

# *The Blooming Bell*

**July 2020**



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## Flower of the Month **Larkspur**



Texas Superstar® Pink Bunny Bloom

<https://texassuperstar.com/plants/larkspurpink/index.html>



Looking closely at Pink Bunny Bloom Larkspur, one can see a bunny face in the center of each flower.

Further information may be found by following this link -



<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/98promotions/january/january.html>



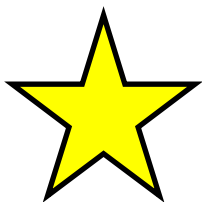
Larkspur at Locklin Home Garden in Belton

# JULY 2020

Hottest month of the year!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	Happy Fourth of July!
5	6	7	8 General Membership Online Meeting	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 World Emoji Day 	18
19	20 Nat'l Moth Week 7/11-28	21	22 Board of Directors Meeting via Telecon 9 AM	23	24	25 National Day of The Cowboy
26	27 Take Your Houseplants for a Walk Day 	28	29	30	31 Whatever July and August do not boil, September can not fry. <i>The Old Farmer's Almanac</i>	

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



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



# President's Corner

Glenn Melton

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I hope everyone is well and staying safe during these extraordinary times. Unfortunately, the news from the County as well as the nation is not promising. Looks like the virus will be with us for a while. Please heed the advice of these government officials and take all precautions necessary to remain in good health. We should have an update from the Extension Office soon and I will forward that information on to you as soon as I can.

Work on improvements to the Learning Center are complete except for a few tweaks to the irrigation control box. My thanks to Paul, Karen, and all the volunteers who made this happen. The small shed has also been cleaned out and reorganized. All surplus supplies and equipment will be placed on a table under the canopy for everyone's inspection. If you are interested in any of this equipment please provide a small donation and drop it off at the Help Desk when you are in the area.

Currently, Teri Marceau and Carol Morisset are organizing and video-taping the Community Outreach classes with various members. These classes are limited to about 15 – 20 minutes and will be posted to our Facebook page on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Please take the time to view these videos and let us know if you have any suggestions for other classes that could be presented. Also, let us know what you think of the videos and what, if any, improvements should be made.

Everyone should have received an email from Jayla recently addressing the possibility of a waiver for educational and service hours for this year. At this time, no waiver has been authorized. It is just too early in the year to decide. In light of this development I encourage everyone to take advantage of the numerous online educational opportunities that are frequently emailed to our members. Anyone needing service hours should actively participate in announced activities. As you all know work at the Killeen Municipal Court Garden continues and service hours are now available for work at the McLane Children's Hospital Project. And do not forget that applications are still being accepted at Eldred's Nursery in Belton to help with working with kids with special needs. We have not yet given up on the idea of a Fall Plant sale and the Assembly Hall at the Expo Center is still reserved. This event, as you all know, requires help from many volunteers and takes numerous hours of dedicated service to ensure a success. We are currently considering entering into a working relationship with the Bell County Maintenance Department to design, plant, and maintain a small area near the entrance to the Justice Building complex. This will be an ongoing landscape maintenance project with many service hour opportunities. We will keep you posted and let you know if and when this project is approved. With all the educational and service hour opportunities offered I feel confident everyone will obtain the required hours with little difficulty. Again, if anyone has any questions or difficulties earning the required hours, contact me and we will find a solution.

And one last thing. We are working on how to conduct a new Master Gardener class and it is starting to look like an online only scenario for the year 2021. We will keep you informed.

I would like to thank everyone for your patience, understanding, and most of all, your support during these troubling times. Our members have done so well working together to ensure that we stay strong as an organization. What a great bunch of people to work with!.....Glenn



## Mantids

This month I decided to do something a bit different with my article. Hopefully, it will be a nice change of pace for us all. To cover the topic basics, mantids are considered beneficial insects because they are predators. They are known to be highly cannibalistic and generalists which means that they will eat other mantids and pretty much whatever they can get their raptorial legs on. While they can help reduce garden pests, it can also be that they consume insects that you don't want them to eat (i.e. pollinators). If you have mantids in your garden, try to conserve them, but I would not encourage you to release large numbers of them into your yard.



Now with that out of the way, I can move on to the *real* topic that I want to explore. What do you call a green to grey to brown colored insect with large eyes and short antennae on a triangular shaped head that has raptorial front legs? Is it a mantid or mantis? Is it preying or praying? I have wondered this many times as I have presented about these insects over the years, so I decided to dig in and try to figure out what is correct and where the names came from.



