

# The Blooming Bell

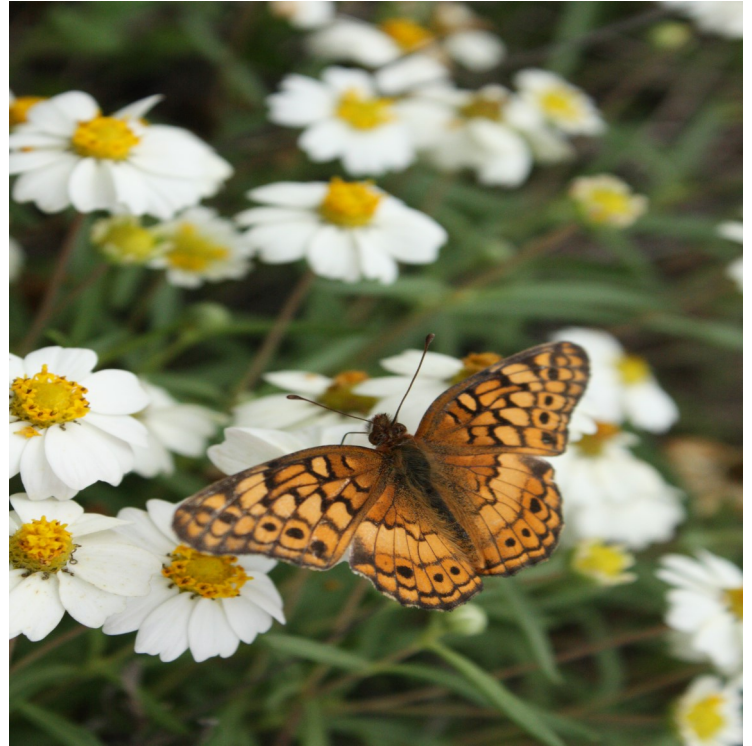
April 2020



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## Daisy Flower of the Month



Photos submitted by  
Daisy Klassy.



# April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 *Work Day-8 am  April Fool's Day!	2 National Burrito Day	3	4
5	6	7 National Beer Day 	8 Draw a Picture of a Bird Day 	9 Name Yourself Day	10 Good Friday	11
12 HAPPY EASTER	13 National Peach Cobbler Day!	14 Look Up At The Sky Day	15 *Work Day-8 am Rubber Eraser Day! And Yeah... Tax Day:-(	16 Nat'l High Five Day 	17 National Cheeseball Day 	18 Husband Appreciation Day 
19 National Garlic Day 	20 Volunteer Recognition Day  You Rock!!	21 San Jacinto Day	22 *Work Day-8 am Board of Directors Meeting via Telecon 9 AM Earth Day	23 National Zucchini Bread Day Yummy!!	24 Pig In A Blanket Day 	25 Deadline for Blooming Bell Submissions
26 Pretzel Day 	27	28	29 Whistle Stop Park Cleanup 7:15 AM	30 Hairstyle Appreciation Day (very fitting after no salons or barbershops for over a month)		

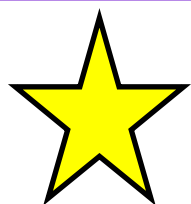
\*In the event of rain, there will be no Work Day.

For events planned this month, please see "What's Coming Up!", pages 32 to 35.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, please continue to practice social distancing and as much as possible STAY AT HOME! We will see you all soon.

### Mark your calendar!

- ◆ Progressive Herb Garden Tour, May 20
- ◆ Gardening in Bell County, May 21: Plants, Pests, & Diseases
- ◆ Herbal Smoothie Party, August 5



Remember to record volunteer service hours and education hours each month.



# President's Corner

Glenn Melton

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Many activities and functions for this month were postponed or canceled until further notice. We did participate in the Harker Heights Outdoor Expo and did hold our monthly General Membership Meeting. I thought we should address the subject that demands our attention daily. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten our way of life and has led to a new normal for all of us for the foreseeable future. Some actions that have been taken thus far will have a direct and immediate impact on everyone:

The Harris Community Center is closed until April 11<sup>th</sup>, and probably even longer.

The Help Desk is open at a reduced level until April 17th.

Other cancellations for April are: General Membership Meeting, Plant Swap, Spring Plant Sale, the Community Outreach evening class

The May 2020 State Conference in Waco is canceled

Monthly Board of Directors meetings will be held via Teleconference and include Board members only.

Gatherings involving more than 3 to 5 people are prohibited.

We continue working on a plan to ensure the 2020 MG interns graduate in May.

This rapidly evolving pandemic requires constant vigilance and demands a response from our government and local leaders on a daily basis. We must all do our part and exercise social distancing practices and be prepared for other similar, more stringent restrictions that might be put into place. We don't know how long we will be affected by this global virus, so we are asking everyone to be patient and take public isolation seriously. Continue monitoring local and national news outlets, newspapers, and social media daily to stay abreast of the most recent developments. We will send out emails through VMS as more information becomes available. Please check your email regularly.

We are asking everyone to remain calm, to adapt to this temporary new way of life, and remain watchful. With cooperation from everyone, open lines of communication, and by following established guidelines and restrictions, we will get through this together and come out stronger as a community. Thus far we have all done a fantastic job and I want to thank everyone for their understanding.

Stay well, stay safe and as always, call, text, or grab me when we meet if you have any questions or concerns that have not been addressed. ...Glenn

*Newsletter article from Wizzie Brown  
Extension Program Specialist- IPM  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service*

Mason bees, *Osmia* spp., are a group of native bees that are excellent pollinators. They are called mason bees because they use clay/ mud to make partitions and seal the entrance to their nest. Mason bees are also sometimes known as orchard bees since many of them are very good at pollinating fruit trees (apples, plums, peaches, pears) and emerge in early spring to do so. The blue orchard bee, *Osmia lignaria*, is so celebrated for its pollinating efficiency that it is used in managed agriculture.

