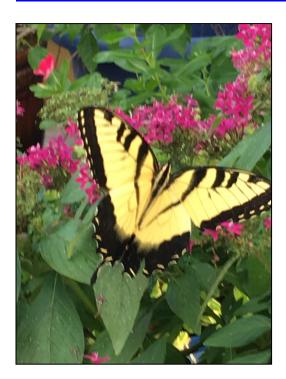
The Blooming Bell



September 2019

INSIDE THIS EDITION:	
Calendar	2
President's Corner	3
Wizzie's World of Insects	4
What's Been Happening	5
Tidbits of Info	8
What's Happening in Your Yard?	9
Announcements	10
Upcoming Events	14



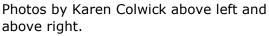


Photo by Sylvia Maedgen, right.







September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Labor Day	3	Work Day-8 am * Herb Study9:30 am, Social-9 am, Burger Wed11 am	5	es: <u>2019, 2020, Online</u>	7
8	9	10	11 Patriot Day Work Day-8 am* General Mtg-10 am, Social-9:30 am, Harris Community Center	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Work Day-8 am* LGEG, Garcia Ele- mentary, 4 pm	19 Gardening Series- Fall Lawn Care, 6:30 pm	20	21 Bartlett Friendship Fest, 7 am
22	23 Fall begins	24 Lines of Defense in the Yard, Sammons Comm. Center, Temple, 6 pm LGEG, Raye-Allen Elementary, 4 pm	25 Work Day-8 am* BOD Mtg-9 am Suicide Stand Down, VA, Temple, 10 am Deadline for Blooming Bell submissions LGEG, Garcia Elementary, 4 pm	26	27	28 Full Moon
29	30	In the event o	of rain, there wil	l be No Workda	ıy.	

Upcoming events:

- ♦ Herb Study, Hemp, Oct. 2, Belton, Ext. mtg. room, 9 am
- Rain Barrel/Rainwater Harvesting Workshop, Oct. 5, Belton, MG
 Ed. Bldg., 9 am
- MHMR Staff Event, Potting Succulents, Oct. 14, Belton, Harris Community Center, 9 am
- Gardening Series-Landscaping/Xeriscaping, Oct. 17, Belton, MG
 Ed. Bldg., 6:30 pm
- ♦ Fall Plant Sale, Oct. 18-19, Expo Center Assembly Hall

National Indoor Plants Week www.NationalDayCalendar.com Third Week In September elindoorPlantsWeek IndoorPlantsWeek Third Week In September elindoorPlantsWeek Third Week In September elindoorPlantsWeek

Mark your calendar:

- ♦ Columbus Day Holiday, Oct. 14
- Daylight Savings Time ends, Nov. 3
- 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

Finally, after six hot and dry weeks we (at least those of us living in southwest Killeen) received some much-needed rain. This morning my rain gauge registered more than an inch, and hopefully all of you received at least that much. All my rain barrels are full once again.

By the time you all read this article, upgrades to the Learning Center and Greenhouse should have been completed. Of course, there is always the possibility of unforeseen problems or issues, so we'll just have to deal with them as they occur. Paul has done an outstanding job of coordinating the work and has told me that once work begins, the facilities should be fully functional and operational soon after the Labor Day holiday. We intend to take full advantage of the upgraded Learning Center to better serve the public and our members. The monthly Community Outreach class will be held there in September and I expect the Rain Barrel - Rainwater Harvesting class will be held in the Learning Center in early October. There are no definitive plans yet for the Greenhouse but I'm sure Carla and her team are working on various proposed projects for that upgraded facility and will have something in place soon. I encourage all of you to stop by and see for yourselves the improvements made to these two buildings and enjoy the A/C that has been so long in coming.

As a reminder, our September Monthly General Membership Meeting will be held in the Harris Community Center located at 401 Alexander St in Belton. Mr. Brad Hamel, TXA&M Forest Service will talk to us about how to protect your trees during construction. This meeting, like all our meetings, is open to the public, so please invite your friends and anyone else you feel might be interested in this topic. The Fall Plant Sale is Oct 19th at the Expo Center and planning for this annual event is in full swing. Some of our members are lacking in service hours so I encourage them to take full advantage of this opportunity to catch up on some hour shortages. It seems we are always in need of additional volunteers to work at Wright's Nursery, so please keep this in mind when you offer your assistance. You can sign up in VMS or see Christy Reese to get specific work assignments.

I'll see you all at the General Membership Meeting and don't forget to attend the monthly Board of Directors Meeting on September 25th.

