

The Blooming Bell

May 2020



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Photo submitted by Claudette Hawkins

Meet Floyd, Fr. John Guzaldo's English Bulldog, in the bluebonnets at St. Luke's Catholic Church, Temple.



photo by Edie Campbell



photo by Jamie Allen

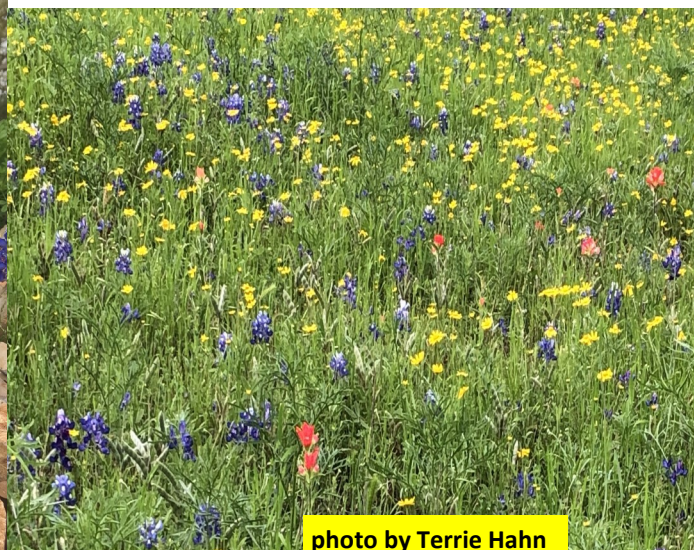



photo by Terrie Hahn

MAY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 May Day	2 Herb Day
3 Garden Meditation Day	4	5 CINCO de MAYO	6 *Work Day-8 am	7	8 Iris Day	9
10  Mothers Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 *Work Day-8 am	21	22	23
24	25 Memori- al Day	26	27 *Work Day-8 am Board of Directors Meeting via Telecon 9 AM	28	29 Learn About Composting Day	30

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

For events planned this month, please see "What's Coming Up!", page 22.

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 and we will keep you updated as time goes by!

- ♦ Herbal Smoothie Party, August 5



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



President's Corner

Glenn Melton



April is behind us now and it looks like we all are doing OK despite the pandemic. I hope everyone is doing well, staying safe, and taking care of yourselves and loved ones. Hopefully, May will bring us some relief with relaxed restrictions on "shelter-in-place" and maybe more interaction with the public. Please continue to monitor developments in the news, newspaper, and other media. I will send out updates as they become available.

Many of us are concerned about earning our required educational and service hours to maintain certification. Recently I sent out several emails announcing educational opportunities and will continue to do so as more become available. Please check your email daily and take advantage of these on-line events. Service hours present a bigger challenge due to current restrictions, but there are some opportunities. Work can still be done at the Extension Office area by maintaining the landscape beds and working in the Demo beds. Participation at the Killeen Municipal Court Garden is restricted to 5 members at a time so you will need to contact Edie Campbell to sign up for work at the garden. Also, work at the Whistle Stop Park in Temple comes to mind but you should contact them before performing any work there. And you can contact Kathy Love, Teri Marceau, or me to help with answering questions received at the Help Desk from the public.

Last month the monthly Board of Directors meeting was held on-line, and it seems likely we will continue this for a few months at least. We are using "GoToMeeting" for videoconferencing and it seems to work quite well. Everyone is invited to "attend" these meetings and I will send out a link that allows members to monitor, but not actively participate, via phone. Also, I will send out an email to all members requesting input, questions, or concerns you would like the Board of Directors to address. Please contact me if you do not receive my emails. We will not hold a General Membership meeting in May, and it is not known when the Harris Center will reopen for these events. We will let you know as soon as we get an update from their staff. And, we will soon conduct other business meetings using the "GoToMeeting" program, which will enable us to complete important, pressing business matters and keep everyone up to date on Association activities.

Lastly, even though it is just May, do not forget that we have elections coming up at the end of the year. Please keep in mind potential candidates for the various positions, including President, 2nd VP, Recording Secretary, and Outreach Director, among others.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during these unprecedented times. Take care of yourselves and loved ones.

Glenn

Crape Myrtle Bark Scale

Crape myrtles are a popular landscape tree in parts of Texas, prized for their beauty. While this tree has been relatively maintenance free for years, that is no longer the case now that crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS) has been found in Texas.

Crape myrtle bark scales are small, wingless insects, pinkish in color and covered with a white, velvety covering. When you look at the bark of an infested tree, look for round to oval shaped white velvety insects. If you puncture one with a toothpick, it will exude a pink substance.

When inspecting crape myrtles for CMBS, look along trunks, limbs, as well as smaller twigs and branches found towards the top of the tree. You'll want to look for scale insects and sooty mold. Sooty mold is a black colored fungus that grows on honeydew; honeydew is an excretion from scale insects (and other small, soft-bodied insects such as aphids and mealybugs).

Heavily infested crape myrtles have CMBS that produce copious amounts of honeydew on the tree and surrounding area which leads to growth of sooty mold, turning landscape plants black. Infested crape myrtles produce fewer and smaller blooms which may be difficult to tell unless you have an uninfested tree to compare.

Only male crape myrtle bark scales fly. Others are dispersed by wind, birds, other insects, or landscape maintenance equipment to nearby areas. Long-distance transport occurs via infested material. Once CMBS are in an area, they can move onto to nearby trees.

Control options are varied for CMBS. There are lady bugs that eat CMBS, but this may take time for control as the ladybug population is tied to the population of insects they feed upon. Ensure that if you buy and plant crape myrtles, that you inspect them and not plant any infested trees, or you select a different species of tree or shrub for the landscape.

