

The Blooming Bell



December 2019

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Photo by Randy Brown



Musical entertainment was provided by Master Gardeners and members of the Temple College Choir for our Annual Meeting and Christmas Party held at the Expo on December 10th. Rachel Glass organized the group and Laura Bridges directed the group.





December 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Work Day-8 am * Herb Study, 9 am social, 9:30 am meet- ing	5	6	7
8	9	10 Annual Meeting & Christmas Party, 6 pm, Expo	11 Work Day-8 am *	12 Poinsettia Day	13	14
15	16	17 Bell-Williamson Coun- ty Pecan Show	18 Work Day-8 am *	19	20	21 Winter Solstice
22	23 National Roots Day	24	25 Christmas Blooming Bell dead- line	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve	In the event of rain, there will be No Workday.			

Upcoming events:

- ♦ Gardening Series-Hummingbirds, Jan. 16, Belton, MG Learning Center Bldg., 6:30 pm

Mark your calendar:

- ♦ Bell County Youth Fair, Feb. 3-8, Bell County Expo
- ♦ Herbal Forum, Mar. 20-21, Round Top
- ♦ Herb & Vegetable Plant Sale, Mar. 28, Belton, MG Learning Center grounds, 8 am
- ♦ Spring Plant Sale, Apr. 11, Belton-TBD



December is... Root Vegetables and Exotic Fruits Month
www.NationalDayCalendar.com



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

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe Thanksgiving and are ready for Christmas. Our annual Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec 10th and I hope to see you all there. Several distinguished guests have been invited and our Christmas Party Committee has been working hard to ensure a very enjoyable evening is had by all.

December is historically an uneventful time for us, and except for the annual party, not much is going on in our community. At least as far as gardening is concerned. However, there are some upcoming events that may afford you an opportunity to earn some service hours. Please mark your calendars for these events:

- Bell-Williamson County Pecan Show – Dec 17th at the Extension Learning Center (see calendar in VMS)
- Blackland Income Growth Conference – Jan 14-15 at the Waco Convention Center
- Bell County Crops Conference – Jan 21st at the Expo Center
- Professional Grounds Conference – Jan 23rd at the Expo Center

Now I would like to remind everyone the importance of entering all earned service and educational hours in VMS. Hours must be entered by the end of each month in order to properly account for and receive credit for your efforts. Understand that the reporting of these hours is not about the member, as an individual, but about all of us as an organization. These monthly reports, as well as an annual report, are submitted at State level by our Extension Office to showcase our commitment to the community and our support of the AgriLife Extension mission. Please make time in your schedule to complete this requirement, and if I may suggest, make it a New Year's resolution and commit to it all year long. I will bring my laptop to our General Membership meetings starting next month to help anyone needing assistance in entering their hours.

This has been an eventful year with many unforeseen changes and challenges, and I want to thank all of you for your hard work and support through it all. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year to meet even more challenges.



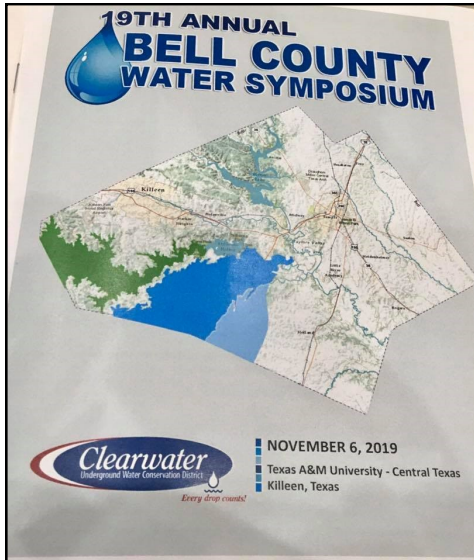
With your continued help and support we will not only succeed but in fact, excel. I wish you all a safe and very Merry Christmas.



What's Been Happening...

Bell County Water Conference

Photos by Randy Brown



What's Been Happening...