## Mantids

First stop for me was to look up the etymology (that's E-T-Y-M-O-L-O-G-Y and not E-N-T-O-M-O-L-O-G-Y) of mantis. I found the following from the online etymology dictionary:

### mantis (n.)

1650s, "type of insect that holds its forelegs in a praying position" (especially the praying mantis, *Mantis religiosa*), Modern Latin, from Greek *mantis*, used of some sort of elongated insect with long forelimbs (*Theocritus*), literally "one who divines, a seer, prophet," from *mainesthai* "be inspired," related to *menos* "passion, spirit," from PIE *\*mnyo-*, suffixed form of root *men-* "to think," with derivatives referring to qualities and states of mind or thought (compare *mania* and *-mancy*).

The insects, which live in temperate and tropical regions worldwide, are so called for its way of holding the enlarged forelimbs as if in prayer. The mantis shrimp (by 1853; earlier sea-mantis, 1690s) is so called for its resemblance to the insect.

So that seems to be one vote for mantis instead of mantid. That led me to my next stop which was the Entomological Society of America's (ESA) website, and more specifically, their common name database. ESA has a committee of people who oversee the common names of insects and other arthropods. These names are considered to be "official" common names within the scientific community, although in scientific terms, you should always go with scientific names and not rely on common names as common names can change quite drastically depending upon where you live.

After perusing the ESA common name database, I found that *Mantis* was used to refer to a specific genus of Mantodea (the order in which these insects are placed) and that all listed common names consisted of the use of mantid. For example, the commonly named European mantid is *Mantis religiosa* while the commonly named Carolina mantid is *Stagmomantis carolina*. This leads me to the conclusion that **mantid** would be more encompassing of the group than **Mantis**. If you say *Mantis*, then you would be referring to specific insects within that particular genus and it would be inaccurate to call a Carolina mantid a *Mantis* since it isn't in that genus.

That left me to figure out praying vs. preying. Above, the etymology website refers to praying mantis since the insect has front legs that look as if they are in a position to pray. The ESA common name database does not mention anything about praying or preying mantids, but instead names them individually by their common names (Australian mantid, Chinese mantid, Burmeister mantid, etc.). After much searching, I was unable to come up with any reliable sources referring to preying mantids, but numerous references to praying mantids. I would make the assumption that the etymology of "mantis" at some point caused someone to tack on praying to the name. While preying would technically work for these insects since they are predators and prey on other animals, that does not seem to be the consensus of the people.

So summing up....it is PRAYING and not preying; MANTID and not mantis (unless you are referring to mantids that are specifically within the genus *Mantis*. Clear as mud?

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.

## Wayne's Page



### Garden Myths

By Wayne Schirner

I tried it, it worked – it must be true

Have you ever had someone tell you “I do (this) and it works for me”? Do you ever ask them to share the evidence supporting their claim? I suspect that if you do ask that question, their answer will be along the line of “I always do (this) and I never have a problem with (whatever), so it must be true.” This type of “evidence” is called anecdotal evidence. Here’s a great link that describes anecdotal evidence.

<https://www.gardenmyths.com/anecdotal-evidence-not-worth-the-screen-its-displayed-on/>

As Master Gardeners, part of our mission is to provide horticultural information that is research based. We shouldn’t be providing anecdotal information when there is reliable research-based information available. In spite of this, I still see information provided on social media by Master Gardeners recommending something that is not only not supported by science, but the information against these recommendations is readily available.

Where can you go to actually get information about evidence that has actual studies behind what works, and what doesn’t? For gardening topics, I use a number of resources. There are 8 books that I have found to be invaluable:

1. The Informed Gardener by Linda Chalker-Scott 2008
2. The Informed Gardener Blooms Again by Linda Chalker-Scott 2010
3. How Plants Work, the science behind the amazing things plants do by Linda Chalker-Scott 2015
4. The Truth About Garden Remedies, What works, What doesn’t, and Why by Jeff Gillman 2008
5. The Truth About Organic Gardening, Benefits, Drawbacks, and the Bottom line by Jeff Gillman 2008
6. Decoding Gardening Advice, The Science behind the most common recommendations by Jeff Gillman and Meleah Maynard 2012
7. Garden Myths Book 1 Learn the truth behind urban legends and horticultural mysteries by Robert Pavlis 2017
8. Garden Myths Book 2 by Robert Pavlis 2019

## Wayne's Page



### Garden Myths

By Wayne Schirner

On Facebook, there are two groups that provide reliable information with evidence:

The Garden Professors

Garden Fundamentals

The first of these groups requires that comments be supported by citations to peer reviewed published articles from the scientific literature. No BS allowed in this group. The second group is not as rigid, but they still quickly reply to things known to be myths.