Pesticide treatment for crape myrtle bark scale can be done with either a contact spray or a systemic. Studies from TAMU discovered that contact sprays should be used when pest numbers are peaking (crawler/ nymph numbers peak mid-April through May), and two treatments should be done with the second treatment taking place 2 weeks after the initial treatment. Insecticides with bifenthrin as the active ingredient tend to work best.

Systemic treatments should be applied earlier, when the leaves are budding out. Systemics such as imidacloprid and dinotefuran are best used as a soil treatment in March so that they are taken up by the tree and in place for the crawler population in April-May. These products should be used when trees are NOT in bloom to protect pollinators.

For a video on how to treat crape myrtles for CMBS, you should go to this link:

<https://citybugs.tamu.edu/2018/08/28/how-to-treat-your-crapemyrtle-for-bark-scale/>

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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Wayne's Page



I want to write about two things this month. The first is concerning fire ants. There are numerous articles about treating fire ants and most are related to treating fire ants in the landscape. What do you do when you have fire ants in your garden? Many of the approved treatments for fire ants specifically say to not use around vegetable gardens. What to do? While researching this topic, I came across an article that specifically addresses this topic. Rather than trying to summarize the article, I think it is best to provide a link to the article so you can read about all the options.

https://www.agrilifebookstore.org/v/vspfiles/downloadables/ENTO_015.pdf

This information is one of the many articles available for free download at the AgriLife bookstore. If you don't have an account with them, I encourage you to open one. It's free and there is a wealth of information available for free download, in addition to other publications available for purchase.

The other information that I want to share is on one of my favorite topics, garden myths. Dr Linda Chalker-Scott is an Associate Professor at WSU and is the Extension Horticulturalist specializing in urban landscapes. She has written extensively on garden myths and also lectures to Master Gardener associations throughout the nation. Even though she is located in the state of Washington, the information she provides is relevant even in Texas. The first link has a great index that makes it easy to find almost anything you are interested in.

<https://puyallup.wsu.edu/lcs/>

The next three links are a 3-part interview with Dr Chalker-Scott done by Joe Lamp'l. I'm not endorsing everything on the Joe Gardener website because I haven't looked at everything on the site, however these three interviews provide a good summary on many garden myths that are commonly heard or found on the internet.

<https://joegardener.com/podcast/034-gardening-myths-busted-pt-1-with-linda-chalker-scott/>

<https://joegardener.com/podcast/035-gardening-myths-busted-pt-2-with-linda-chalker-scott/>

<https://joegardener.com/podcast/036-gardening-myths-busted-pt-3-with-linda-chalker-scott/>

I hope you find this information enlightening and worthy of sharing with others as part of our mission to educate the citizens of Bell County and Texas with information that is relevant, and research based. Within each link, there are other links to other relevant information, so make sure you look at some of those too.

Happy gardening! Wayne

BCMGA Help Desk

Article by Kathy Love

photos submitted to Help Desk

While most BCMGA activities are essentially shut down because of the virus invading our state and nation, the Help Desk continues to receive calls coming into the Extension office which are forwarded to our email, e.g. bell.mg@agnet.tamu.edu. So far in the month of April we have received a total of 23 calls or emails so we are on-line to match calls in March, e.g. 28.

A couple of interesting calls this month. First from member Pam Dragoo. She photographed a



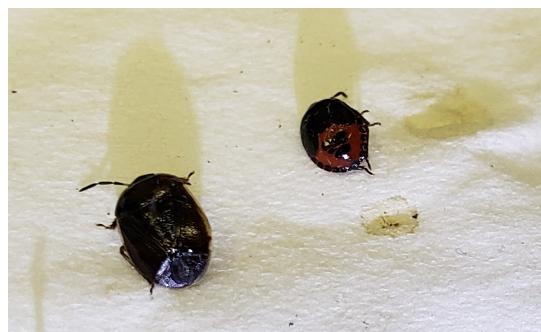
neighbor's red bud tree. The concern was "is this tree in trouble since it is blooming from the trunk and limbs". The answer is no! It is a cauliflorous (califlory) tree, producing clusters of 4-8 flowers in fascicles at the axils of the leaves and along the branches and sometimes on the trunk, but most are on two-year-old wood.

See <https://scholarship.richmond.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1130&context=biology-faculty-publications>

This is an interesting growth habit primarily seen on tropical trees such as papaya which allows for the heavy fruit to be supported on the trunk and heavy limbs of the tree. The only cauliflorous tree in Northern Hemisphere is the red bud. A very interesting question. Thanks Pam!

We got a very poor quality photo of an insect that the sender thought might be a Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) which has not yet been identified in Bell County. After many exchanges with this citizen, she dropped off a few specimens which Google Lens identified as *Sehirus cinctus*, the Mother Bug. Also confirmed by Dr. Michael Merchant, Professor and Extension Urban Entomologist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Dr. Merchant shared with us his Insects in the City blog on this bug.

<https://citybugs.tamu.edu/2011/05/04/the-mother-bug/>



If you are missing a chance to serve our citizens as a Master Gardener to help with horticultural questions, send an email to bell.mg@agnet.tamu.edu and let us know you would like to help with these many often routine but sometimes unusual questions from our members and citizens. We will be happy to send specific questions to you to research (education hours) and send a written response with recommendations back to the help desk (we will edit and share your recommendations as needed—BTW, we get 'em wrong sometimes too so don't be shy). This is a good way to stay involved and hone your horticultural skills.

What's Been Happening...

Easter Eve at Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden

April 11, 2020

Photos by Kathy Brown

Social Distancing yet getting things accomplished at KMCCG.



What's Been Happening...

Temple College Phi Theta Kappa Community Garden

Article and photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

1 of 2

Life continues at the garden... flowers all started from seed by the students with the guidance of Marjorie back in December 2019 is now flourishing. We used tri grow compost from Brazos River authority which is only used for non- edibles such as flowers, lawn, and trees and is not recommended for vegetables.