November General Membership Meeting

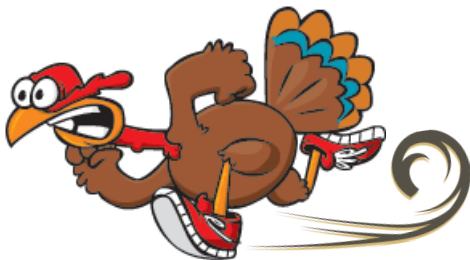
Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Randy Brown

Gary Slanga gave a presentation on "Healthy Soil: Cornerstone of Life" at the monthly membership meeting. New officers and members of the Board of Directors were elected for the following positions:

First Vice President - Jan Upchurch
Treasurer - Barbara Ishikawa
Communications - Teri Marceau
Membership - Sherry Oermann
Youth - Janice Smith

The refreshment committee included: Virginia Bargas, Sharon Hardin, Kathy Love, Betty Nejtek, Sherry Oermann, Kim Pringle, and Vivian Rush.



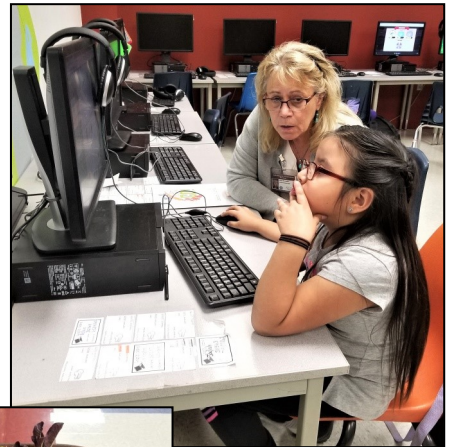
What's Been Happening...

Learn, Grow, Eat, Go - Hector Garcia Elementary

Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

Sixteen students in the Garden Club at Hector Garcia completed the Learn, Grow, Eat, Go class on November 20th. MG Claudette Hawkins helped with the last class as well as AgriLife employees, Jackie McLaughlin and Tonya Elliott, by helping the students complete the post survey, serving the students a salad and transplanting the school garden vegetables into pots and giving to the students to take home and replant in their own home gardens.



What's Been Happening...

Temple College Community Garden Project (Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society)

Marjorie Gillmeister

Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

Marjorie Gillmeister, Janice Smith, Carla Harmon, and Mike Butts installed the garden beds at Temple College utilizing natural mushroom compost and native wood mulch. A less than 200 square feet of growing space was created using a weed eater to cut the grass low and above soil level without disturbing the roots and microorganisms below. Several beds of different shapes and sizes such as squares, rectangles and circles were laid out with four inches of mushroom compost then topped off with five inches of native wood mulch on June 28th. These beds were unplanted for three months patiently waiting for the decomposition process of organic matter into the existing soil and slow breakdown of native wood mulch layers to settle the beds.

Three months later, after careful measurements of soil ph, moisture and temperature were taken weekly; the beds were ready to receive young seedlings to be transplanted. On September 27th, 145 seedling varieties such as bok choy, lettuce buttercrunch, romaine lettuce, red sail lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, and perennial herbs to name a few were planted that day. Out of 145 transplants, 141 seedlings survived. Two weeks later we planted another 110 young seedling vegetable varieties such as romaine lettuce, winter lettuce, escarole, Brussels sprouts and more herbs where the students learned how to successive plant in order to have a continual harvest. Phi Theta Kappa students have maintained the garden on a daily basis. After only two weeks later after planting, the students had their first harvest on October 10th consisting of bok choy joi choi at 3 lbs 1 oz (18 servings), buttercrunch lettuce 10 oz 1/8 (5 servings). Total servings of 23 provided 23 students with fresh food that day for the schools on campus food pantry.



What's Been Happening...