Mason bees carry pollen on their bellies, unlike honey bees which pack pollen into pollen baskets found on their legs. Another big difference between these bees and honey bees is that mason bees are solitary and nest in holes. Mason bees are a bit smaller than honey bees and are usually black with a metallic colored (blue, green, etc.) abdomen.

Mason bees “nest” in holes, but “nest” is a misnomer as nursery is a more suitable term. Mason bees collect pollen and nectar and mix it to form bee bread. Bee bread is placed into a suitable hole, an egg is laid on it, then the section is sealed off with clay/ mud. The mason bee continues the process until the hole/ tube is filled with egg chambers and the tube is sealed off with more clay/ mud.

Eggs within nursery tubes hatch within a week and emerged larvae eat the pollen/nectar mixture (bee bread) for 4-6 weeks as they continue to grow and molt into the next instar. After the larval stage, they molt into pupae and remain in that stage for another 4-6 weeks. Once adults emerge from the pupal case, they remain in the tube until the following spring. Female eggs are laid further in the tube structure while males are in the outer sections of the tubes.

While mason bees only live 6-8 weeks in the spring, females can fill up 4-6 tubes and lay up to 36 eggs. Usually a limiting factor of having mason bees in the landscape is providing suitable nesting/ nursery sites and a supply of clay/ mud. Fortunately, there are a variety of ways to provide nesting/ nursery areas and clay/ mud for these pollinators. Many people go with a wooden nesting block, but this can be difficult to clean each season after bees emerge (if you don't clean the wood block then it can lead to fungal and disease problems).

To make a nesting block, drill 9/32 or 5/16 holes in a dry, untreated piece of wood. Holes can be up to 10 inches in depth (to produce females it typically requires depths of 6 inches or more) but should not go all the way through the wood. Other ideas for nesting/ nursery areas would be using any container that you want and filling with cardboard tubes, paper straws, bamboo sections, or hollow reeds. Nurseries made out of such materials allow for easy change out each year to avoid possible disease build up. Nesting/ nursery areas should be placed in sheltered locations (from rain & wind) in an area that gets morning sun.

If you choose to attract these pollinators, make sure to have early blooming plants in your landscape, an area where bees can collect clay/ mud for their nest/ nursery, and use IPM strategies for pest management to reduce pesticide usage.

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](http://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.

*The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Extension or the Texas A&M AgriLife Research is implied. The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal access in its programs, activities, education and employment, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity.*

## New Master Gardener Logo Merchandise



I am about to finalize the order for the new Master Gardener merchandise with the new logo. If any of you would like to submit an order, you can find the order form in VMS under the General Information section, Newsletter/Documents.

You will need to mail your check (payable to BCMGA) to my home address (below) as the Extension Office is closed to the public. I want to finalize the order by **Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup>**. Available merchandise includes the following:

- Caps-mesh - \$10
- Visors - \$10
- Aprons - \$14
- Tote bags - \$14
- T-shirts soft-style crew-neck - \$10 – S/M/L/XL; 2XL add \$1; 3XL add \$2; 4XL add \$3; 5XL add \$4
- T-shirts soft-style V-neck - \$12 – S/M/L/XL; 2XL add \$1; 3XL add \$2; 4XL add \$3; 5XL add \$4
- T-shirts w/pocket, Gilden Cotton - \$12 – S/M/L/XL; 2XL add \$1; 3XL add \$2; 4XL add \$3; 5XL add \$4
- Sweatshirts - \$15 – S/M/L/XL; 2XL add \$1; 3XL add \$2; 4XL add \$3; 5XL add \$4

Long/Short Sleeve Denim Shirt – Men or Women style - \$22; Men's sizes – XS-6XL; Women's sizes – XS-4XL

All new merchandise will be ordered in the royal blue color with the new logo in white print. We will need a minimum of 25 of each item to order that specific item (ex. 25 cap orders, 25 T-shirt orders, 25 apron orders, etc.)

Currently we have enough orders for the T-shirts and denim shirts only. All orders must be pre-paid. Make checks payable to BCMGA. Everyone must fill out an order form and turn in with your payment.

Thanks!

*Sylvia Maedgen*

*972 Bottoms East Road*

*Troy, TX 76579*

*254-624-6171*

# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden March 26, 2020**

Photos and reporting by Randy Brown

Randy Brown, Gail Pierce, David Slaughter, Glenn Melton, Edie Campbell tended to the Garden on March 26. Following the directive received from Lyle Zoeller, the 5 volunteers practiced social distancing.



# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden March 26, 2020...pg 2**