"If we could see the miracle of a single flower, clearly our whole life would change."

Snapdragons



Alyssum



**Delphinium
seedlings**



Nasturtium



What's Been Happening...

Temple College Phi Theta Kappa Community Garden

photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

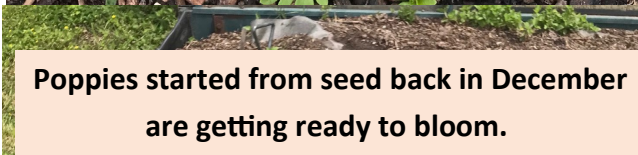
2 of 2



A cluster of black-eyed susans nestle with alyssums



Delphinium seedlings surround portulaca



Poppies started from seed back in December are getting ready to bloom.



Lovely ladybugs are protecting the garden keeping the aphids at bay.



What's Been Happening...

Temple College Phi Theta Kappa Community Garden

photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

1 of 3

Bountiful vegetables have made an appearance when beginning from a tiny seed that the students planted in February. Radishes, farmers market lettuce mix, carrots, beets, viroflay italian spinach and a mix of shell, snap and purple peas.

April harvest totaling 4 lbs., 0.82 oz of herbs and peas. Since the campus is closed, each student that tends to the garden harvests produce to take home for their meals.

"Reap what you sow!"



Radishes



Farmers Mkt. Lettuce



**Viroflay Italian
spinach**



Snap Peas

What's Been Happening...

Temple College Phi Theta Kappa Community Garden

Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

2 of 3



Pea row with mixed herbs at the base



Creeping thyme, winter savory, garlic chives, oregano, shallots and Brussels sprouts love each others company.

What's Been Happening...

Temple College Phi Theta Kappa Community Garden

Photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

3 of 3

Marvelous mint, calendula, shallots, Italian kale, wild garlic and buttercrunch lettuce



Purple Snap Peas



Garlic Scapes



Reverse layer no-dig garden beds all direct seed beds of carrots, beets, spinach, lettuce and radishes growing steadily.

What's Been Happening...

Temple College Phi Theta Kappa Community Garden

photos by Marjorie Gillmeister

Students started tomato seeds in eggshells back in January. Black Krim heirloom tomatoes have taken root and other tomato varieties planted in the garden (not shown) are golden jubilee, chocolate cherry, moneymakers, and Romas. Variety of peppers planted are shishito, coral belle orange and banana peppers. Can't wait to reap the harvest of these summer loving plants.



Sharing is Caring... 😊

“Everyone came out after the storm”.....Juan Anaya

Photos by Juan Anaya



Black Chinned Hummingbird



Orchard Oriole

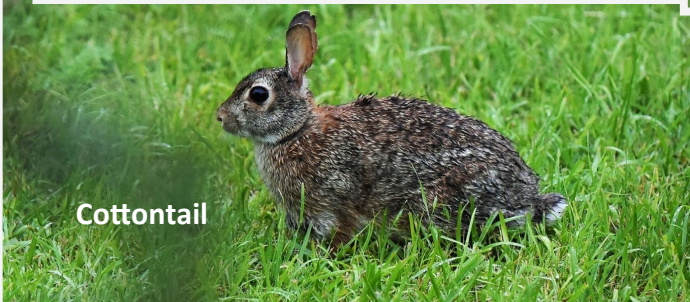


White Crowned Sparrow

House Finch



Ruby Throated Hummingbirds



Cottontail



Great Tailed Grackle



Immature White Crowned Sparrow

White Crowned Sparrow

Sharing is Caring... 😊

4/20/20: Painted Buntings came to visit Juan's yard today!

Photo by Juan Anaya



This is what happens during stay at home. Wayne decides to place a platform underneath his compost sifter.



Photos by Wayne Schirner



Sharing is Caring... 😊

A message from our Master Gardener friend, Jane Van Praag

So much is 'virtual' these days, but I assure you my gratitude is the real thing for your calls and notes both e- and snail-mail, to let me know y'all are cheering for me to get well soon. Finally, we're all going to get our wish, because on May 1st I'll have the open-heart surgery to replace my two faulty valves that had been postponed for so long in deference to COVID-19. I'll stay in the Austin Heart Hospital for a week to ten days, then possibly at St. David's Rehab for awhile, depending.

In the interim no day has gone by that Bell County Master Gardeners aren't in my thoughts. For a few examples: my lovely plants in full spring-time glory, gained from plant swaps or otherwise given to me, such as the grape vines from Pam Dragoo and Betty Burkett that are forming drupes this year, my gorgeous ajuga ground cover from a generous start provided by Mary Lou Edmonson, a fragrant Afghani rose from Crystal Fisher, herbs from Terri Hahn and Kim Pringle, succulents from Jan George, recipes such as Gail Christian's white chili (which in turn came from Betty Gilmore) and of course all manner of exotic plants and pots from Kathy Love for the years we worked together on our plant sales. And on and on.

Seeing and reading about many of you in the ***Blooming Bell***, is another reminder of how much I miss y'all's company. In another month or two, look for me to resume weeding my area of the grounds!

A Few of our Demo Gardens



Internship...A View from Inside



Victoria Ezagui
MG Intern

photo by Sylvia Maedgen

The Continuing Journey of a Late Bloomer

It's been about a month since the last newsletter and we are still in the Shelter in Place status waiting to see how things will reopen, including the class of 2020. Sitting here drinking my coffee on this cloudy, cool Saturday morning and contemplating what I would do today, remembering what day of the week it is, one being almost identical to the next.