On the Internet, I usually check first on <https://www.gardenmyths.com> because it is easy to search on common gardening myths. My next go to source is <https://puyallup.wsu.edu/lcs> for excellent articles on horticultural myths. My 3<sup>rd</sup> go to resource on the internet is [www.gardenprofessors.com](http://www.gardenprofessors.com) which has a great archive of articles on horticultural information going back for over 10 years. These internet resources contain most of the information in the books written by Dr Linda Chalker-Scott and by Robert Pavlis, so unless you just like to own books you won't need to buy those.

One thing that I always try to remember is that the science is rarely ever settled. Science is a process that starts with an idea, a question, or a hypothesis. Experiments are then designed to test the hypothesis. Results get published so that others can review the hypothesis, the methods used to test that hypothesis, and the conclusions.

If something is true, the results of doing something should always give the same results under the same conditions. Problems can occur at any step of the process. Science is not always right, and today's facts might become tomorrow's myths. It is still a good system and we should always look for the best available evidence that is currently available.

Now, the next time someone tells you "I do (this) and it works for me" you can check their claim yourself. Become involved in the science of gardening by not perpetuating garden myths.



Photo by Randy Brown



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

## **Walk Around at Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden June 7, 2020**

Photos and text by Randy Brown

"6 June was work day. All potatoes and onions are now harvested. Those rows were prepared for okra and a possible second crop of squash. Not sure if any butternut squash was harvested, but what is there looks great as does next crop of yellow squash. Flowers look great." Randy





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

## **Work Day at Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden June 11, 2020**

Photo by Randy Brown

55 lbs of produce harvested today. Desert Willow Tree and sunflowers look great. Blue mist raised bed was full of butterflies. Sandra, Kathy Brown, Larry, David and Randy had good morning on harvest and maintenance.

### **Work Day June 20, 2020**

#### **Today's harvest:**

Tomatoes	54.5
Yellow Squash	34
Zucchini	20
Cucumbers	4.0
Peppers	0.5
Carrots	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>115 pounds</b>



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

## **Work Day at McClane Children's Hospital Healing Garden—June 25, 2020**

Photos by Victoria Ezagui

1 of 2





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

## **McClane Children's Hospital Healing Garden—June 25, 2020**

Photos by Victoria Ezagui

2 of 2





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

## **Salado Gardens**

**Text and photos by Susan Terry**

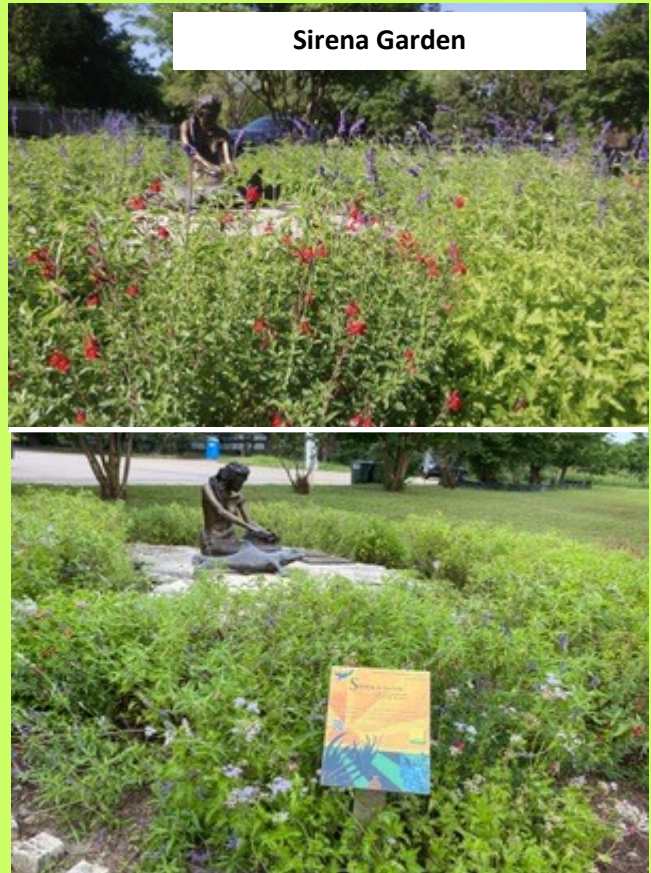
We encourage everyone to visit Salado and enjoy the gardens. The updates to Main Street will be complete soon. Our streetlights are installed, so one can imagine just how lovely this will be VERY soon!!



