

The Blooming Bell



January 2020

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Carnation—Flower of the Month



Carnations grow in a variety of colors, but if you can't find the color you want, create it with dye!



January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3 Garden Prep/ Composting Pre- sented by Wayne Schirmer to Belton Horticultural Club	4
5	6	7	8 BCMGA General Membership Meeting New MG Class Orientation 1-5 Elvis' Birthday	9	10 Houseplant Appreciation Day 	11
12	13	14	15 *Work Day-8 am New MG Class Day 1	16 Gardening in Bell County - "Hummingbirds"	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday (observed)	21	22 *Work Day-8 am Board of Directors Meeting 8-12	23	24	25 National Seed Swap Day Deadline for Blooming Bell Submissions
26	27	28	29 Whistle Stop Clean Up	30	31	
*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
- ♦ Bell County Youth Fair, Feb. 1-8, Bell County Expo
- ♦ Mother Earth News Fair Feb 15-16
- ♦ Home & Garden Show Feb 22-23

Mark your calendar

- ♦ 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 Expo
- ♦ TMGA State Conference, May 12-14, Waco

Remember to record volunteer service hours and education hours each month. You may include travel time to meetings and work projects as service hours.

President's Corner

Glenn Melton



Here we are in a new year and hopefully everyone enjoyed a safe and joyous holiday season with friends and family. We experienced a lot of changes in our organization last year and 2020 will likely bring more of the same. We continue to improve our grounds, Learning Center, Greenhouse, and Demonstration beds, and look for ways to reduce the cost of doing business. Also, as of this writing we contributed more than 16,000 service hours and will likely achieve in excess of 17,000 by years end. This translates into a lot of citizens being helped and educated and demonstrates just how committed our members are to our Association. I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude for all your hard work and dedication. I have no doubt that 2020 will be even better.



We start our new class soon and I would like everyone to welcome our new students and make them feel at home. Please don't miss an opportunity to introduce yourself and offer any assistance they may need to feel part of our Association. We need to make sure our interns are not only welcome but encouraged to attend all events and functions if they can fit them into their busy schedules. This is a function our Class Mentors perform, (and perform well) but I'm sure they would not object to a little help from the rest of us.

As mentioned in previous articles, the BIG Conference in Waco offers an opportunity to earn education hours. I plan to attend the conference on Jan 14th and if anyone would like to carpool, just let me know and we can travel together. The Crops Conference will be held on Jan 21st, and the Professional Grounds Conference is on Jan 23rd; both at the Expo Center and several service hours may be earned.

I would like to once again remind everyone of the importance of entering all service and education hours in VMS. We are getting better at this, but one particular problem seems difficult to overcome. Education Hours. REMEMBER: When recording hours for an educational event, and you enter hours in the "Continuing Education" block, the "Apply to Project" block must contain the entry "Education Hours" from the drop-down menu. Please give this your full attention and make a serious effort to follow this procedure. It will help immensely when we compile the monthly report for the AgriLife office.

One last note. Starting in January all Board of Directors meetings will be held in the Learning Center. Starting Jan 15th, all new MG classes will also be held in the Learning Center. Hope to see you all there. --Glenn



What's Been Happening...

Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden

Randy Brown

Photos by Randy Brown and Gail Pierce

Many thanks to all who worked in the Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden in 2019. The Garden surpassed 4k in produce for the Killeen soup Kitchen, Friends in Crisis, Families in Crisis, Harker Heights Food Center and Senior Center Lunches. Master Gardeners were back in the Garden on Saturday, January 4, for the first workday in 2020.



Cabbage

What's Been Happening...

Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden... Jan 4, 2020

Randy Brown

Photos by Randy Brown and Gail Pierce



What's Been Happening...

Bell-Williamson County Pecan Show

Paul Carter

Photos by Virginia Bargas

The Pecan Show was held on Tuesday, Dec 17, at the BCMG Learning Center with entries from Bell and Williamson Counties.