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Again, thanks for everything you do - - Glenn





Wizzie's Wonderful World of Insects

Monarch Migration

Wizzie Brown, Travis County AgriLife Extension Entomologist

I'm sure that many of you know about the migration of monarch butterflies. For those of you who do not or anyone who needs a refresher.....monarchs spend the winter in roosting spots. Monarchs west of the Rocky Mountains fly to areas along the California coast while monarchs east of the Rocky Mountains fly south to forests in the mountains of Mexico. This is a two way migration that happens in spring and fall, but monarch butterflies that fly north in spring are not the same butterflies that return in the fall. The butterflies that fly south in the fall, are the spring butterflies' children's grandchildren.



Not only are there two major migratory populations of monarchs in the U.S., but there may also be a population that overwinters in south Florida. A biologist at the University of Florida discovered recently that a non-migratory population of monarchs in south Florida also contained monarch butterflies from the Midwest and Texas. She discovered this using a technique called stable isotope analysis which looks at chemicals that are fixed in the monarch's wings as the wings developed and can therefore be tracked to plants fed upon as caterpillars. This paper suggests that monarchs may be overwintering in other locations than Mexico and California.

Many people want to know how they can help the monarch population as there are numerous news reports on how populations are declining. One way that most likely will NOT work is by rearing monarch butterflies to release into the wild. Researchers have found that monarchs raised in captivity are unable to orient for migratory purposes. Some

monarch researches are against the practice of releasing captive bred monarchs into wild populations for fear of disease transmission and the possibility of genetic effects when captive-bred butterflies mate with wild populations. You can read their statement here:

https://monarchlab.org/images/uploads/ attachmentsCaptive_Breeding_and_Releasing_

Monarchs oct2015.pdf

What can we do to help wild monarch populations?

Plant NATIVE milkweed and a pollinator garden. While spring monarch populations rely on milkweed to lay eggs and rear young, fall populations rely on nectar plants to provide energy for the journey south.

Use an IPM approach for managing pests in your environment.

Become a citizen scientist. There are numerous organizations that track monarch butterflies such as Monarch Watch and Journey North.

Go to this site to find out more about Texas monarchs and milkweed.

http://texasento.net/dplex.htm

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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Killeen Municipal Community Court Garden

Randy Brown

Photos by Randy Brown

















Rainwater - One of Our Valuable Resources

Teri Marceau

Photos by Kathy Harte

As Master Gardeners we are all too familiar with the importance of water. Not only is water necessary to keep ourselves hydrated in the inferno of August and September but to keep our landscape, trees, flower gardens and veggie gardens growing. Did you also know water is essential to the smallest of microbial known to man? It is fun to watch the pollinators dance in the spray of the sprinklers when they go off or sip a single droplet of water on a leaf or blade of grass. Here in Central Texas we have seen the effects from bouts of flooding and drought which causes our trees to suffer from suffocation and malnutrition. We can prepare for the bouts of drought by capturing our rainwater for use in the garden and around our landscape. Not only will this make a dent in your water bill it will get you through times when city water municipalities ration our water usage.

If you are unaware, Karen Colwick, is specially trained in Rainwater Harvesting and is holding a workshop this October 5th right in our Education Center located on the Bell County AgriLife Extension grounds (1605 N. Main St., Belton). You can always speak with her to get ideas on how to harvest rainwater whether you plant for a market garden or for personal enjoyment. She is eager to share what she knows. Or you can participate in one of her workshops. There is a class fee for the workshop which covers the cost of materials and you get to take home your very own 50 gallon rain barrel to get you started. She has several rain barrels set up at our demonstration garden behind the Education Center.

We have another member, Kathy Harte, who is currently practicing rain barrel and rainwater harvesting on her farm in Gatesville. She has found a resource, P&P Surplus, who will sell her food grade barrels for a very reasonable price. She and her husband have built stands for some of their barrels, they also use a large approximately 100 gallon water containers along with the blue 50 gallon barrels. Kathy has figured out a way to pour the rainwater from the large barrels into smaller containers

for watering the smaller areas of her garden. She uses a thumb controlled shut off spout. Kathy says the spout is so much easier on her thumbs.

Both Karen and Kathy are very passionate about harvesting our rainwater. If you have any questions or are interested in starting to harvest your rainwater either one of these ladies will be able to help you out. Remember, that Karen has starter kits available for purchase at the Education Center. You can find their contact information in VMS. The photos below are courtesy of Kathy Harte.