Photos by Randy Brown



# ***What's Been Happening...***

**Leap Day turned out to be a great day to do some clean-up at the Agrilife center.**

Photos by Victoria Ezagui



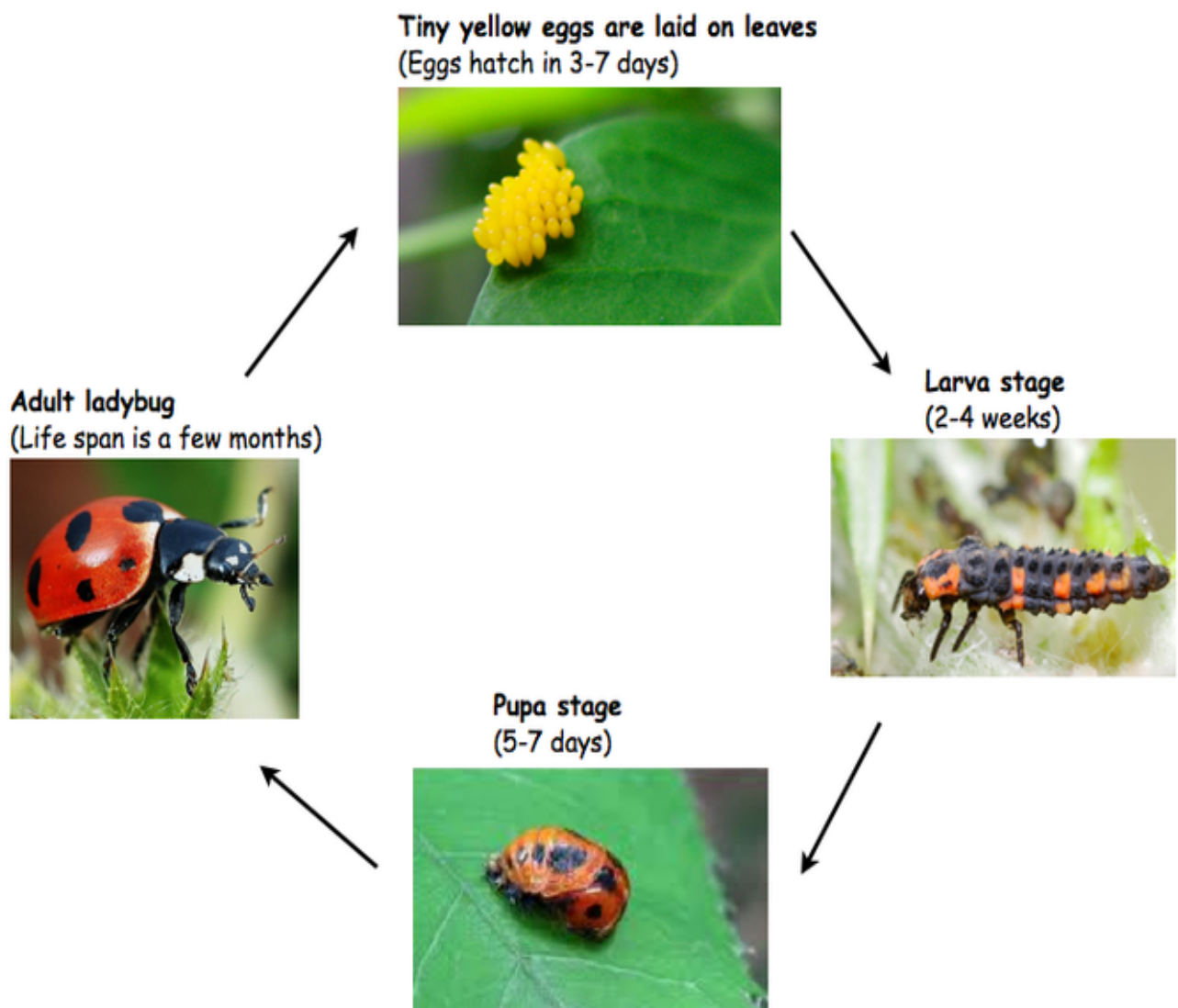


# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **Temple College Phi Theta Kappa Community Garden**

Article and photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

While we safely practice social distancing, my son and I visited the garden that is still reaping a harvest for the students in need. The garden has provided salvation and a place of sanctuary for individual students tending to the garden one day at a time. We witnessed lady bugs copulating, lady bug eggs on undersides of leaves and mulch, larva feeding on an abundance of aphids on dill plants as their food source. The cycle of life continues and the garden reminds us that life is precious and to appreciate the present moment.



# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **Temple College Phi Theta Kappa Community Garden**

photos by Marjorie Gillmeister



Lady Bug Eggs



# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **Temple College Phi Theta Kappa Community Garden**

Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister



**Wolfgang shares and plants chocolate cherry tomatoes he grew for the garden.**



# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **Temple College Phi Theta Kappa Community Garden**

photos by Marjorie Gillmeister



Calendula and Italian kale abundantly growing



Lady bugs copulating, larva congregate to feed on aphids

# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **Temple College Phi Theta Kappa Community Garden No-Dig Garden**

Article and photos by Marjorie Gillmeister



Reverse layer 5" of native wood mulch topped with 5" of mushroom compost

In the new beds for direct seeding we used the reverse layering method of 5" of native wood mulch, topped off with 5" of mushroom compost. My goal was to show the students how to direct seed on top of mushroom compost rather than native wood mulch. With the reverse layer, the moisture holding capacity and mycelium activity present in the mushroom compost would break down the native wood mulch below from above creating a rich humus soil over time.

I held a virtual class/ FaceTime to provide guidance with one student at a time since only one student is allowed at the garden in shifts. The students direct seeded and tended to the garden. After a few days later of direct seeding, radishes and beet seedlings began to emerge. We are waiting patiently for carrots, spinach and lettuce to grow as we are in a great need more than ever for fresh food to feed the home insecure students. I will continue to be of guidance with virtual classes/FaceTiming with students to assist the best way I can to keep their garden growing.



Reverse layer bed Radishes emerged

# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **Temple College Phi Theta Kappa Community Garden**

photo by Marjorie Gillmeister

Pictured is the pea row and trellis by Wayne Schirner growing and climbing steadily.



# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **Temple College Phi Theta Kappa Community Garden No-Dig Garden**

photos by Marjorie Gillmeister



Reverse layer bed Beets emerged



Garden is bountiful and beautiful.

# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **Eastern Bluebirds**

Article and photos by Juan Anaya

My resident blues have been working hard getting the nest just right.  
Four eggs as of February 27. Usually 4-6 eggs every year. Sometimes up to three broods.





# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **Makeshift Greenhouse**

Text and photos by Juan Anaya

"When your old greenhouse falls apart, it's time to improvise. I will use this water container to catch rainwater but for now it will serve as my greenhouse." -Juan



# ***What's Been Happening...***

**March 20, First Hummingbird of 2020**

Photo by Juan Anaya



# ***What's Been Happening...***

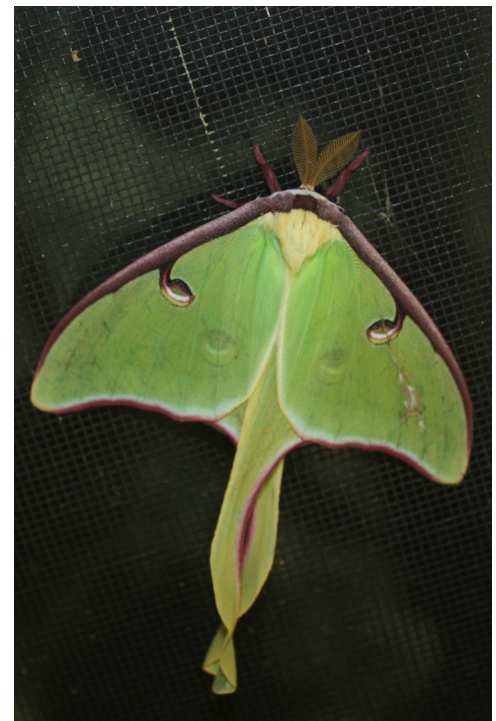
## **Luna Moth**

Article and photos by Daisy Klassy

The Luna Moth pictured below was spotted and photographed at Mother Neff State Park on Friday, March 27th.