Working alongside
our Williamson
County MG friends



What's Been Happening...

Bell-Williamson County Pecan Show Awards **Paul Carter**

Listed are the Pecan Show winners, including the variety of pecan, county, and their awards.

Variety	First Name	Last Name	County	Award	Champion
Jackson	Ronnie	Wells	Bell	1st Place	
Known Hybrids	R.H.	Schlieker	Bell	1st Place	
Known Hybrids	R.H.	Schlieker	Bell	2nd Place	
Mahan	Lisa	Zucknick	Williamson	1st Place	
Melrose	Lisa	Zucknick	Williamson	1st Place	Grand Champion
Other Varieties	George	Leifester	Bell	1st Place	
Podsednik	Lisa	Zucknick	Williamson	1st Place	
Podsednik	Gene	Martinka	Bell	2nd Place	
Shoshoni	Bobby & Wanda	Shelton	Williamson	1st Place	
Stuart	Ronnie	Wells	Bell	1st Place	
Stuart	R.H.	Schlieker	Bell	2nd Place	
Variety Seedlings	Jeff	Wiles	Williamson	1st Place	Reserve Champion
Variety Seedlings	Ronnie	Wells	Bell	2nd Place	
Variety Seedlings	Bobby & Wanda	Shelton	Williamson	3rd Place	
Cheyenne	Bobby & Wanda	Shelton	Williamson	1st Place	
Cheyenne	R.H.	Schlieker	Bell	2nd Place	
Cheyenne	Dennis & Marilyn	Perz	Williamson	3rd Place	
Choctaw	Lisa	Zucknick	Williamson	1st Place	
Choctaw	John	Benziger	Williamson	2nd Place	
Choctaw	Jeff	Wiles	Williamson	3rd Place	

What's Been Happening...

Bell-Williamson County Pecan Show Awards cont'd **Paul Carter**

Variety	First Name	Last Name	County	Award	Champion
Desirable	Carrol	Bachmayer	Williamson	1st Place	
Desirable	John	Benziger	Williamson	2nd Place	
Desirable	Lisa	Zucknick	Williamson	3rd Place	
Hopi	Bobby & Wanda	Shelton	Williamson	1st Place	
Kiowa	Dennis & Marilyn	Perz	Williamson	1st Place	
Mohawk	Bobby & Wanda	Shelton	Williamson	1st Place	
Mohawk	George	Leifester	Bell	2nd Place	
Nacono	R.H.	Schlieker	Bell	1st Place	Reserve Champion
Nacono	Robert	Kaderka	Williamson	2nd Place	
Ocone	R.H.	Schlieker	Bell	1st Place	
Pawnee	Ronnie	Wells	Bell	1st Place	
Pawnee	Don	Grobowsky	Bell	2nd Place	
Pawnee	Ronnie	Wells	Bell	3rd Place	
Sioux	Lisa	Zucknick	Williamson	1st Place	Grand Champion
Waco	R.H.	Schlieker	Bell	1st Place	
Natives	David	Patton	Williamson	1st Place	Grand Champion
Natives	Tommy	Owen	Bell	2nd Place	Reserve Champion

What's Been Happening...

Bell-Williamson County Pecan Show Pics

Photos by Virginia Bargas



What's Been Happening...

Preparing for the New Class—January 3, 2020

Photos by Virginia Bargas

After several weeks of planning, meeting, and discussing, the New Class Committee, led by Gary Slanga and Bernie Hurta, finalized preparations for the new Master Gardener Interns.



What's Been Happening...

Preparing for the New Class—January 3, 2020

Photos by Virginia Bargas



What's Been Happening...



Youth Committee Needs You!

There is something magical about watching things that you have planted grow, and to see the expressions on children's faces as they experience this magic for the first time is amazing!

Our past youth director, Marjorie, has done an awesome job, planting "seeds", literally and figuratively, in schools and organizations around the county, with great results. I hope to be able to continue those projects, as well as respond to the growing number of requests for additional programs. But to do that, I need your help!