Temple College Community Garden Project - cont'd. (Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society)

Marjorie Gillmeister

Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

More bountiful harvest dates to follow:

- October 18th, Lettuce buttercrunch 1 lb 3 1/8 oz, Mustard greens Osaka purple 7 7/8oz, Mustard greens southern giant 12 1/8 oz, Total 21 servings.
- October 25, Lettuce buttercrunch 1 lb 4 1/4 oz (7 servings), Kale mix 1 lb 3 3/8 oz (7 servings) Total 14 servings.
- November 8, Lettuce buttercrunch 1 lb 3/4 oz, Freckles romaine 7 3/4 oz, Italian kale 9 7/8 oz, Blue dwarf curled kale 7 oz, Mustard greens purple and green 1 lb, total 29 servings.
- November 11 Monday (2 days later) 5 lbs total 26 servings Lettuce buttercrunch 1 lb 2/7 oz, Kale Blue Dwarf Curled 10 1/2 oz, Italian kale 2 1/2 oz, Red lettuce 5 3/4 oz, Romaine lettuce 2 lb 5/8 oz.

After only 6 1/2 weeks of growth we have had 5 harvests at 18.5 lbs and fed 106 students.



What's Been Happening...

Temple College Community Garden Project - cont'd. (Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society)

Marjorie Gillmeister

Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

Our largest harvest took place November 22, Friday in time for Thanksgiving we fed 99 students!

- Lettuce buttercrunch -8 ½ ounces - 7 servings
- Lettuce red speckled -4 5/8 ounces - 4 servings
- Red sail- 5 3/8 ounces - 6 servings
- Romaine- 1lb 7 1/8ounce - 16 servings
- Osaka- 4 3/8 ounces - 2 servings
- Southern giant- 8 5/8ounces - 5 servings
- Escarole- 4 ½ ounce - 4 servings

Herbs

- Dill- 3 3/4 ounces -15 servings
- Chives – 1/8 ounce - 6 servings
- Oregano- 5/8 ounce - 6 servings
- Garlic chives – ¼ ounce - 6 servings
- Winter savory- ½ ounce - 6 servings
- Sorrel- 3 ½ ounce - 16 servings

Total servings including herbs- 99



Students have learned about various herbs growing in their garden with the guidance of Carla Harmon who taught them how to harvest herbs and prepare a fresh salad dressing to take home. Marjorie Gillmeister lead a lesson on onions and garlic; the students planted bulbs into the garden for a spring/summer harvest.

Marjorie Gillmeister will teach a lesson on the No-Dig Gardening method for a future general membership meeting date to be determined.



What's Been Happening...

Marlandwood Nursing Home - Horticulture Therapy

Sylvia Maedgen

Photos by Sylvia Maedgen

Residents of Marlandwood Nursing Home received instructions on growing plants by seeds, transplanting, division, and cuttings. Claudette Hawkins led the team of volunteers of Jan Upchurch and Sylvia Maedgen to help residents transplant several plants from cuttings and divisions into pots to take to their rooms.



What's Been Happening...

Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

Ilene Miller

Photos by Randy Brown

A Big Thanks to.....

- Our hardworking Christmas Party Committee.
- To Registration which handled 182; our biggest crowd ever!
- Those who brought delicious Desserts and Salads for our meal.
- The Chicken Place (TCP) our caterer.
- Betty and our Silent Auction Committee which raised \$1065 for the bids on items furnished by Master Gardeners.
- Our choir and musicians for the wonderful entertainment.
- Elaine and the Decorations Committee for a lovely event.
- Randy and Daisy for the photographs and the Year in Review.
- Teri and Kathy for the lovely printed program.
- Kathy, Lyle, and Glenn for the Awards and Recognition of deserving MG. We thank you for your service to BCMGA and Bell County. Congratulations.
- The Expo Staff and Texas AgriLife Extension for their partnership.

All who supported our Community Service Projects and to Larry Moehnke; Jane Van Pragg and Stacye Parry, Coordinators. All left over food was donated to feed the homeless in Killeen. A Healthy and Happy New Year to our Master Gardener family.

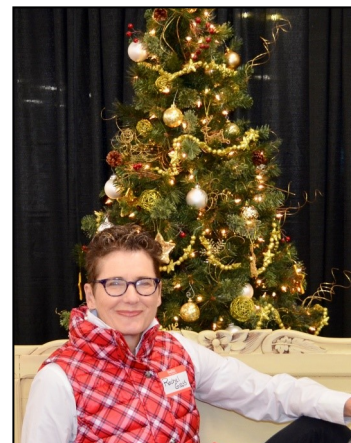


What's Been Happening...



Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

Photos by Randy Brown & Daisy Klassy



What's Been Happening...

Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

Photos by Randy Brown



*Merry
Christmas!*



What's Been Happening...



Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

Photos by Randy Brown



5 year service pins



10 year service pins



15 year service pins



Right: Judge Barbara Weaver was named an Honorary Master Gardener as she founded the KMCCG in Killeen.



1st Place State Award for Written Education



1st Place State Award for Educational Program



2nd Place State Award for Research



Left: 2nd Place State Award for Outstanding Association



What's Been Happening...



Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

Photos by Randy Brown



Golden Trowel Award recipients



Green Thumb Award recipients



New Master Gardener of the Year recipient



Friends of Master Gardeners



1,000+ service hours



600+ service hours



500+ service hours



400+ service hours



300+ service hours



200+ service hours



100+ service hours



Tidbits of Info...

The Technique of No-Dig Gardening

Marjorie Gillmeister

Marjorie Gillmeister's inspiration since she began farming four years ago, has used this method successfully for three years growing various crops, herbs, and edible flowers with her son, Wolfgang.

In 1977, Esther Dean, an Australian gardener and author, pioneered the technique commonly referred to as "no dig gardening" with the publishing of her book *"No-Dig Gardening and Leaves of Life"*. Since that time, countless no-dig gardens have been built worldwide and the technique is thoroughly time-proven and tested. It has proven to be an immensely productive way to grow all manner of trees and plants. In the US, no-dig gardening is often referred to as lasagna gardening.

There are many variations of how we can build a "no dig gardening", but they all use the same underlying principle, which is soil building. No-dig gardens can be constructed anywhere because this technique creates soil – a rich, dark, healthy, nutrient-filled humus which plants love. They can be constructed over soil, existing lawn or concrete.

As a brief description, the way the technique of no-dig gardening works is that of different organic materials such as pea straw, tree lucerne, animal manure, finely-chopped prunings, kitchen scraps, compost and laid down in layers over each other to create what is essentially a thick, flat composting system that fills a garden bed. To plant seedlings or plants into such a garden bed, small 'pockets' or holes are made that hold as much compost as a small pot that you could grow the plant in, they are then filled with compost, and the plants planted into them. It's really simple, and the results are incredible. Essentially the no-dig garden is constructed of alternating layers of carbon-rich and nitrogen-rich materials, just like a properly made compost heap [3]

Nature's Way

In Nature, soil does not need to be manually cultivated for spectacular forests to grow. What holds true in Nature also holds true in the garden. In a forest, organic matter in the form of fallen leaves, twigs and branches, annual plants at the end of their yearly cycle and other plants at the end of their lives, are all deposited on the forest floor when they decompose into rich humus.

We can add organic matter directly to the soil surface, such as manure, compost, straw, leaves etc. Garden waste such as prunings from trees and shrubs can be fed into a mulcher to break them down into smaller pieces, and then spread over the soil as a mulch. [2]

Adding a layer of organic matter over the soil, in a layer approximately 5cm-15cm (2"-6") thick is in effect 'sheet composting', where the garden beds become large composting areas. By the action of earthworms, bacteria, fungi and insects, the organic matter is slowly broken down and released into the soil, providing nutrients to the garden. Because the soil is not disturbed, a stable soil ecosystem is created, and plant health is improved. Moisture is also better retained due to the mulching, and the organic matter in the soil works like a sponge to better retain the moisture in the soil. The mulching also prevents soil erosion, stops runoff of rainwater across the surface, and assists the rainwater to percolate into the soil. The earthworms will create channels in the soil, which will help both water and air to penetrate into the soil. With no-dig gardens, the soil is not compacted because it is not walked upon! Stepping on the soil destroys the soil's structure by compacting it, preventing air and water penetration to the plants roots, which affects plant health, restricts plant growth and reduces productivity. Paths are constructed for people to walk on, the garden beds are for plants ONLY!!!

Tidbits of Info...

The Technique of No-Dig Gardening - cont'd.

Marjorie Gillmeister

One thing I haven't mentioned so far is that Nature does dig, but not in the way we humans do, but far more efficiently – with earthworms!