**Sculpture Garden**



**Sirena Garden**



**Museum and Visitor Center -  
Demonstration Garden**

# Tarantulas

By Sylvia Maedgen

1 of 2

**Common Name:** Tarantula

**Class:** Arachnida

**Order:** Araneae

**Family:** Theraphosidae

**Genus/Scientific Name:** *Aphonopelma*

**Species:** Hentzi

A couple of weeks ago I saw my first two tarantulas in the wild in South Texas, a dark brown one and a black one (pictures below). The scientific name is *Aphonopelma* genus, the order is Araneae for the Texas brown tarantula. They are the heaviest spiders by weight and are relatively common throughout Texas. Fortunately, this species of Tarantula is considered quite docile. Spiders are considered beneficials, although they may not be the friendliest looking, we should be thankful for them in our gardens. They are a natural controller of pests in and around our homes, yards, gardens and crops. Also, they are a good food source for birds and other small mammals, especially during the winter and spring.

**Anatomy:** Spiders are arachnids, not insects. They belong to the Arthropods because of their hard external skeletons and jointed limbs. They can range in size from 1.5 to 5.5 inches. Tarantulas have 2 body segments, the cephalothorax (fused head and thorax) and the abdomen, and eight legs. Spiders have a piercing jaw and fangs (the jaw-like structures are called chelicerae, each of which ends in a hollow fang through which venom can be ejected).

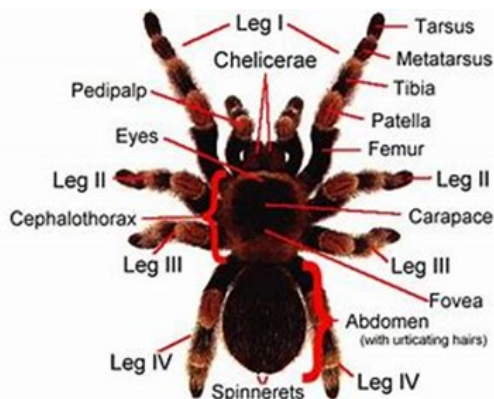


Photo by  
Sylvia  
Maedgen

Zavala County, South TX

The pedipalps are small appendages near the mouth used as taste and smell organs. The cephalothorax contains the eyes, head, mouthparts, and 4 pairs of legs. The abdomen contains various organs related to digestion, reproduction, and web-making. The rear tip of the abdomen also contains the spinnerets that produce silk for fashioning webs or catching prey.

The cephalothorax and the abdomen are both brown, legs are darker brown and the hair on the body is rusty orange. The legs often look grayish due to the texture of the hair on those parts. The color may vary between individual spiders and certainly changes after a molt. The male Texas brown tarantula goes through molting phases and will come out with completely different looks than their juvenile states. Unlike insects, spider have both an endoskeleton (internal) and exoskeleton (external).



# ***Tarantulas***

**By Sylvia Maedgen**

2 of 2

**Life Cycle:** Female spiders make egg sacs 4-5 months after the copulation and lay between 100 and 1,000 eggs in a web which is constructed like a hammock. The egg sac is retained in the burrow, guarded and usually held by the female. Eggs hatch in 45 to 60 days. The baby spiders or spiderlings hatch in July or later in the year within the egg sac. Once they leave the egg sac, they stay with the females for 3-6 days or longer before dispersing. Many of the spiderlings fall prey to other spiders or predators as they leave their burrows or begin their search for their own burrows. Females have lived in captivity for over 25 years. Males in Texas rarely live over two or three months after maturity. One of the most spectacular spider events in Texas occurs for a few weeks each summer when male tarantulas actively wander apparently seeking females. This phenomenon is not well understood and may be related to migration more than mating.

**Mating Season:** Tarantulas are generally known to be active from May through October; and in August their mating season usually begins and brings them out to make appearances when generally they wouldn't necessarily want to come in contact with humans.