August General Membership Meeting

Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

The monthly membership meeting was held at the Expo Center Equestrian Center's Champion Room. Louie McDaniel, McLennan County Master Gardener provided the educational program on "Hydroponic and Aquaponic Gardening". The social before the meeting was held at the Longhorn Steakhouse and was a fundraiser. The restaurant provided a pancake breakfast. The pictures below included MG members and guests as well as the restaurant host crew.













Herb Study Class

Jane Van Praag

Two MGs who hadn't previously attended our meetings joined our session last Wednesday, September 4th, so we now have 54 persons listed who are interested in learning more about herbs.

I am the new VMS administrator for our group through 2020 and am presently working on transcribing the information and recipes as they come to me from those who shared materials that covered edibles Elder and its berries, Juniper and its tiny cones, Pomegranate and its juice and glistening seeds plus how to distinguish the deadly Water Hemlock from similarly leafing/flowering look-a-likes. Please bear with me as I feel my way through, though surely my posts will be complete before our October 2nd meeting, which, by the way, you don't want to miss! Marjorie Gillmeister and a friend will lead us on hemp and many of its uses.

On November 6, Jeanne Richard will start us off with Persimmons.

If you'd like to know more about a particular herb or herbs, please let me know soon at <u>ilvan-praag@sbcglobal.net</u>. Perhaps you're not ready to lead on the topic (s) but chances are some of the rest of us will have the time/inclination.

Tidbits of Info...

Garden Myths - What Causes Blossom Drop in Tomatoes?

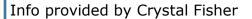
Robert Pavlis

Why are my tomatoes not producing fruit? This is a common question on social media and in this post I'll look at the real reasons for blossom drop and poor fruit production, as well as some of the myths people spread about the problem.

More information can be found at the following link -

https://www.gardenmyths.com/causes-blossom-drop-tomatoes/

Info provided by Wayne Schirner



The link below is an excellent reference for NPK values of organic material that can be added to your garden. NPK Value of everything organic - The Nutrient Company

https://thenutrientcompany.com/blogs/horticulture/npk-value-of-everything-organic-database

What's Happening In Your Yard?

Ann Wagner

Photo by Ann Wagner

Polyphemus Moth "Antherea polyphemus"

As I walked out this morning at 6 am I found what I thought were a bunch of brown leaves sticking to the siding. Upon further inspection later in the day, as it remained in the same spot, it is identified as a large moth called Polyphemus moth. It is one of the largest moths in the world. It is the greatest of the silk moths. The species was first discovered in 1776 by Petier Cramer. It is in the family of Saturniidae. It gets that name from the one-eyed Cyclops of Greek mythology. There are 2 bright purple circles that look like eyes on the hind wings (you can't see those in my photo because the hind wings are tucked in). The moth extends the hind wings to display these two colorful "eyes" warding off an attack. The Polyphemus moth is found all over North America.



This photograph was taken in Temple, Texas on the exterior hallway of an apartment building on September 7, 2019. Polyphemus moth males have an extra-large comb antennae and colorful wings compared to the dull looking female moth with a smaller combed antennae. Based on this specimen, we appear to have a male Polyphemus moth according to identification markers described by entomologists at the following link: http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/MISC/MOTHS/polyphemus moth.htm.

The male moths only last a few days, just long enough to mate and start the next generation. The females emit pheromones that a male can detect up to several miles away. The adults do not eat. The females will lay one or two eggs at a time. Eggs are round and white with 2 brown rings on the circumference. The larvae make a 'clicking' sound with their mandibles to ward off predators and can eat 86,000 times its weight at emergence in little less than two months. The entire energy supply is what they accumulate in the caterpillar stage.

In the northern part of North America, the females will hatch one brood. In the South they will lay eggs two different times. In Florida, they are seen all year long. I found this to be an interesting moth as the wing span was 15 centimeters across and it laid flat with the wings stretched out for several hours.

Kathy Love Photo by Kathy Love

This Carolina Anole is helping to keep carpenter ants under control around the house! He hasn't swallowed his ant whole yet but assume he took care of that when he went out of sight.

According to an article published in Galveston County Master Gardener series "Beneficial's in the Garden", the green anole's primary prey are insects but they



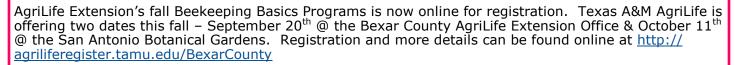
also prey on other types of invertebrates such as spiders. Interestingly they also report that their color changes from green to brown (and vice versa). The color change can be triggered by temperature (including time of the year), background color or "mood". I took this photo late morning while temps were still in the low 90s. Looks yellow to me! Maybe he was in the process of going from brown to green as according to Galveston Co. MGs, green anoles tend to remain green when temperatures are more than 70 degrees F., whereas they tend to remain brown during cool weather conditions. Maybe they go yellow above 90!

