Outreach programs & more.

WHO: This event is open to Master Gardeners, your family, friends, neighbors, etc. but again, everyone will need to get their tickets in advance.

COST: Tickets are free but we will accept donations of \$5.00 or more per ticket-Cash or check only.

CONTACT: Jane Van Praag at jlvnpaag@sbcglobal.net
Or pick up your tickets from The AgriLife Extension office
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (closed noon) Monday-Friday
1605 N. Main Street, Belton 76513



Coordinator Needed for McLane Children's Hospital Healing Garden

Stacye Parry

We are currently looking for someone to take over the lead on the McLane Children's Hospital Healing Garden. The primary responsibilities for this position are organizing the Master Gardener volunteers to plant the containers. In the past, we have done this four times a year. Additionally, the lead organizes (or has a committee volunteer organize) the watering schedule in the summer and communicates with the hospital point of contact if necessary. All of the administrative processes are in place, the design work is completed, and the containers were recently re-planted so we won't need to do this again until later this summer or in the fall.

If you think you might be interested and would like more information, please do not hesitate to call or email me at 254-289-2010 - stacye1120@gmail.com, Thank you.

Bell County Youth Fair—FCS Superintendents Needed

Betty Nejtek, General Superintendent

The Family and Consumer Science Division of the Bell County Youth Fair needs a few more superintendents for our upcoming 2020 Bell County Youth Fair. The divisions in Family and Consumer Division include some food divisions and some Arts and Crafts type divisions. A few of the superintendent responsibilities are recruiting judges knowledgeable in the specific divisions, answering questions from students, organizing the entries prior to the Fair, on check in day and during the week of the Fair. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested in being a superintendent, please contact Betty Nejtek at enejtek@hotmail.com or 254-913-4065.



Announcements...

Volunteers for Research Project are Needed

Wayne Schirner

I'm looking for volunteers who want to grow sweet corn in their home garden for a study on plant spacing. Many home gardeners don't try growing sweet corn in their home gardens because typical row gardening takes a lot of space. Standard recommendations are to plant seeds 12" apart in rows 2-3' apart with a minimum of 3 rows to improve pollination.

This study will look at planting corn in a raised bed with a minimum size of 4'x4'. A longer bed can be used, but no wider than 4'. The raised bed may or may not have a physical bed, i.e. it may simply be made from top spoil placed on top of native soil to form the raised bed. The depth of the bed will be up to the participant, as will the soil or growing medium used. The sweet corn variety will also be the choice of the participant. Planting will be divided in the bed so that 1/2 of the bed will be planted with 12" spacing between plants, i.e. a 2'x4' bed would have 8 plants. The other 1/2 of the bed would be planted with spacing of 6" between plants, i.e. a 2'x4' bed would contain 32 plants. Someone could choose to have two 4'x4' beds, with one bed planted with 12" spacing and the other bed planted with 6" spacing. All variables would be tracked. Length of ears would be measured, as well as weight of each ear of corn. Number of ears per plant would also be recorded. If a crop grown with 6" spacing produces as well as a crop grown with 12" spacing, then more gardeners might be encouraged to grow their own sweet corn in their home garden. I can do this study by myself, but I would like to have more volunteers to participate so that different varieties can be grown in different soil depths and soil types.

Sweet corn can be planted for a fall crop between the last week of July and the second week of August in our growing zone. We can do this again next spring, planting in March up to the middle of April to see if a spring crop versus a fall crop does better. Let me know if you want to participate. We could contribute the crop to local food banks after harvesting and collecting data.

Send me a message if you want to participate - docwas@icloud.com

Master Gardener New Class for 2020

The 2020 Master Gardener Intern class starts in January. Start inviting family and friends to join our group. Orientation is on January 8th and the first class is on January 15th.

The application and application information can be found on the Bell County Master Gardener's web site and Facebook page.

The class size will be limited to 20. The cost is \$250.

Deadline for applications is November 30th.

If you would like to be a personal mentor, please contact Sherry Oermann.

Announcements...

July General Meeting

Kathy Love

When: July 10th

Where: Expo Center, Special Events room

Time: Social starts at 9:30 am
Program starts at 10 am
Business meeting follows program

Program Presenter & Topic: Wayne Schirner
Garden Myths

Refreshment hosts: Janice Smith
Bette Gilmore
Elaine Passman

Board of Director's Meeting

The July Board of Director's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 24th 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, July 17th.

Grounds Workdays

Johnny Jones and Tom Rennels

Here is the workday schedule for July.

July 3, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday
July 10, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday
July 17, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday
July 24, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday
July 31, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday

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

Whistle Stop Playground Clean-up

Kathy Patterson

There will be a clean-up at the Whistle Stop Playground on July 31, 2019, which is the 5th Wednesday. Please plan to join in the clean-up at 7:15 am. If it is raining, this clean-up day will be cancelled.

Refreshments

Jane Van Praag

Let's give three more cheers to our June General Meeting Refreshment Committee, comprised of Dorothy Thomas, Kathleen Lester, Virginia Bargas, Joann Zieschang, Wayne Zieschang, Beverly Chenoweth, and Glenn Melton, for providing us a Spring Indoor Garden Party with plenty of yummy sweets and savories!

Also, thanks to those who signed up to help with refreshments for future months; however--hint-hint-hint/hint/hint/hint, hint, hint, hint--we still have volunteer spots open for October and 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

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Aug. 13-15 | Vegetables Advaced Training San Antonio - Cost \$200 Deadline to register - Aug. 6 |
| Sep. 9-12 | Entomology Advanced Training Georgetown - Cost \$225 Deadline to register online - July 31 https://agrilliferegister.tamu.edu/organizationListings/52 |
| Sep. 23-24 | Landscape Design School Series XXVI Course III College Station - Cost \$135 Deadline to register - Aug. 1 |
| 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://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/ |

Upcoming Extension Events

Learn, Grow, Eat, Go!
Classes in Nolanville on Thursdays
4 pm to 4:45 pm
June through August

Volunteers are needed to assist with these classes.

Contact Andrea.Haubner@ag.tamu.edu or by phone at 254-933-5305, ext. 5311

Upcoming Events

Bell County Master Gardener Association Elections are coming this Fall. Several positions will be available for election. Refer to the June Blooming Bell newsletter for a description of duties for those positions. Also, some committee leader positions may also be available.

If you are interested in any of these positions,
contact Louann Hight at lehrhh@aol.com.



Officers

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|---------|
| President | Glenn Melton | 2019-20 |
| First Vice President | Kathy Love | 2018-19 |
| Second Vice President | Bill Walker | 2019-20 |
| Recording Secretary | Janice Smith | 2019-20 |
| Treasurer | Gail Koontz | 2018-19 |

Board of Directors

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Communications | Sylvia Maedgen | 2019 |
| Facilities | Paul Carter & Karen Colwick | 2019 |
| KMCCG | Edie Campbell | 2019-20 |
| Membership | Gail Christian | 2018-19 |
| New Class | Gary Slanga | 2019-20 |
| Outreach | Christy Reese & Carol Morisset | 2019-20 |
| Projects | Barbara Ishikawa & Stacye Parry | 2019-20 |
| Youth | Marjorie Gillmeister | 2018-19 |

AgriLife Agent **Lyle Zoeller**

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| | | |
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| Wizzie Brown | Glenn Melton | Jane Van Praag |
| Edie Campbell | Carol Morisset | |
| Terrie Hahn | Stacye Parry | |
| Johnny Jones | Kathy Patterson | |
| Gail Koontz | Gail Pierce | |
| Kathy Love | Tom Rennels | |
| Sylvia Maedgen | Wayne Schirner | |

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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