So I don't have to home school my grandson today which opens the door to endless possibilities! I know I have two more hours of turfgrass video to watch, some garden work to do, and I just need to get motivated. The last time we were in class they mentioned a nursery that opened in Nolanville called Hidden Falls, so since I'm about five minutes away I thought I'd check it out.

I still have one area in my garden that I need to plant something in. I have seedlings but they are too little to transplant. I'm so glad I made the trip. They have many plants that the big box stores do not carry. I bought a Borage plant and salvia, and of course the variety is Victoria's Blue. The prices are reasonable, plus Master Gardeners get a discount. It's a great place to visit. Very peaceful, not rushed.

I know we all appreciate everyone who has been working diligently to come up with a plan to help us interns complete all the requirements for us to graduate. It can't be an easy task. Gary Slanga has been keeping us informed as to educational opportunities, sites to go to, and instructions on maneuvering through the modules, quizzes and websites.

The other day I was doing some landscaping work at the AgriLife grounds and ran into (within the six foot limit) Sal Alcasey. He was working on his demo bed #8. The celery is really doing well and the other plants are thriving. He's staying home mostly and keeps really busy in his garden. He said he's giving a lot of vegetables away to his neighbors.

I noticed all the demo beds are being kept up and each bed has name tags identifying who is managing the bed. One of the demo beds we have been following is #9, "Edible Flowers". Rebekah Lackey updated me via email as well as sending me some pictures of their progress. She said she is filling her days with being with her grandkids, (ages 7 & 9), as well as being close to her twin granddaughters (age 6). She said they have their own "compound" thing going on.

Susan Fogelman mentioned she is doing many things online, church, Bible study, and working remotely. Not too long ago she went on a mini-garden tour with her mentor, Jeanne Richard, and a fellow intern, Penny McCormack. Since they live fairly close to each other in north Temple, they visited each other's gardens. What a neat idea!

What I've heard from so many is they are doing well, keeping busy, plenty of time to work in vegetable gardens and flower beds. But everyone is missing the personal contact with others as well as the classroom experience. Hopefully we can be together soon.

Well, I'm wanting to plant my newest acquisitions in their new home and it's good weather to transplant. Hope to see everyone in the flesh soon!

Intern Project



Penny McCormack
MG Intern

What's Happening in My Garden — 1 of 2

Photo by Sylvia Maedgen

When I bought my cottage in 2001, the label I gave my backyard was the “not so very nice backyard”. There was unhealthy grass, overgrown brush on the side yard and no landscape of any kind.

It's saving grace was two lovely oak trees wide enough apart to hang a hammock and to shade a good portion of the yard, and a gigantic Crepe Myrtle on the far side of the property. So my husband and I began to slowly create a landscape, complete with patios, outdoor cooking area, and flower gardens.



Over the past 15 years, this space has become ‘our little bit of heaven on earth’. It has 4 patios, a treehouse that was initially built for our young sons, but has now been repurposed as “Penny's Perch”, where we have our coffee some mornings amid the lit torches and lantern light that provide an exquisite glow throughout the gardens.



A homemade fire-pit sits surrounded by cozy chairs, perfect for having a fireside evening with blankets, cocoa and roasted s'mores.

Garden photos by Penny McCormack

Intern Project



Penny McCormack
MG Intern

What's Happening in My Garden — 2 of 2

Photo by Sylvia Maedgen

Every winter the garden seems to die a sad death, never to be glorious again, and then weeds and thousands of leaves create a frightening situation. But my husband is a master at bringing it back every spring. I did not have any knowledge of how to create a proper landscape, so I have always just planted what was pleasing to my eye. But this year, I've now learned to use my leaves as mulch, use a little compost, when to water, the best way to water, and so much more. I have perennials and annuals, shrubs, tall grasses, wandering plants like lantana, which has not rebloomed as yet, and mother nature has gifted us with several new sprouts from the majestic Crepe Myrtle, that have grown into full young trees in several places.



When I was at the Rose Emporium in Brenham several years ago, I saw a beautiful statue of a young woman named Sarah kneeling in the garden with her gloves and spade, and I all but cried and begged the owner to tell me where she got it. I found it, ordered it, and Sarah now sits among her flowers in front of the small patio with a table for two, and chandelier above it, for sweet candlelight dinners.

My garden is more than just flowers and trees, more than stones and mulch and compost. It's my sanctuary, my respite, the evidence of God's graceful and bountiful gifts.



Garden photos by Penny McCormack

Arctic Frost Mandarin Tree

Article and photos by Ann Wagner, class of 2016

As you know Spring is here and the temperatures are warming up. Early Spring is a perfect time to tend to your yard and potted citrus. During the 2017 Spring plant sale, I purchased an **Arctic Frost Mandarin** tree and planted it in a demo bed at the Bell County Extension office. The tree was frozen back two years ago during that winter where the temperature got down to nine degrees. The tree came back and it is about two and a half years old.

Early spring is time to prune any unruly branches and suckers so that the citrus tree can get light into the canopy. In early April, I pruned useless branches and shaped the tree so that it could produce fruit. We haven't had any fruit yet. After seeing the brand new leaves coming out with very light green color, this told me the tree needs to be fertilized with a good citrus fertilizer containing Nitrogen and a foliar spray with chelated iron and manganese. These are micronutrients that citrus require but are often depleted in the calcareous soils of Bell County.

To get around this, I used foliar sprays. I have been spraying the under side of leaves during evenings once a month with a seventy percent liquid chelated iron. I add a few teaspoons to a gallon of water and put in a sprayer can. The stomata or leaf pores open in evening allowing for foliar spray to penetrate the leaves.

The tree looks very healthy, but I have noticed a few curled leaves telling me this is from leaf roller insect and some leaf distortion due to aphids and leaf miner. I have applied Neem oil to keep these pests under control. The directions state that it must be sprayed at 7 to 14 day intervals until the pests are gone.