**Habitat:** Tarantulas can be found through Texas and are common in grasslands and semi-open areas. Tarantulas use burrows, natural cavities under logs or stones, spaces under loose bark of tree trunks and even old rodent burrows for shelter, and they also dig their own burrows. Webbing is sometimes used to line the shelter and a few lines of silk are placed on the ground in front of the shelter to detect passing prey. These spiders usually are restricted to the ground but can climb. They usually remain in the burrow waiting for prey to come by but may move a few meters out to forage when necessary. These spiders can be found from Arizona to Louisiana and Kansas to Mexico.

**Food Source(s):** Tarantulas have "fangs" on the end of the chelicerae which inject venom when they bite prey. Spiders only ingest liquid food but they will chew the food somewhat while they feed. They typically feed on crickets, June beetles, ground beetles, grasshoppers, cicadas, cockroaches and caterpillars.

**Damage:** Bites of Texas species are generally not serious to humans, but the bite might cause irritations and allergy in some people. When threatened, tarantulas will face the threat and will raise up on their hind legs and stretch out the front legs in a threatening posture. When disturbed, they may also rapidly brush the top of their abdomen with their hind legs which will dislodge urticating hairs from the spider abdomen which will irritate the eyes or skin of an attacker.

**Other:** Tarantulas have their own predators. Tarantula Hawks are large wasps that sting and paralyze these spiders in order to use them as food for wasp larvae.

Photo by  
Sylvia  
Maedgen



**Zavala County, South TX**

## **Resources:**

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Literature: Kaston 1978; Levi *et al.* 1990; Smith 1994;

Janowski-Bell and Horner 1995.

Galveston County Master Gardener, Candice Hawkinson  
Spiders and their Kin, by Herbert W Levi and Lorna R Levi  
InsectIdentification.org

TexasHillCountry.com, Spring Sault

# Sharing is Caring... 😊 😊

## The Unique Native *Lantana urticoides*

by Crystal Fisher

First, this native *Lantana urticoides* is not in my yard. But, I've had the occasion to discuss it at length. The current owner believes that hers is more colorful than mine. After seeing a close up of the blooms, I believe it would have slightly less yellow at best. But, I haven't completed my homework of studying mine to see where yellow has dropped out of any of the blooms. It's been growing out in a pasture in Lott. Ahh, the benefits of growing Lantana.

De Anna Pomykal with her *Lantana* in Lott.



Photos by DeAnna Pomykal of her pasture grown native Lantana.



Photo by Crystal Fisher

Upon reading up on the native, *L. urticoides*, I knew the data said to expect a 6'x6' bush. But, usually nurseries tend to err on the very conservative side so no complaints come back to them if the plants do not live up to the purchaser's expectations. Plus, they'll have some happy consumers with larger plants. This has taken me to do some online research on caring for the lantana, I'm not only looking at providing water, but also some food because the blooms have become more precious to me. For 5 yrs mine has received no care. Mine is now nearing shoulder height. So, I'm now considering treating it a little better than I have in the past.



# ***Sharing is Caring...*** 😊 😊

## **The Unique Native *Lantana urticoides***

**by Crystal Fisher**

This will require starting with a light deadheading of all the seeds, then to paint a contact weed killer on the Bermuda grass that has grown up inside it and confirming it's all gone. Then some more light pruning to tidy it up as it blooms on new wood, though Spring pruning is preferred. Next, feeding it with a dry pelletized food. Watering once a month, oh my, that's more than it has ever received. But, because it got so much attention when people came for some free irises, I think more care is in order. Reading that it could grow as high as 8' really does surprise me though. Possibly receiving better care will encourage that height. Obviously, time will tell.

Now, I'm considering planting a row of the native variety. And if it misses a watering or feeding, it will no doubt continue to survive very well. As I consider starting some from cuttings, I might try an experiment and taking cuttings from only the orange stems of mine... just to see if they'll tend to grow with more orange.

I had been considering planting something orange around the base of mine, till closer examination indicated that there was going to be less light. Looks like a better place for mulch.



Who wouldn't want this plant!

Photos by Crystal Fisher

With food and water, it will be interesting to see how well she grows over the next year.





# ***Sharing is Caring...*** 😊😊

Photos and text by Juan Anaya

"The heat finally has the purple Cherokee tomatoes turning!"



## **Purple Cherokee and Juliet Tomatoes**

"If you are new at growing tomatoes always plant at least one Juliet tomato plant. They make you feel like a real gardener. They thrive in the Texas heat." Juan

# ***Sharing is Caring...*** 😊 😊

## **Mini Greenhouse**

Photo and text by Crystal Fisher



I made a mini greenhouse with a resealable lid. Hopefully it will keep both humidity and light at a good level. Taped notes on top will remind me how much time there is before I can anticipate germination.