The Luna moth (*Actias luna*) is a beautiful green moth with a very short life. Their adult stage only lasts between 7-10 days which is spent mating and laying eggs. Common hosts for the eggs are hickory, sweetgum, sumac, persimmon and others.

The caterpillars hatch out after 1-2 weeks. They then go through five instars, or molts, each one lasting between 4-10 days. By the time the last molt is completed, the caterpillars will have lived 6-7 weeks in this stage. It then goes into a cocoon. Interestingly, the cocoon is spun among the leaves of the host plant but is not anchored to a twig, falling to the ground in the autumn with the leaves. The caterpillar stays in the cocoon for about 3 weeks before emerging in its adult form.



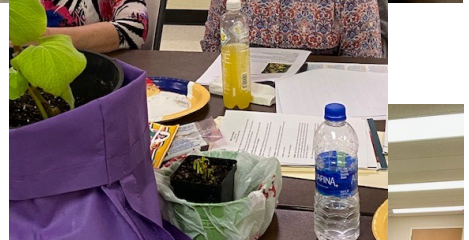
# What's Been Happening...

## Herb Study....March 4, 2020

Each month a different herb, or herbs, is studied by the group and discussion is led by a member. I attended my first herb study and learned that each attendee, who has done their "homework" by researching the herb(s) in advance, shares their information with the group. In this way, everyone learns from each other. Betty Nejteck led the group in the discussion of Mexican Mint Marigold, Epazote, Hoja Santo, and Mexican Oregano. I did not do my "homework" for this meeting, but I will next time!

Members bring foods made with herbs to the meetings for everyone to try. At this meeting, I tried homemade crackers with dill dip, Cornmeal Rosemary Cake with Pine Nuts and Orange Glaze, and an herb infused popcorn. Everything was so delicious! There was more, but it was also Burger Wednesday! I hope you enjoy the meeting pics posted on this page. Sadly, there will not be a meeting in April, but we hope to be back in May (or June)! :-)

\*Virginia



# What's Been Happening...



## Burger Wednesday March 4, 2020

What goes best with a fresh, tasty burger after working on the grounds, attending Herb Study, or just because? The sides, desserts, and time with friends!!



# ***What's Been Happening...***

## **General Membership Meeting March 11, 2020**

Article and photo provided by Jan Upchurch

Mike Shoup of The Antique Rose Emporium presented an informative program on "All Things Roses" at the March 11 General Membership Meeting. Antique Rose Emporium has an active partnership with TAMU for both research and breeding programs.



In 1984, Mike Shoup opened the Antique Rose Emporium. Since then, his work has been recognized in the *Smithsonian* and *National Geographic* magazines and in many trade journals. He has written *Empress in the Garden*, *Roses in the Southern Garden*, and co-authored *Landscaping with Antique Roses*, with Liz Drutt.

In addition, three of the seven roses that have won American Garden Rose Selection honors for 2020 were introduced by the Antique Rose Emporium, including two that were bred by Mike Shoup. This is a coup for the small, family-run business. The other four winners were introduced by major corporation Star Roses.

Shoup anticipates even more roses with the ones Andrew Barocco (Emporium's Director of Breeding) is developing now in the greenhouse.

For more information:

- Go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)
- Enter The Antique Rose Emporium (Mike Shoup) in the search box.
- Click on the photo of the Rose Emporium and listen to Mike talk about exciting new developments in the world of roses.

# What's Been Happening...

## Inside the General Membership Meeting March 11, 2020

Photos by Randy Brown/Virginia Bargas



The theme for refreshments was "Saint Patrick's Day, All Things Green". The refreshment team was led by Susan Terry.

The team, pictured l-r included Jack McSpedon, Elaine McSpedon, Susan Terry, Gail Christian, Candy Morgan, Kathy Lester, Jamie Allen, and Gail Koontz. Not pictured is Christy Reese.

These fine folks supplied the membership with a variety of "green" and Irish themed foods, and even green lemonade!