This technique recognizes that micro- and macro-biotic organisms constitute a "food web" [1] community in the soil, necessary for the healthy cycling of nutrients and prevention of problematic organisms and diseases. The plants transfer a portion of the carbon energy they produce to the soil, and microbes that benefit from this energy in turn convert available organic substances in the soil to the mineral elements the plants need to thrive.

References:

[1] Dr. Elaine Ingham is an American microbiologist and soil biology researcher and founder of Soil Foodweb Inc. She is known as a leader in soil microbiology and research of the soil food web. She is an author of the USDA's *Soil Biology Primer*. In 2011, Ingham was named as The Rodale Institute's chief scientist.

[2] Earth Kind Natural Plant Nutrients for Landscapes and Gardens

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/files/2010/10/naturalnutrients.pdf>

Book Reference: [3] No-Dig Gardening & Leaves of Life, by Esther Deans

Announcements...

Blooming Bell Has a New Editor - Virginia Bargas

Sylvia Maedgen

Photo by Sylvia Maedgen



Let me introduce you to the new Blooming Bell Editor - Virginia Bargas. Starting in January 2020, she will be creating your monthly newsletter. She is eager to get started, and I am confident she will do a fantastic job. So starting from this point forward, please submit all your news articles, pictures, and anything of interest to her email - bargasv@hotmail.com. All submissions are due by the 25th of the month.

Please remember to send your articles in Word format and your pictures in JPEG format. It is helpful to submit your pictures in a zipped file or you can share your pictures in OneDrive or Dropbox, by placing them in a folder, then the whole folder can be downloaded rather than each and every picture having to be individually downloaded (very time-consuming). Also, if you are just sending photos, please provide a narrative description for each photo.

It has been a pleasure creating the newsletter the past 2 years and 8 months. I hope I was able to provide you with information about our organization and upcoming events. And hopefully I got your picture in some of the newsletters. I really enjoyed the opportunity each month of working with all of you that contributed articles and pictures.

So let's all make an effort to send Virginia plenty of news articles and pictures in the future to help her create her magic each month.

Announcements...

25th Annual Herbal Forum at Festival Hill - Round Top

Kim Pringle

The 25th Annual Herbal Forum at Festival Hill at Round Top is scheduled for March 20th and 21st, 2020. The theme is "Going Native!" The cost of the Herbal Forum on Saturday is about \$80 with optional workshops on Friday. Many of us book accommodations at Festival Hill for Friday evening, the cost is about \$95 including continental breakfast (three people share a dorm room). We average about 18 people in our group.



Registration commences in January with details about speakers. I collect funds for overnight accommodations and coordinate room assignments. Participants must call or register on-line directly with Festival Hill for the Herbal Forum and the optional workshops. Of course, you can also drive down Saturday for the Herbal Forum. The plant sale held both Friday and Saturday is open to anyone (and more than just herbs).

Many of us bring a sack lunch for Friday noon so we can spend more time at the plant sale, workshops and touring the grounds at Festival Hill. Others choose to have lunch at Royer's Cafe (famous for their pies) and shop in downtown Round Top. Or you can squeeze in a little bit of everything.

We hold our traditional gourmet picnic on Friday evening (each person brings an herbal dish to share - for those who have not attended, this is really a sampling). There are no kitchen facilities, a refrigerator or stove. If you need refrigeration, you will have to use a cooler. For heating, we have used crock pots. And you are welcome to bring wine or your favorite beverage. Many of us walk to the Chapel for a movie after the picnic. We arrange carpools to the Herbal Forum. So far, we have about 16 MG's wanting to attend.

If you are interested in attending the Herbal Forum or have questions, please email me at kimberpringle@icloud.com (please note NEW email address) or call or text 254-421-2593. You are not committed, I just want to be certain to reserve enough rooms at Festival Hill.

BCMGA Membership Dues

Sherry Oermann

It's that time again to pay our yearly dues of \$25 to our fabulous organization. Our \$25 are due by the end of January. You can mail the check to the Extension Office, stop by and pay Scarlot, or pay Gail Christian or myself - Sherry Oermann on Wednesday ~ if we are in the office.

Thank you for all of your help and service to each other, our organization and to the community we serve!