This is an update on the **Arctic Frost** tree planted in the Bell County Master Gardener demo bed in front. I hope the next time I write an article, it will be about oranges coming from this tree.

Source: University of Florida crec.ifas.ufl@edu



Arctic Frost Mandarin



This is the main branch I am training to stay up-right with string tied to post.

The Tale of an Invasive Put to Good Use

Article and photos by Terrie Hahn

The Chinaberry tree (*Melia azedarach*) is one of the top 10 invasive trees in Texas. It reproduces through root sprouts and worse, through seeds dispersed by birds over longer distances. It's very fast growing and resistant to insects and disease, so can crowd out other plants and trees. According to Texasinvasives.org, it even raises the pH level in soil which changes the conditions for natives. They can reach 18-24 feet in height in 4-5 years.

When we moved to our house in 1998, this tree had already been planted. We had no idea it was considered invasive until I took a Texas Invasives class. We had really liked the tree because the flowers were so pretty. Of course, with flowers, come berries with seeds. We cut it down a long time ago, but never did anything to kill off the trunk of the tree, so it keeps

growing new sprouts. It's a pretty tree, so every year we let it grow until it starts to flower and then we cut it down to the trunk again so that it doesn't get berries. Then, it will start to grow again, but it will be past the time for it to flower, and throughout the fall and winter, it's a very tall pretty shrub like plant. And next spring, we start the process all over again. And why go through this trouble, you might ask?!= My husband, Werner, who was also a MG, started using all those branches from the Chinaberry in his garden. He's the kind of guy who can find a use for anything! We rarely throw anything out, because he'll use it eventually! These pictures show one of the ways he uses the Chinaberry. (He thinks someone could use these branches to build a teepee for their kids!) When Werner plants his tomatoes, he puts cages over them, but when the tomatoes are little, the branches tend to hit the ground, so he criss crosses small straight Chinaberry branches through the cages to hold up the tomato branches, especially useful as they get heavy with tomatoes. He also uses them as supports for tomatoes and other plants.



Small Chinaberry branches holding up a tomato branch with tomatoes weighing it down



Why buy those bamboo or plastic sticks when you have a source for really strong straight poles. He then threads thick branches horizontally through the cages, latching the branches together to make the row of cages more solid and give protection from strong wind as the tomato plants get larger. He uses some rebar here and there vertically to stabilize the cages, but also some Chinaberry, and these horizontal poles really help with stabilizing. No, don't run out and buy a Chinaberry tree! And if you happen to have one in your yard, you should think about cutting it down, because it is invasive. But you may want to keep some of those branches and sprouts to use in your veggie garden! And we could probably spare some if anyone needs any.



Horizontal branches stabilizing several cages

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

Nestor Centeno (254) 771-1330 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 VMS calendar indicates every day in order to allow as much flexibility to members as possible.

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.

Grounds Workdays

AgriLife Extension Center

Project Coordinators: Karen Colwick (254) 913-4459

Paul Carter (254) 247-4855

Wednesday 5/6, 5/20, and 5/27, three to five 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 do not show up to work without letting them know in advance.

Thank you for helping to maintain the grounds!

Seed Savers

Please continue to collect and clean seeds and be prepared to bring them in to the office once restrictions are relaxed.

What's Growin'?

Kathy and Randy's Garden

1 of 3

Photos by Randy Brown



What's Growin'?

Kathy and Randy's Garden

2 of 3

Photos by Randy Brown



What's Growin'?

Kathy and Randy's Garden

3 of 3

Photos by Randy Brown



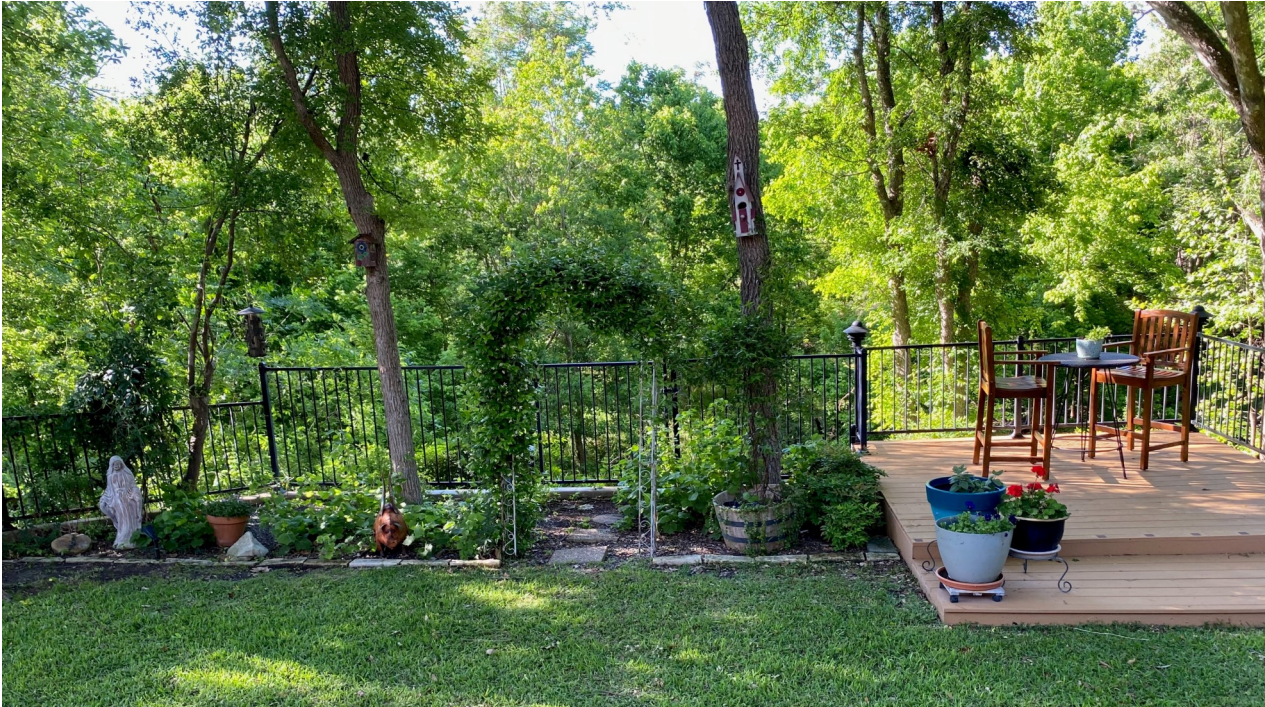
What's Growin'?