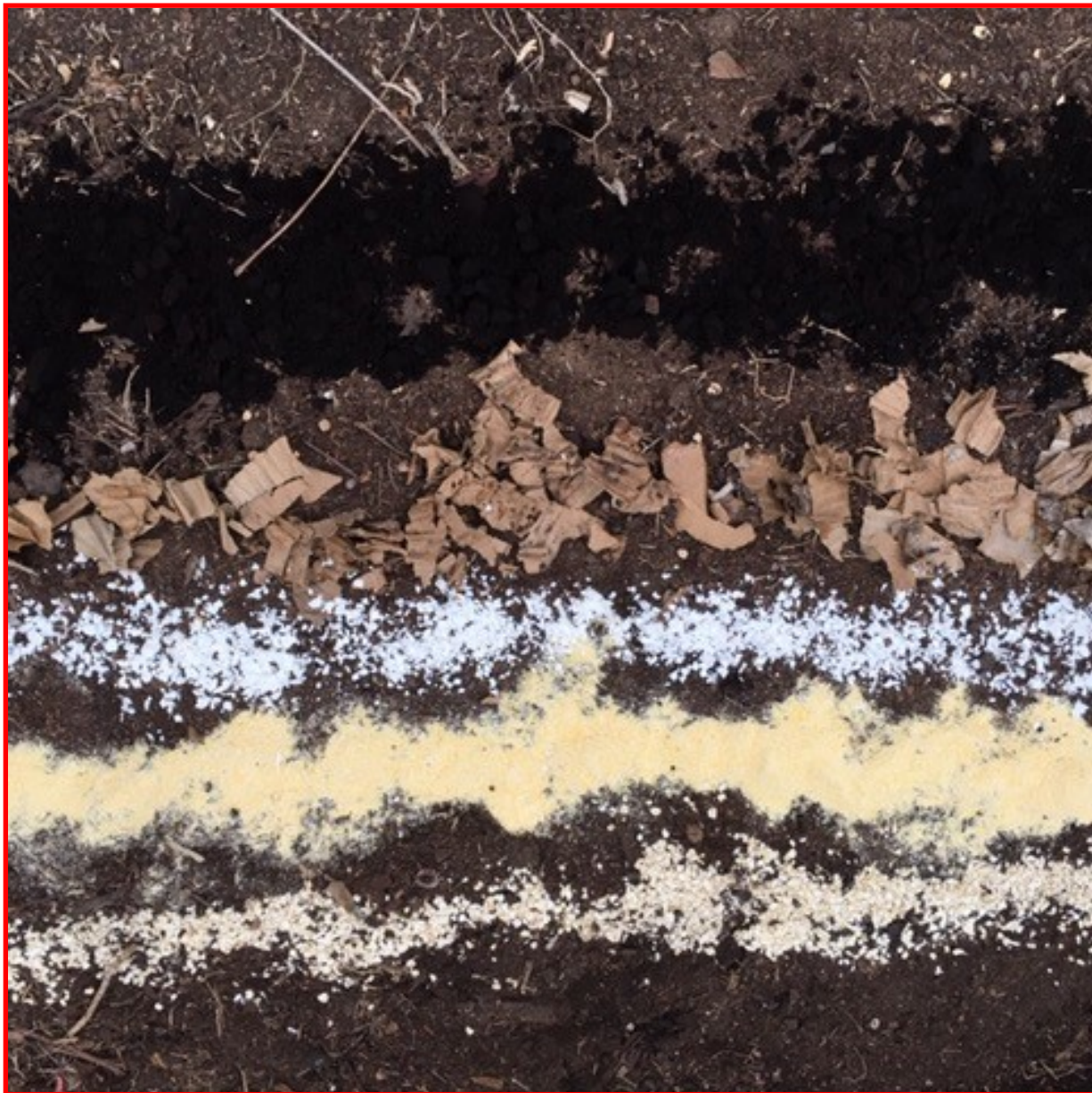
# ***Sharing is Caring...***

## **Earthworm Chow**

"Feed the earthworms prior to planting and they'll leave plenty of castings to fertilize plants without chemicals." Crystal Fisher

**Pictured below is Crystal's "recipe":** Whole oatmeal    Cornmeal    Crushed eggshells  
Shredded cardboard    Used coffee grounds

photo by Crystal Fisher

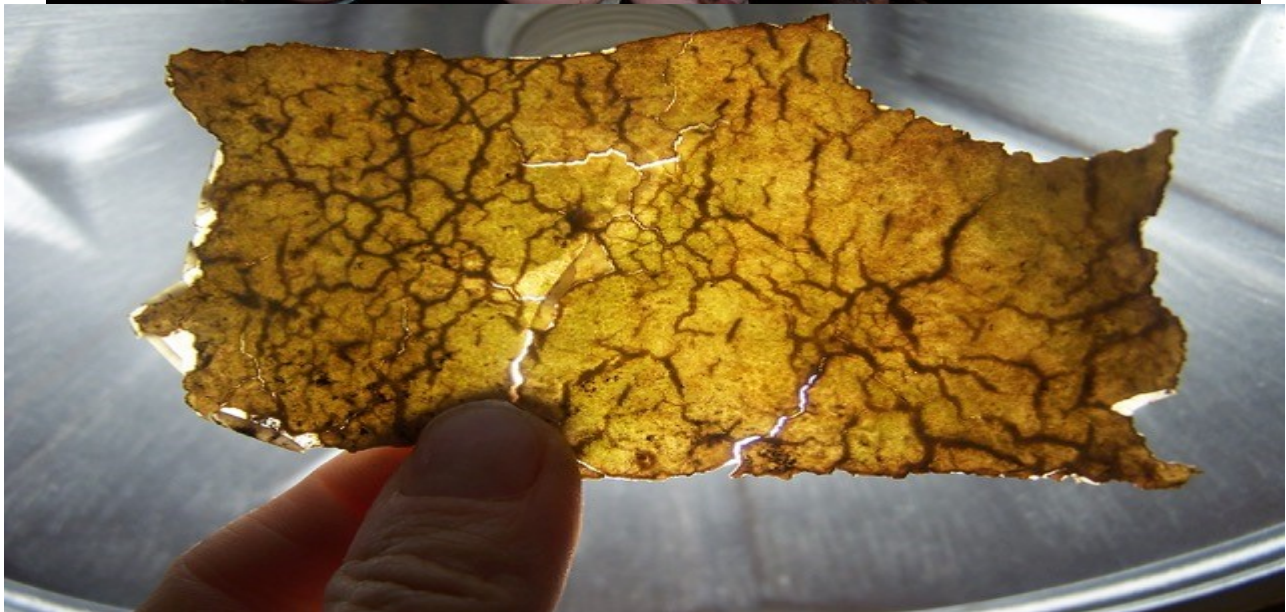




# ***Sharing is Caring...***

## **Worms LOVE Watermelon!!**

Photos of her worms feeding on watermelon—by Crystal Fisher



# ***Sharing is Caring...***

Submitted by Wayne Schirner, from [tinybuddha.com](http://tinybuddha.com), author unknown.

Your mind  
is a garden.  
Your thoughts  
are the seeds.  
You can  
grow flowers  
or you can  
grow weeds.



# ***Links of Interest...***

## **Blossom End Rot**

**by Wayne Schirner**

This is the time of year for growing tomatoes, and many gardeners have blossom end rot (BER) so they are looking for ways to prevent it. If you do a search on the internet for BER, you will find many treatments claiming to work.