We have projects for preschoolers through college age, so don't be intimidated if you cringe at the thought of working with a 4 year old..... maybe you'd like to be part of the exciting new Temple College Garden and Greenhouse project? Or if you prefer the younger ones, we work with elementary age kids at Montessori School of Temple, or 4 year olds at Meredith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy. We give presentations during Career Day at many of the local elementary schools, as well as Earth Day on Fort Hood. Or maybe you'd be interested in helping with activities for the Kids Zone at the Home and Garden Show, or our spring and fall plant sales..... the possibilities are endless, and the opportunity to share your love of gardening, healthy eating, and conserving our planet will reap great rewards..... these kids are the future!

If you are interested in serving on our new Youth Committee, please let me know. We will work together to plan activities, respond to requests for programs and projects, and we'll have fun doing it!

Thanks!

Janice Smith, Youth Director jmksmith5@gmail.com 409-771-0072

What's Been Happening...

Projects Update

Stacye Parry

Happy New Year, Master Gardeners!

As we closed out last year, we were looking for some volunteers to head up a few of our long-standing projects. I am happy to report that Linda Farmer and Nestor Centeno have stepped up to take over the McLanes Children's Hospital Healing Garden and Carol Morisset is taking over organizing our plant swap.

We still need someone to guide the seed saving group so if you are interested, please let me know. As we enter this new year, there will be many opportunities to participate in all kinds of different projects that utilize our expertise as Master Gardeners. Be sure and stop by the Projects Table at the monthly meeting to learn more about how you can get involved.

Thank You for Volunteering!

BCMGA Membership Dues

Sherry Oermann

A reminder that it's time to pay yearly dues of \$25 to BCMGA. Please pay by the end of January. You can mail the check to the Extension office, stop by and pay Scarlot, or pay Gail Christian or Sherry Oermann on Wednesday, if in the office. Thank you!

Good to Know...

Herb Study Class

Jane Van Praag

On February 5, Kathleen Lester will lead the herb study class on Quince.

On March 4, Betty Nejtek will lead the class on Mexican Herbs and Spices.

If you'd like to know more about a particular herb or herbs, please let Jane know at jivan-praag@sbcglobal.net. Herb study classes are held in the TX AgriLife Extension Office Classroom.



Garden Fundamentals: Steps to building a healthier soil....

<https://www.gardenfundamentals.com/preventing-nitrogen-deficiency-soil/>

Thanks to Wayne Schirner for this submission.

Do you have a Christmas Cactus, or is it really a Thanksgiving Cactus? Check out this link and you will find the answer.

<http://gardenprofessors.com/a-cactus-by-any-other-name-a-case-of-mistaken-holiday-cactus-identity/>

Very interesting reading submitted by Wayne Schirner. Thanks, Wayne!



Announcements...

25th Annual Herbal Forum at Festival Hill - Round Top

Kim Pringle

Just a quick note about the 25th Annual Herbal Forum to be held March 20th and 21st in Round Top since registration and payment commences in mid January. The cost of the Herbal Forum is about \$80 for Saturday sessions and \$94.92 per person for Friday overnight accommodations. Optional workshops on Friday are an additional cost. The plant sale is open to everyone. I will forward the program schedule when it is published.

The following have expressed an interest in attending the Herbal Forum.

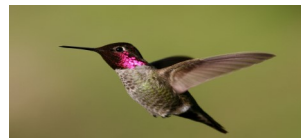
Joan Stanley, Connie Kuehl, Jane Van Praag, Jan George, Kathy Lovelace, Dorothy Thomas, Laura Ladd, Brenda Britton, Jeanne Richard, Carla Harmon, Brenda Albro, Kathleen Lester, Pam Dragoo. Virginia Bargas, Sylvia Maedgen, Tina Mazur, 2 guests and Kim Pringle.