Growing up we had all kinds of lizards on the farm but no doubt my dad and grandad's use of chemical pesticides, etc. on the farm had caused them to essentially disappear. Now we have multitudes of Texas striped whiptail lizards, geckos and anoles though still haven't seen a Horney toad since moving back home. Love seeing these guys around! If you want to know more about this critter, go to the Galveston County MG website here! Beneficial Lizards



Beekeeping Basics Program

Molly Keck, AgriLife Extension, Bexar County



If you have ever thought about keeping bees for ag exemption purposes, pollination, as a hobby or just environmental stewardship, this class will cover all your needs to get you started! We cover the basics of beekeeping – what materials to buy, where to buy those, types of suits, where to buy bees, what to do when you first get your bees, and basics of what the hive should look like that first year. Come with little to no knowledge and leave with tons!

The best part of this program is that we offer a field day so you can touch the bees, put on a full suit, feel how heavy the frames are, and work the hives to make sure you are comfortable when you get your own bees. Because suits are limited and to keep classes small in order to provide a better and more educational experience, we offer a few options for the field days:

September 20th class – field days on September 21st (two sessions) & September 22nd. Morning sessions, expect about two hours for the field day. Only 15 maximum per session. Location Leon Springs area (Scenic Loop & Boerne Stage Rd.)

October 11th Class – field days on October 11th after the class @ the Botanical Garden Bees and October 12th – two morning sessions, Leon Springs area (Scenic Loop & Boerne Stage Rd). Expect about two hours for the field day. Maximum of 12 per session.

Morning sessions vary based on temperature, but we will confirm the times a couple weeks before the class so you can prepare. Times may vary by 30 minutes to an hour, usually starting 8 or 8:30 and last session ending by noon. Please know that these dates and time are weather dependent, but we will make up the field day to accommodate everyone if we do have a rain out.

The past couple years we have filled up all our classes with a waiting list, so be sure to register soon!

If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact me! 210-631-0400

Gardening in Central Texas - Fall Lawn Care

Carol Morisset

Fall Lawn Care will be presented by two of our experienced Bell County Master Gardeners, Gail Koontz and Karen Colwick, on September 19th from 6:30 pm to 8 pm at the Bell County Master Gardener education building classroom located at 1605 N. Main Street in Belton. Classroom is located to the left of the AgriLife Extension Office and shares the same parking lot. Karen and Gail have both completed advanced training in turf care and many other specialties. Gail is currently the Treasurer for Bell County Master Gardeners and Karen is co-director of Facilities. Class will include: when to fertilize, how to use compost and mulch, what type of turf grasses are best in Bell County, when should I mow and how high should I set my lawnmower, how to winterize, etc. Seminars are free of charge but a \$5 donation is accepted to cover handouts, etc. To register, email us at bellspeakers76513@gmail.com or if a BCMG you may sign-up in VMS. It is important if you register and cannot attend to let us know so materials can be obtained only for those attending and to ensure everyone can come and we don't have to turn down attendees due to room occupancy...Snacks and drawings for prizes will be part of program plans.



Rebecca Burrow

I am putting together the Gardener Checklist for our website, detailing what should be done/ watched out for/etc., here in Bell County. The checklist is monthly.

I am writing because I would like a little bit of help. We are an educational organization with some members that have been gardening for 20, 30, 40 years here in Bell County. You all know things that I am not going to find on the internet, like WHEN to look for armyworms in BELL COUNTY, or WHEN to plant ___? ___ for BELL COUNTY. I can find information generally about Texas, but it is almost impossible for Bell County specifically.

No information, tip, or advice is too little or insignificant. We need info on trees, veggies, ornamentals, general maintenance, anything at all gardening related (like when is it safe to put out a vanda orchid?). The checklist should be specific for our county. I would appreciate any assistance. Just email me back with the WHEN and the WHAT. Thank you all so much!

Learn, Grow, Eat, Go!

Andrea Haubner, AgriLife Extension

Interested in youth gardening, cooking, and nutrition? This fall, you can volunteer with the Temple ISD afterschool or ACE program! Learn, grow, eat, and go is a 10-week curriculum for $3^{\rm rd}$ - $5^{\rm th}$ graders that mainly focuses on gardening but also some nutrition and cooking skills.