Many sites claim that the soil is deficient in calcium, so adding egg shells to your planting hole will help. Both of these claims are wrong. It is very unusual for the soil in a home garden to have a calcium deficiency, so unless a soil test reveals a calcium deficiency, adding calcium in any form will do no good. If you do have a calcium deficiency, adding egg shells is a poor way to add calcium to the soil.

Even if you pulverize egg shells in a blender before putting it in your soil, it will still take a long time for the microorganisms in the soil to break down the egg shells to a form of calcium that can be used by the plant. I suspect that many people who put egg shells in their garden (or compost) don't bother to pulverize the shells. An ongoing 6-year study looking at how quickly egg shells break down in soil reveals that after 3 years buried in soil, the egg shells are still pretty much unchanged.

Many sites also claim that adding Epsom salts to the planting hole will reduce BER. Epsom salts is magnesium sulfate. There isn't anything else in it. It is unusual for the soil in a home garden to be deficient in either of these nutrients, and even more unusual to be deficient in both. Unless a soil test reveals a deficiency in both, adding Epsom salts will do no good, and can do harm. BER is related to how calcium is taken up from the soil and transported to the fruit. Magnesium can actually interfere with that process, so adding more makes no sense at all.

As Master Gardeners, our mission is to provide research based horticultural information to those we educate. The following links will give you more information to help you in that endeavor. Happy reading.

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

<https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/download/sample/3568>

<https://www.gardenmyths.com/eggshells-decomposition-study/>

<https://www.gardenmyths.com/eggshells-do-they-decompose-in-the-garden/>

# ***Internship...A View from Inside***



**Victoria Ezagui**  
**MG Intern**

## **The Continuing Journey of a Late Bloomer**

1 of 2

Well, here we are in March and social distancing for a while. It seems longer because of Spring Break on the 11th and as interns we stay busy between classroom instruction, homework, and volunteering and that is at a standstill for now.

Our last class, actually a lab, on propagation on March 4th was so much fun. All my seeds have come up and my Roma tomato, planted in an egg shell has been put into my garden. The last time any of us met in a group setting was on March 11th, when we had a work day. Finally a Wednesday when it wasn't raining! Several people were there working on their demo beds, interns and Master Gardeners alike.

One of our interns, Sal Alcasey, states gardening is a hobby. Sal however has taken his hobby to a whole new level. He had crops growing at home back in January. Sal's bed is #8, and he was planning to grow tomatoes, green peppers, and onions when he was in the early stages of planning.

Demo bed #8 time line: 2/26- bed had some onions and other plants from last year. 3/4- bed had been cleaned-up and ready for planting. 3/11- onions and celery planted.

**February 26**



**March 11**



**March 4<sup>th</sup>**



(photos by Victoria Ezagui)

# ***Internship...A View from Inside***



**Victoria Ezagui**  
**MG Intern**

## **The Continuing Journey of a Late Bloomer— 2 of 2**

**Photo by Sylvia Maedgen**

The second demo bed (#9), was originally started by Rebekah Lackey and Bill Kean but because this has become such a big project, three more Gardeners have come on board. They are Ruth Watkins, Crystal Mears, and Daisy Klassy who has been a Master Gardener since 2015.

They are working on an edible flower bed with the colors yellow and purple. Half of the bed will be amended soil (compost) and the other half is unamended. In the center will be a rose bush, hopefully yellow and then it will be surrounded by squash plants. They have done extensive research on types of edible flowers and their use and found some common ones that we wouldn't think we could eat. They are also documenting their progress with pictures and research. So we can look forward to hearing much more about this project.

Demo bed #9 Timeline: 2/26- The bed before any work was done. 3/04- The bed cleaned up, soil amended and ready for plants. 3/11- Some plants put in and the pot for the rose bush in the center.

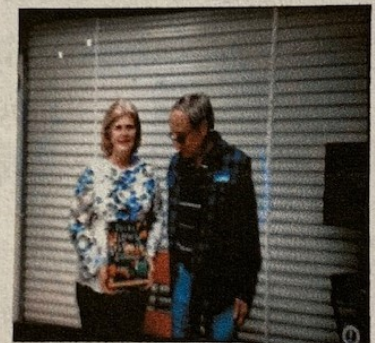
(photos by Victoria Ezagui)



**Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>**



**March 11<sup>th</sup>**



**Rebekah & Bill**

We're not sure what the future holds but I know as Master Gardeners we are hopeful, just like when seeds are planted, we anticipate good things to emerge. I've already put some plants in my vegetable and flower gardens and seeds are sprouting out every day. It is after all Spring, and nothing can prevent that!

Keep planting. Stay positive!

# Visiting Neighbors



**Dave Slaughter**  
MG Intern

1 of 2  
photo by Sylvia Maedgen

Most of us moved to the country, not because we're hermits or wanted to become a recluse, but to create a little space between ourselves and our neighbors, so we can enjoy nature and her many offerings. In contrast to the typical neighborhood setting of cookie-cutter houses, perfectly square lots and treeless front yards. Not to mention, rows of wooden fences, with missing slats and a never-ending supply of inflatable pools, overflowing with green slimy water and home to Armies of mosquitoes. Yes, we moved to the country to avoid the cul-de-sac drama and most importantly, to get away from the perpetual tool borrower and the other neighbor who likes to pop over unannounced and uninvited, sharing unsolicited news.

In the country, we prefer to see and greet our neighbors with a wave and nod, as we pass by in opposing vehicles. Nonetheless, we are always there for each other, although separated by trees, we stand ready to help, whether it's corralling a wayward calf or caging a harmless rat snake in the corner of the garage. True, if we need to borrow a cup of sugar we can't hand it across an open window on a shared side-yard, in the shadow of our neighbor's roof line. However, we can peacefully go for a scenic and serene walk, listening to the birds singing and anoles rustling through the leaves, to borrow our cup of sugar.