Susan Terry's Back Garden

Photo by Susan Terry

"The jasmine is about to explode, turks cap are budding, and passion vine is out of control. Starter plants are available! (I should have some by the time we can gather again!)

The birds are happy, God is good."Susan



Photos Submitted by Dave Slaughter

Red Admiral pol-
linating an apple
blossom and a
future monarch
enjoying an an-
telope horn
milkweed.



What's Growin'?

Photos from Elaine's Garden

Photos by Elaine Passman.



What's Growin'?

Don Latham's Garden

Photos submitted by Don Latham.

Beans and
squash



Onions

What's Growin'?

From the Garden of Edie Campbell

"April showers bring the flowers of spring."....Edie Campbell

Photos by Edie Campbell

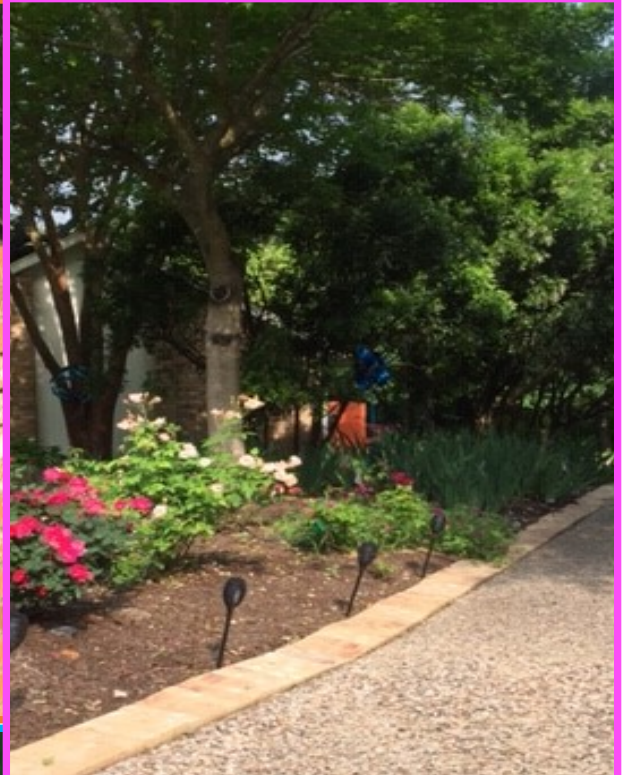


What's Growin'?

Welcome to Iline and Michael's Garden

Photos by Ilene and Michael Miller.

1 of 3



"Petunias which came back from seed were a welcome spot of color in this patio bed."



"Oak Leaf Hydrangea just starting to bloom. Does well in partial shade. Located near sidewalk in front bed."

What's Growin'?

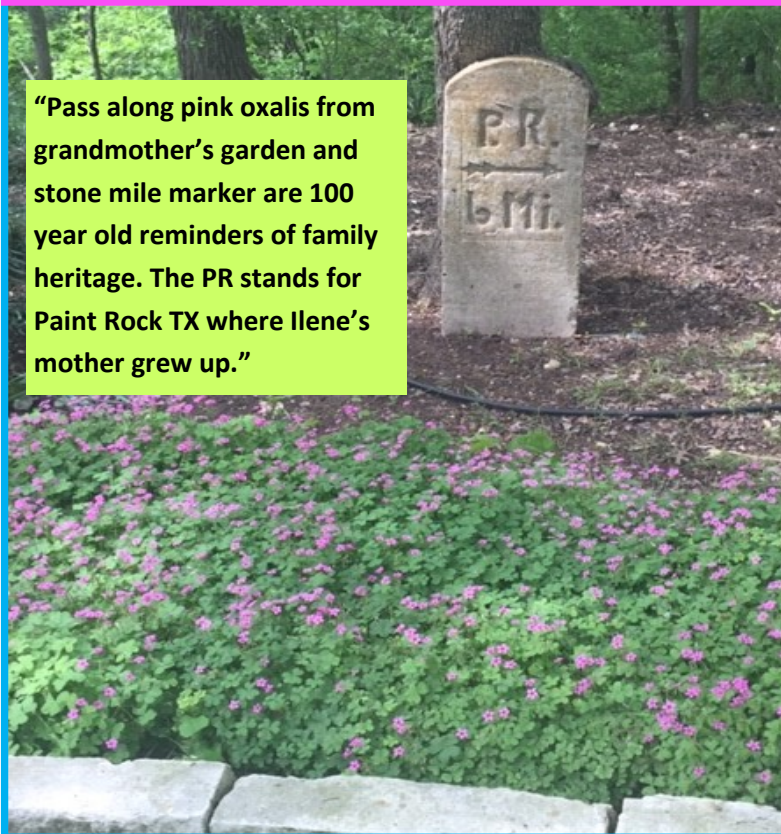
Welcome to Iline and Michael's Garden

Photos by Ilene and Michael Miller.

2 of 3



"Knock out rose from MG state conference in Marshall have done well in this street side bed. Crepe myrtle is 37 years old and was a test tree from TAMU. No mildew problems in 37 years. We love the bark which is attractive year round."