The Bell County Better Living for Texans program is looking for dedicated individuals who would be interested in volunteering for ten weeks this fall.

The lessons are pre-determined and all the supplies are provided. The typical after-school time is from about 4:00-4:45 PM.

We have 2 coordinators: Gail Koontz for Raye-Allen Elementary; and Sylvia Maedgen for Hector Garcia Elementary.

We are still in need of 1-2 volunteers. If interested, please contact Andrea Haubner, Better Living for Texans Extension Educator at the Bell County AgriLife Extension Office. Thank you for all that you do for Bell County!







Board of Director Elections

Louann Hight

Currently, the positions that are available by election include the following for the BCMGA Board of Directors:

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

- 1st Vice President
- Treasurer
- Youth Program Director
- Membership Director
- Communications Director
- Facility Director



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.



Deadline for applications is November 30th.

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



Seed Savers Group

Crystal Fisher

The Seed Saver group invites you to join us for refreshments prior to the next meeting on Sept. 11th at the Harris Community Center. Refreshments/Social gathering time begins at 9:30 am. We look forward to seeing you there as we see the location of our future monthly meetings.

After lunch, the Seed Savers are to meet back at the Ag office to bring in the seeds they have stuffed into envelopes and possibly get some more. We'll meet in the classroom with the AC, Ahhh.

Announcements...

September General Meeting

Kathy Love

When: September 11th

Where: Harris Community Center

401 Alexander St, Belton You can park either south or east

of the building and also enter from either direction but we hope you will only use the eastern entry to the building...this will help us maintain a comfortable tempera

ture inside.

Time: Social starts at 9:30 am*

Program starts at 10 am

Business meeting follows program

Program Presenter & Topic: Brad Hamel, Texas Forestry Service, Protecting trees during construction

Special Guest: Belton Police Chief Gene Ellis, Honoring First Responders in Belton





Board of Director's Meeting

The September Board of Director's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 25th 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, September 18th.

Grounds Workdays

Karen Colwick

Here is the workday schedule for September.

September 4, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday September 11, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday September 18, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday September 25, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday

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

Refreshments

Jane Van Praag

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

Sep. 9-12 Entomology Advanced Training

Georgetown - Cost \$225

Deadline to register online - July 31

https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/organizationListings/52

Sep. 23-24 Landscape Design School Series XXVI

Course III

College Station - Cost \$135 Deadline to register - Aug. 1

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 Event

Southern Garden Symposium

When: October 18th-19th Where: St. Francisville, LA

Cost: \$80-\$280

Online Registration: https://

bontempstix.com/events/2019-southern-

garden-symposium

Upcoming Conference

Texas Fruit Conference

When: October 28-30, 2019 Where: New Braunfels

Cost: \$85 by 9/15; \$100 after 9/15

Online registration: http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/





College Station, TX

Upcoming Extension Events

Sep. 19	Conservation Expo Pairie Haynes
Nov. 16	Bell Co. Water Symposium
Nov. 13	Workshop—Oscar Store
Dec. 17	Pecan Show
Jan. 14-15	Blackland Income Growth Conf.
Jan. 21	Crops Conf.
Jan. 23	Professional Grounds Conf.
Jan. 31- Feb. 8	Bell County Youth Fair

Upcoming Texas A&M Events

Turfgrass Field Day

When: Wednesday, October 9th

Where: Scotts-MiracleGro Lawn and Garden Research Facility in College Station, TX

Cost: \$55 (early registration) - Lunch is

included.

Registration information: Coming soon. We will post more information on our website in the coming weeks and send another email out when registration is open.

Description: The Texas A&M Turfgrass Field Day offers an opportunity for members of industry and the general public to see and hear about current research activities in the Texas A&M turfgrass program and select related programs in entomology, pathology, and soil science. Attendees will have the opportunity to **earn CEUs** for professional development, visit the trade show floor to see some new products from industry, and enjoy a delicious lunch alongside fellow turf professionals and enthusiasts!

	Officers			Board of Directors	
President	Glenn Melton	2019-20	Communications	Sylvia Maedgen	2019
First Vice President	Kathy Love	2018-19	Facilities	Paul Carter & Karen Colwick	2019
Second Vice President	Bill Walker	2019-20	KMCCG	Edie Campbell	2019-20
Recording Secretary	Janice Smith	2019-20	Membership	Sherry Oermann	2019
Treasurer	Gail Koontz	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				

Wayne Schirner

Jane Van Praag

Ann Wagner

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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, Goggle Photos 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.

BCMGA 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

Texas Master Gardener web site:

https://txmg.org

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