To my surprise, we have an annoying neighbor in the country, as well. But now, our neighbor walks with four legs and only visits at night; our new neighbor doesn't visit to gossip, but to rummage through our yard and garden looking for late night snacks. Our new country neighbor, the official small mammal of Texas, routinely has turned our yard into his or her private grocery store, exploring every corner, like they are trolling the isles of a Megastore, looking for that special snack to satisfy an evening hunger.



Some mornings, our yard looks like a NASA Moon photo, littered with miniature craters across the entire expanse of our yard.

About my definition of a yard, an actual description is remnants of St Augustine, slowly being crowded-out by common Bermuda grass with bonus patches of dandelion, chickweed and henbit, filling in the gaps.

Lots of clover too, for the occasional cottontail passing through the neighborhood, looking for a quick snack.

photo by Dave Slaughter

# Visiting Neighbors



**Dave Slaughter**  
MG Intern

2 of 2

I must admit, I admire our new neighbor and their tenacity to dig in our caliche soil. According to the experts their cone-shaped divots can reach depths of 4-6 inches, looking for little creatures to become their next tasty snack. Their divots are a remarkable feat, since I can barely penetrate a shovel in the ground two inches, before hitting rock.

Maybe our new neighbor has rock-radar or just knows the best places to dig. A couple of summers ago, in early August, we had four soft-shelled juvenile armadillos patrolling our yard during the late afternoon. Mom was probably still asleep, avoiding the heat of daylight, so the youngsters decided to have their own adventure. They may have been young, but they were well trained in the art of digging their infamous cone-shaped holes looking for a late afternoon snack. The little marauders made our yard look like the ninth fairway, on the fourth day of the U.S. Open, right in front of us, as we stood by in amazement.

Over the years my opinion has evolved towards our four-legged neighbors. I have come to admire their tenacity and determination to sustain their existence. True, they do arrive unannounced and uninvited, and can make a yard look like a moonscape, but they serve as the perfect early warning system for other probable problems. I look at Armadillos as my own personal grub and other subterranean creature detector for the yard, much like a smoke detector is an early warning device for the house. Though their methods can be somewhat destructive to plants and vegetables, they do help control bugs and many other creatures roaming above and below the soil.

Just like the gold miners of centuries past, Armadillos are blindly probing and exploring looking and hoping to find grub gold. Digging their cone-shaped pits hoping to find groceries to sustain themselves for another day. Although I have accepted their barrage of the yard, the garden is a different story.

My only complaint is when they dig in the garden, they fail to notice where the vegetables are planted, and they can uproot an entire row of beans in one evening. We know they have poor eyesight, but I question their navigation skills, as well. If I could teach them to stay between the rows in the garden, we could live in total and perfect harmony.



# ***What's Coming Up!***

## **"Watering Pots"**

### **Baylor Scott & White McLane Children's Hospital Healing Garden**

1901 HK Dodgen Loop, Temple TX 76504

**Project Coordinators: Linda Farmer** (254) 913-0043 [linda\\_frmr@yahoo.com](mailto:linda_frmr@yahoo.com)

**Nestor Centeno** (254) 771-1330 [ncenteno0416@gmail.com](mailto:ncenteno0416@gmail.com)

Volunteers are needed to water BCMGA planted pots at the Children's Hospital Healing Garden. This is not needed daily, however the calendar indicates every day in order to allow as much flexibility to members as possible. Before watering, please check the pots to be sure water is needed to avoid over watering.

The hours for this event are set at 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. but summer hours can start as early as 7:00 a.m. or daylight. You will need to present your photo ID at the lobby desk to gain access to the garden.

If you are a new volunteer, contact Linda Farmer or Nestor Centeno and they will arrange for an experienced volunteer to meet you and show you around. You can also spend time dead-heading garden plants as well as the potted plants and doing any clean-up you identify as needed.

If you note a serious concern, e.g. dead, dying or damaged plants, pots, etc., please notify Linda or Nestor ASAP.

**Maintain Social Distancing! Check with project coordinator for pre-approval.**

**CANCELLED**

### **Community Outreach: Edible Flowers—Thursday April 2, 2020**

Pat Johnson will present Edible Flowers to Temple Garden Club

This is a scheduled event through the City of Temple.

A \$5 donation is expected to register. Call the center to sign up.

For information, contact Carol Morisset (254) 931-1661

**CANCELLED**

### **Community Outreach: Plant Diseases—Friday April 3, 2020**

1:30 to 2:30 PM— Bell County Extension Office Classroom

Carol Morisset and Christie Reese will present "Diseases of Plants" to members of the Belton Horticulture Society.



# ***What's Coming Up!***

**CANCELLED**

## **Speakers Bureau: Butterfly Pollination**

Wednesday, April 8, 2020 — 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM  
City Federated Bldg.  
219 King Circle, Temple, TX 76501

**Coordinator: Candy Morgan**

**Speaker: Mary Ann Everett**

Mary Ann will present butterfly pollination to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

## **Plant Swap**

**CANCELLED**

Carol Morisset is organizing our plant swap which will take place on April 8 from 8:15 to 9:15 am at the BCMG Learning Center before the General Membership Meeting.

6 volunteers are needed to be there early and prepare signs and tables for plants, etc.

The swap includes bulbs, seeds, trees, cuttings, etc., whatever you want to share.

Start getting your plants ready early! Mark all containers with names of plants and if rooted or not.

The general rule is to take the same number that you bring to the swap.

## **Grounds Workdays**

AgriLife Extension Center

Project Coordinators: Karen Colwick (254) 913-4459

Paul Carter (254) 247-4855

3 to 5 volunteers may participate at one time and all must maintain a minimum distance of 6 feet from each other during this time of social distancing. Please contact either Karen or Paul if you have any questions. Please use VMS to volunteer or contact Karen or Paul. Please do not show up to work without letting them know in advance.