"Pass along pink oxalis from grandmother's garden and stone mile marker are 100 year old reminders of family heritage. The PR stands for Paint Rock TX where Ilene's mother grew up."



"Fire ring in a shady woods back yard is enjoyable on cold days."

What's Growin'?

Welcome to Iline and Michael's Garden

Photos by Ilene and Michael Miller.

3 of 3

"Roses add interest to front yard in early April."



"Dwarf Nandina, Holly Fern, Carissa Holly, Japanese Aralia welcome visitors to our front door once social distancing is eased and the danger of covid-19 passed."

"Blue bottle tree provides year round color for shady back yard."



What's Growin'?

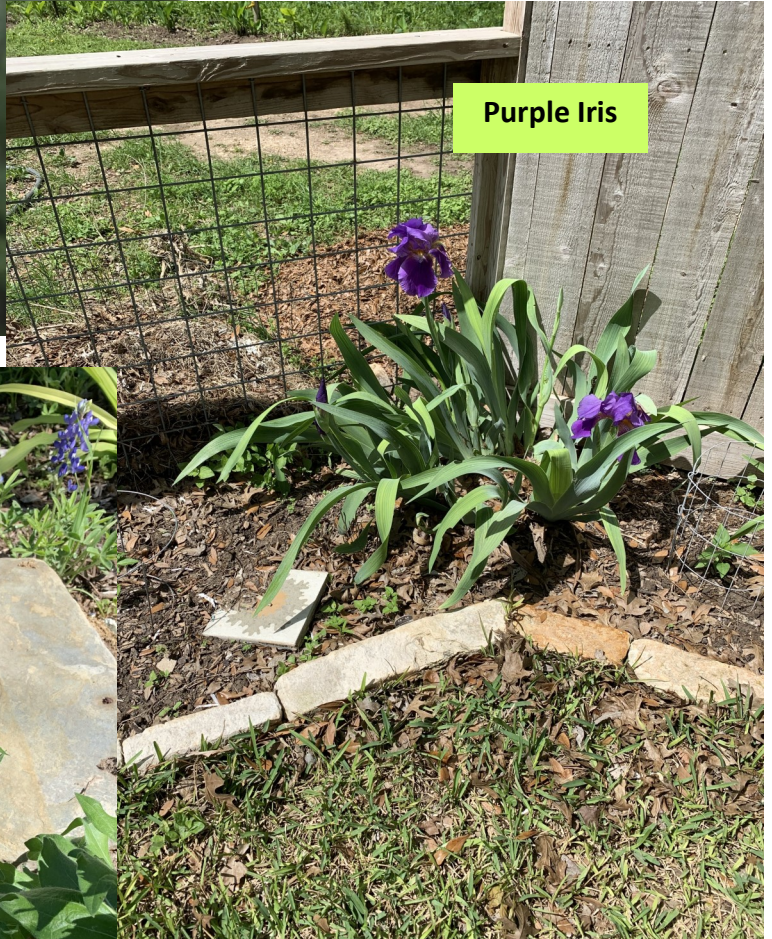
Crystal Mears' Garden

Photos by Crystal Mears.



"Orange and yellow Cannas. They are gorgeous, but multiply like rabbits...)"

Crystal



Purple Iris



Bluebonnets and Texas Yellow Star (*Lindheimera texana*). Thanks to Kathy Love for her research to identify this plant. For more info, see the attached links.

<https://garden.org/plants/photo/75090/>

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=LITE3

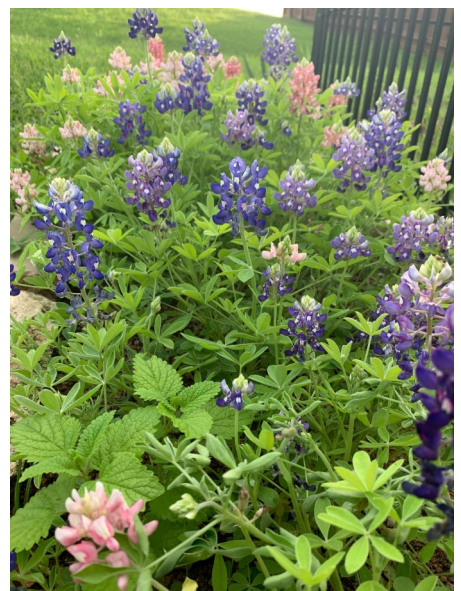
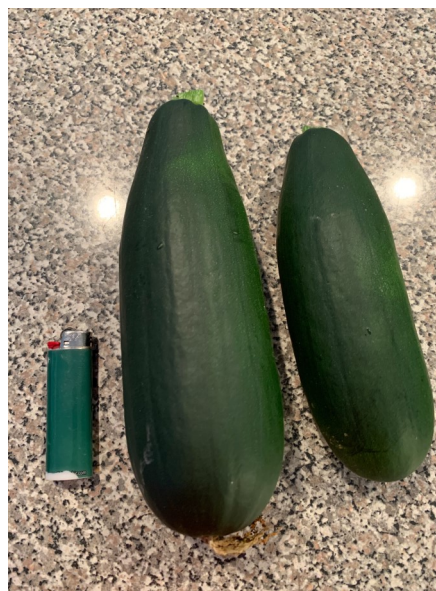
What's Growin'?

Maggie's Garden

Progressive garden photos and text by Maggie Taylor, class of 2019



Below, progression pictures of Maggie's first zucchini harvest from garden pictured above. "Picture on the left taken 04/16/20 and picture on the right taken 04/23/20. By the way, this garden is at my home in Port Aransas, Texas. My first time planting a garden in Zone 9 and it's growing like crazy. Just for grins I've added my bluebonnets picture. I got these seeds from the bluebonnet garden at the Bell County Extension office last Spring. Scarified them, rolled them in rhizobium and planted in decomposed granite. Threw them out in October 2019. Amazing results." *Maggie*



What's Growin'?