Announcements...

Bell County Youth Fair 2020

Betty Nejtek

The upcoming Bell County Youth Fair will be held 02/01/20 – 02/08/20. As always, we appreciate all the help Master Gardeners provide to the Youth Fair every year. We will have a sign-up sheet at our January meeting and sign-up is available in VMS again this year.

We have all superintendents in place but will need volunteers. The primary dates we need assistance for FCS Division is the afternoon of Friday 01/31/20 - Thursday 02/06/20.

- Friday (1/31) – 3pm – 5pm move supplies from Extension Office to Expo
- Monday (02/03) -
 - ♦ 9am – 12pm – prep tables, put out signs, cover tables, etc.
 - ♦ 12pm – 6pm - assist with checking in entries
- Tuesday (02/04) - anytime 8am – 8pm - set up displays, fold score sheets, attach ribbons, etc.
- Wednesday (02/05) - anytime 9am – 8pm act as host to monitor exhibits/Country Store opens at 7pm
- Thursday (02/06) –
 - ♦ 9am – 3pm act as host to monitor exhibits
 - ♦ 3pm – 5pm assist taking down exhibits, prep for pick up
 - ♦ 5pm – 7pm – assist with check out

If you judged in past, the superintendents will be getting in touch with you. If you have never judged and are interested please let Betty Nejtek or Christy Reese know and we'll pass that along.

If you have any questions please let Betty or Christy know and Thank You for volunteering with the Bell County Youth Fair!

McLane Children's Hospital Project Coordinator Needed

Stacye Parry

We are looking for a new co-leader for the McLane Children's Hospital Garden beginning January 2020. The goal of this project is to ensure on-going beauty of seasonal garden pots for the enjoyment of children and their families while at the hospital. Primary responsibilities include a seasonal refresh of garden pots by selecting and purchasing plants, soil, fertilizer as needed. This is a good chance to practice your design skills! Co-leaders will schedule work days and bring BCMGA members together for planning and planting. Co-leaders will also schedule watering dates and arrange for volunteers to water. Linda Farmer, a regular at the garden, has agreed to serve as one of the co-leaders for the project but she needs your help.

This is an on-going project and is funded through the hospital foundation at \$300 per quarter. Supplies will be purchased from Lonesome Pine nursery in Temple. The McLane Children's Garden Project was originated by Frances Idoux (who has since passed) and has been led by Kathy Love for the last three years. If you are interested in seasonal planting, container gardening, or community beautification please consider taking a leadership role in this project. In the event that new leadership is not provided for this project, it may be necessary for the Board of Directors to discontinue our support of McLane Children's Garden.

Please contact me if you'd like more details about this project or would like to serve as the co-coordinator.

Announcements...

From the Ground Up – Connecting Agriculture and Health conference set for January 14, 2020 in Waco

Jackie McLaughlin, Bell County- Family and Community Health

The From the Ground Up – Connecting Agriculture and Health conference will be held in conjunction with the Blackland Income Growth Conference on Tuesday, January 14, 2020. The conference will be held at the Waco Convention Center located at 100 Washington Avenue in Waco and is sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

"Conference topics will relate to agriculture and health. The focus of the conference is to help those working in health related fields with information that will aid in connecting consumers to factual and reliable information so they can make informed decisions regarding health and nutrition for their families", said Jackie McLaughlin, County Extension Agent with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Bell County.

The conference will begin at 8:50 am (doors open at 8:30 am) and conclude at 4:00 pm. Cost for the conference is \$50 and \$25 for full-time students. Please pre-register by January 8, 2020. Pre-registration is available online at <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/GroundUp>. A catered luncheon is included in the registration.

Application has been made for 5 continuing education contact hours to the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. and 5 hours of clinical professional education to the Commission on Dietetic Registration. Teachers will be provided 5 hours of CPE credit and all others will be provided a certificate for 5 clock hours of education.