**Thank you for helping to maintain the grounds!**

# What's Coming Up!

CANCELLED

**Bell County Master Gardener's**  
 **SPRING PLANT SALE**  
**Sat., April 11th**  
**8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
Bell County EXPO Center  
301 W. Loop 121, Belton  
254-933-5304 ~ [bell.mg@agnet.tamu.edu](mailto:bell.mg@agnet.tamu.edu)  
<https://txmg.org/bell> 

CANCELLED

## Annual Spring Plant Sale ...Bell County EXPO Center Saturday April 11, 8:00 to 1:00 PM

**Coordinator Christy Reese:** (214) 796-0116; [hotmixworld@yahoo.com](mailto:hotmixworld@yahoo.com)

80 Volunteers are needed. Please sign up in VMS.



**Friday, April 10, 7:00 to 9:00AM:** Help is needed to set up for Plant Sale—Move items to EXPO



**Friday, April 10, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM:** Help is needed to assist with Plant Sale set up and delivery of plants.

# ***What's Coming Up!***

**CANCELLED**

## **April 16 Gardening in Bell County Spring Gardening**

**Carol Morisset**

Jerry Lewis and Bob Gordon will present Spring Vegetable Gardening with an emphasis on tomatoes.

Please preregister so that we can plan for ample supplies at [bellspeakers76513@gmail.com](mailto:bellspeakers76513@gmail.com) or if you are a Master Gardener, you may register on the Volunteer Management System.

The class will be held in the BCMGA Learning Center and is free of charge. The BCMGA will accept a \$5 donation to help offset costs.

**CANCELLED**

## **Earth Day at Fort Hood**

**Friday, April 17, 2020 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

Contact Janice Smith, Event Coordinator, (409) 771-0072 [jmksmith5@gmail.com](mailto:jmksmith5@gmail.com) for information.

Students will rotate through 2 different events, one on water bottle recycling and one on water conservation. **6 Volunteers are needed to help with these sessions.**

**CANCELLED**

## **Whistle Stop Park Cleanup**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2020 7:15 AM to 8:00 AM**

104 North Ninth St, Temple

Contact Kathy Patterson, Event Coordinator, (254) 931-1661, [karupatterson@gmail.com](mailto:karupatterson@gmail.com), for information.

Bring gloves, a bucket to collect trash, and a handy dandy "grabber" to pick up trash, if you choose to use one. After clean up is done, join the group for breakfast!

# ***What's Growin'?***

"While waiting for the hummers to arrive, a Hummingbird Moth showed up - dining on the salvia in the hellstrip. What a delightful surprise. Up till now the idea of a moth of any kind in my yard wasn't appealing. But, how could I miss this one. He's definitely welcomed back... anytime."

-Crystal Fisher



# What's Growin'?



**Jason Johnson**  
MG Intern

## Pics from Jason's Garden

1 of 2

photos by Jason Johnson



# What's Growin'?



**Jason Johnson**  
MG Intern

## Pics from Jason's Garden

2 of 2

photos by Jason Johnson



# What's Growin'?

## Eleagnus with Fruit

Text and photos by Crystal Fisher

"I picked all I could find and are them all myself. Next year, I will feed it a good all around fertilizer back in winter."



## First Poppy Bloom and Composting in Place



"Intent was to compost in place and save a lot of footsteps. All this will be turned over: greens with browns along with other amendments in preparation for planting." Crystal

# What's Growin'?

## Pics Submitted by Dave Slaughter

Photos taken at Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.



Zoom in and look in corner to rt. of plant: Great horned owl sitting on a nest with three eggs at entrance.



Bluebonnets with bees



3/23/2020:  
First Monarch of the season on Dave's property in Killeen.



# ***Announcements...***

## **April General Meeting**

**When:** April 8, 2020 **CANCELLED**

**Where:** Harris Community Center  
401 Alexander St, Belton

You may park either south or east of the building and enter from either direction. Please use the eastern entry to help maintain a comfortable temperature inside.

**Time:** Social starts at 9:30 am  
Program starts at 10:00  
Business meeting follows

**Program Topic:**

**Presenter:**

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

The April Board of Directors Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 22 at 9 a.m. via tele-conference. Board Members only.**

Please submit your agenda items to Sylvia Maedgen, Recording Secretary, by **Friday, April 17.**

## **Grounds Work Days**

**Karen Colwick and Paul Carter**

The work day schedule for April:

April 1, 2020 8:00 a.m.

April 15, 2020 8:00 a.m.

April 22, 2020 8:00 a.m.



In the event of rain, there will be no work day.

## **Refreshment Committee General Membership Meeting**

May's refreshment coordinator is Jo Carlsen and the theme is "May Day, What a Wonderful Day!" Jo is assisted by Walt Schneider. 5 additional volunteers are needed.



To volunteer for 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@hot.rr.com](mailto:bargasv@hot.rr.com).

# Upcoming Events

## Advanced Training

May 5-7	Vegetables	San Antonio
May 26-28	Texas Superstars	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	<a href="https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/">https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/</a>

## Extension Events



There are no upcoming Bell County Extension events at this time.  
Stay tuned!



### Directors

Communications	Teri Marceau	2020-2021
Facilities	Paul Carter & Karen Colwick	2019-2020
Membership	Sherry Oermann	2020-2021
KMCCG	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 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Jan Upchurch	2020-2021
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Bill Walker	2019-2020
Recording Secretary	Sylvia Maedgen	2020
Treasurer	Barbara Ishikawa	2020-2021

**AgriLife Agent Lyle Zoeller**

### Contributing Writers and Photographers:

Glenn Melton	Crystal Fisher
Randy Brown	Marjorie Gillmeister
Jan Upchurch	Jason Johnson
Wizzie Brown	Dave Slaughter
Virginia Bargas	Wayne Schirner
Victoria Ezagui	Daisy Klassy
Sylvia Maedgen	Juana Anaya

### Editor: Virginia Bargas

Please submit articles of less than 500 words 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.** Do not text your photos. *(If texting is preferred, please let me know in advance.)* Email your documents and pictures to Virginia at [bargasv@hotmail.com](mailto:bargasv@hotmail.com).

*Please do not send PDF documents.*

### BCMGA Webmaster

Rachel Glass - [glass.rachel@gmail.com](mailto: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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