From Dave's Garden

Photos and text by Dave Slaughter.

"The zucchini and yellow squash are Burpee seed, planted 14 Feb and grown in a greenhouse until transplanted in the garden on 8 March. First harvest was 5 April and going strong."



"The potatoes are Red Pontiac and seed was purchased from Belton Feed and planted in the garden 2 February. First harvest was 15 April about golf ball size, now potatoes are about baseball size."



What's Growin'?

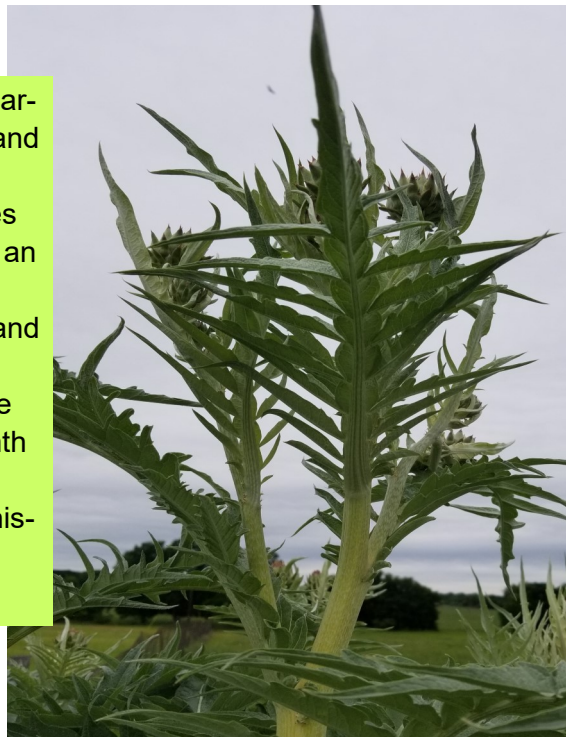
Kathy's Garden

Photos and text by Kathy Love

1 of 2



My 3 year old cardoon massive and loaded with blooms. Articles say it grows as an annual but this one dies back and returns every year! Will share again next month when the gorgeous purple thistle like flowers bust out.



After the high winds and rain that came through on April 10th, I picked up 67 fallen peaches from my single peach tree. I had planned to thin but the storm did it for me. Remainder are coming along nicely. Hope no more high wind storms before harvest.



Texas Superstars Laura Bush petunia and Silver Vinca Cora overwintered in my galvanized container planters and have started to do their profuse blooming!



What's Growin'?

Kathy's Garden

Photos and text by Kathy Love

2 of 2



Growing my Roma tomatoes (except Bexar Co. Rodeo Tomato in 2nd pot front to back-won as door prize at last State directors meeting and Swiss Chard (1st pot foreground) in containers this year. Didn't get my Superstar Dwarf Cherry Surprise tomatoes this year when we lost the spring plant sale and didn't get any volunteers. Saved some seed from last year. Waiting to see if they come up.



More potted veggies, herbs and perennials (left to right bottom to top) another Roma tomato (some damage when I covered it against hail that didn't come last week), rosemary, sage, coreopsis, dug up and potted Cardoon volunteer, Big Bertha pepper and a couple of Homemade pickle cukes in background in wooden planter-will use chain-link fence for trellis.



Blackberries and blueberries looking like an abundant crop for 2020



Announcements...

May General Meeting

When: May 13, 2020 **CANCELLED**

Where: Harris Community Center
401 Alexander St, Belton

Time:

Program Topic:

Presenter:

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 27 at 9 a.m. via teleconference. Board Members only.**

Please submit your agenda items to Sylvia Maedgen, Recording Secretary, by **Friday, May 22.**

Grounds Work Days

Karen Colwick and Paul Carter

The work day schedule for May:

May 6, 2020 8:00 a.m.

May 20, 2020 8:00 a.m.

May 27, 2020 8:00 a.m.



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

Communications

While Shelter in place is in effect, please send photos of your garden with a note about your photos to TeriMMarceau@gmail.com or to [Bell.mg@agnet.tamu.edu](mailto:bell.mg@agnet.tamu.edu) and Teri will post them on Facebook.

If you know of someone in our organization who is ill, scheduled to have surgery, or has lost a loved one (including fur babies) please email Teri Marceau at bell.mg@agnet.tamu.edu, or our correspondence secretary, Debbi Harris, at dcharris99@yahoo.com.

An appropriate card will be sent.

Refreshment Committee General Membership Meeting

A minimum of 7 volunteers are needed for each meeting. Future meetings are on hold until further notice.



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@hotmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Advanced Training

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/>

Extension Events



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



A bit of gardener humor :-)



Submitted by Juan Anaya

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 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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Glenn Melton	Marjorie Gillmeister	Edie Campbell
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Wizzie Brown	Juan Anaya	Terrie Hahn
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Wayne Schirner	Michael Miller	Jamie Allen
Victoria Ezagui	Claudette Hawkins	Jane Van Praag
Sylvia Maedgen	Don Latham	Dave Slaughter
Kathleen Brown	Crystal Mears	Teri Marceau
Susan Terry	Elaine Passman	

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.

Please do not send PDF documents.

BCMGA Webmaster: Rachel Glass - glass.rachel@gmail.com

Please send your updates for the BCMG website to Rachel.

CHECK OUT BCMGA FACEBOOK PAGE! GO TO

<https://www.facebook.com/BCMGA>

Texas Master Gardener website

<https://txmg.org>

Bell County Master Gardener website

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

Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Management System

<https://texas.volunteersystem.org/UniversalLogin.cfm?logout=1>



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