Topics and speakers include:

- Culinary Medicine: Using Mediterranean Diet Principles to Promote Healthy Eating and Improved Health Outcomes, Dr. Anne VanBeber, Professor, Texas Christian University
- Addressing the Food and Nutrition Needs of Our Growing Population, Dr. Daniel Hale, Associate Director for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
- More than Milk, Connecting the Dairy Farm with the Consumer, Joann Knox, Dairy MAX
- Texas Department of Agriculture Programs and Initiatives, Helenka Ostrum, Special Programs Specialist, Texas Department of Agriculture
- Technology in Present Day Farm Stewardship, Rodney Schronk, Schronk Agricultural Joint Venture, Shcronk Custom Ag LTD

For more information, visit the From the Ground Up – Connecting Agriculture and Health website at <http://agrilife.org/fromthegroundup/> or contact your County Extension Office at 254.933.5305.

Gardening in Central Texas - Hummingbirds

Carol Morisset



Mark your calendar for the next gardening class on Thursday, January 16th, 2020 to be held in the MG Learning Center building. The topic will be on Hummingbirds. More information to come in the January newsletter.

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. Seminars are free of charge, but a \$5 donation is accepted to cover costs.

Announcements...

January General Meeting

When: January 8th

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 temperature inside.

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

Program Presenter & Topic: TBD

Board of Director's Meeting

No Board of Director's Meeting in the month of December. The next board meeting will be January 22, 2020 in the class/meeting room of the AgriLife Building. Please submit your agenda items to Sylvia Maedgen, Recording Secretary by Friday, January 17th.

Grounds Workdays

Karen Colwick

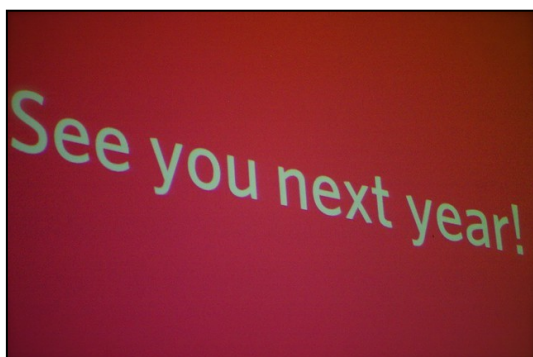
Here is the workday schedule for December.

December 4, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday

December 11, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday

December 18, 2019 8:00 a.m. Workday

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



Refreshments

Jane Van Praag

I am grateful to all the volunteers who helped provide such a variety of great edibles and drinkables each month of these last two years, and I am further thankful to Virginia Bargas who will take over the position of General Meeting Refreshments Coordinator for 2020-2021.

That's it, except one last expression of appreciation for all your cooperation and support. It's been a delightful way to get to know many of you better and thus to more fully enjoy your company!

Warmest best wishes (especially when it's so cold outside!)



A big 'thank you' to Daisy Klassy and Randy Brown for providing great pictures on a regular basis for the monthly newsletter.

Photos by Randy Brown & Terrie Hahn

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Advanced Training

Feb. 19-21	Vegetables Dallas
Apr. 17-19	Plant Propagation Fort Worth
May 5-7	Vegetables San Antonio
May 26-28	Texas Superstar San Antonio
Sep. 24-26	Rainwater Harvesting Fort Worth
Oct. 15-17	Greenhouse Management Fort Worth
Ongoing	Earth-Kind On-Line Master Gardener Training modules Go to - https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/

Upcoming Extension Events

Jan. 14-15	Blackland Income Growth Conf. Convention Center Waco
Jan. 21	Bell Co. Crops Conf. Bell Co. Expo Center Belton
Jan. 23	Professional Grounds Conf. Bell Co. Expo Center Belton
Jan. 14	From the Ground Up - Connecting Agriculture and Health Conf. Convention Center Waco
Jan. 31- Feb. 8	Bell County Youth Fair Bell Co. Expo Center Belton



Registration opening soon!!

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



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	2019
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**

Contributing Writers and Photographers:

Randy Brown	Glenn Melton
Karen Colwick	Ilene Miller
Jan George	Carol Morisset
Marjorie Gillmeister	Betty Nejtek
Daisy Klassy	Sherry Oermann
Kathy Love	Stacye Parry
Sylvia Maedgen	Kim Pringle
Jackie McLaughlin	Jane Van Praag

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, Google 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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