If you are interested or have questions about the Herbal Forum, please [email kimberpringle@icloud.com](mailto:kimberpringle@icloud.com) or text 254-421-2593 or contact any of the others listed above.



Gardening in Bell County - Hummingbirds

Carol Morisset



We are kicking off our 2020 Gardening in Bell County evening classes with one of our 2018 Master gardener graduates, Juan Anaya, presenting 'Hummingbirds'. Juan is a very talented award winning photographer who has provided many of his pictures to our newsletter. The pictures are taken in his backyard where he has a hummingbird sanctuary. He will discuss plants for attracting, as well as how to care for, these birds and also butterflies. Juan is an active member of our Bell County Master Gardeners and helps with landscape, potting plants for plant sales at Wright's Nursery, etc.

Class will be held at Bell County Extension offices in Belton at the Master Gardener Learning Center, 1605 N. Main St., from 6:30 to 8pm on January 16th. Seminars are free of charge but the BCMGA will accept a \$5 donation. To register: bellspeakers76513@gmail.com or if you are a BCMG, on Volunteer Management System. Snacks will be provided and there will be a drawing for prizes.

Announcements...

January General Meeting

When: January 8, 2020

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 Topic & Presenters:
Vermiculture
Rebecca Caldwell and Terri Marceau

Board of Director's Meeting

The January Board of Director's Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 22 at 8 a.m. in the class/meeting room of the AgriLife Building. Please submit your agenda items to Sylvia Maedgen, Recording Secretary, by Friday, January 17.

Grounds Workdays

Karen Colwick

The workday schedule for January:

January 15, 2020 8:00 a.m.

January 22, 2020 8:00 a.m.



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



Refreshment Committee General Membership Meeting

Virginia Bargas

Sylvia Maedgen is the coordinator for the January refreshment committee. Those helping her are Gail Garner, Christy Reese, Sandra Mikesell, Ilene Miller, and Michael Miller.

February's refreshment coordinator is Jane Van Praag and the theme is Mardi Gras. Jane is assisted by Jo Carlsen, Carla Harmon, Kathleen Brown, Candice Morgan, and Virginia Bargas.

To volunteer for March, and any future meetings, please add your name to the calendar in VMS. You may also contact Virginia Bargas by phone at (512) 961-2680, or by email at bargasv@hotmail.com.

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	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. 31- Feb. 8	Bell County Youth Fair Bell Co. Expo Center Belton



Registration is open for the Texas Master Gardener State Conference hosted by the McLennan County Master Gardener Association in Waco.

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

Early Bird rate runs until January 20, 2020.



Directors

Communications	Teri Marceau	2020-2021
Facilities	Paul Carter & Karen Colwick	2019-2020
Membership	Sherry Oermann	2020-2021
KMCG	Edie Campbell	2019-2020
Outreach	Christy Reese & Carol Morisset	2019-2020
New Class	Gary Slanga	2019-2020
Projects	Barbara Ishikawa & Stacye Parry	2019-2020
Youth	Janice Smith	2020-2021

Executive Board

President	Glenn Melton	2019-2020
1 st Vice President	Jan Upchurch	2020-2021
2 nd Vice President	Bill Walker	2019-2020
Recording Secretary	Sylvia Maedgen	2020
Treasurer	Barbara Ishikawa	2020-2021

AgriLife Agent Lyle Zoeller

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Randy Brown	Jane Van Praag
Karen Colwick	Janice Smith
Jan Upchurch	Virginia Bargas
Glenn Melton	Gail Pierce
Carol Morisset	Sherry Oermann
Stacye Parry	Paul Carter
Kim Pringle	
Wayne Schirner	

Editor: Virginia Bargas

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, Dropbox, Google Photos, or in a zipped file. **Photos must be in the JPEG format.** Also, do not text your photos. *(If texting is preferred, please let me know.)* Email your documents and pictures to Virginia at bargasv@hotmail.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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