## **Rain Lilies**

photos by Ilene Miller

Remember the bulbs Crystal ordered for those of us who requested them last Spring? Ilene had 2 produce blooms! Beautiful flower, beautiful color. Mine, planted in the ground, have not bloomed.

Please send your pics if your Rain Lilies have bloomed!





# General Membership Meeting

## Slides From the First Online Meeting

Photos by Randy Brown

A few of our attendees

### Our first virtual General Membership meeting

- Meeting hints:
  - Mute your microphone
  - Turn off camera to reduce bandwidth usage
  - Select "View" and "Who's talking"
  - Use the chat box to submit questions at any time; answers at the end
  - Reminder: Chat box questions can be seen by everyone
- Today's meeting qualifies as 1 hour of service



Susan Terry



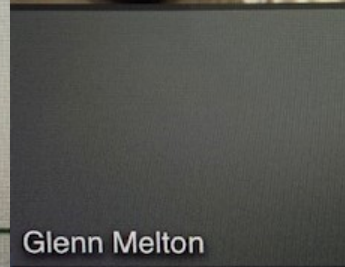
Barbara Ishikawa



David Carpenter



Janice



Glenn Melton



Ann Lesmeister

### Barbara Ishikawa: Financial Report

	1/1	5/31
Bank Balance	\$40,479	\$36,270
Budget	\$85,765	\$59,455
Income (to date)		\$11,600
Expenses (to date)		\$15,867

- Reduced budget to eliminate Spring Plant Sale and Central Texas conference; further revision to reflect Fall Plant Sale plans
- Focus on reducing other expenses
- Look for other sources of income

### Glenn Melton: Fall Plant Sale

- Originally scheduled October 10
- Checking on Expo availability and costs
- Reviewing options for continuing with sale
- Project leader: Kathy Love



# ***General Membership Meeting***

## **Slides From the First Online Meeting**

Photos by Randy Brown

### **Glenn Melton BCMGA Merchandise**

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#### **Still Available:**

- Aprons--\$14
- Black face masks--\$5
- 1 LG soft-tee crew neck T-shirt--\$10

#### **New Orders:**

- Will take new orders for t-shirts but need 25 to order

**Contact Sylvia Maedgen**

### **Carol Morisset: Community Outreach**

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- No outside speakers
- Learning Center classes on hold
- On-line Education for members and community in development (15-minute videos for Facebook):
  - Preserving Our Bounty (Sylvia Maedgen)
  - Growing Vegetables (Wayne Schirner)
  - Composting (Glenn Melton)
  - Keyhole Gardening (Judy Hoelscher)
  - BCMG Demonstration Gardens

### **Glenn Melton: Service & Education Hours**

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- Service Hours:
  - USDA Grant (Dr. Casey)
  - Blooming Bell Submissions
  - Facebook Submissions
  - Grounds care/cleanup
  - Online General Membership Meetings
- Education Hours:
  - Lists on Website
  - Facebook
  - VMS emails from AgriLife

### **Gary Slanga: New Class Programs**

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- 2020 Class
  - Status and hours
  - Tentative graduation date – September 2
- 2021 Class
  - Twelve potential enrollees
  - Virtual course curriculum options being proposed by Statewide Master Gardener program
  - BCMGA reviewing options for Spring class



# General Membership Meeting

## Slides From the First Online Meeting

Photos by Randy Brown

### Board of Directors – Director Extensions

- ❑ Under BCMGA By-laws, "Directors may serve more than one consecutive term, as determined by the BOD"
- ❑ Edie Campbell, Killeen Municipal Court Garden Director, will step down at the end of 2020. A search is underway for her replacement to serve thru end of 2021
- ❑ Carol Morisset, Outreach Director, will complete a planned transition to Candy Morgan who will serve thru end of 2021

	Current term ends	Extended term ends
Teri Marceau, Communication	2021	2022
Paul Carter / Karen Colwick, Facilities	2020	2021
Sherry Oermann, Membership	2021	2022
Edie Campbell, KMCCG*	2020	2021
Carol Morisset, Outreach*	2020	2021
Gary Slanga, New Class	2020	2021
Stacye Perry, Projects	2020	2021
Janice Smith, Youth	2021	2022

### Board of Director – Executive Officer extensions

- ❑ Under BCMGA By-laws, "Executive Officers may serve more than one consecutive term under special circumstances as determined by the BOD (Board of Directors)"
- ❑ The Board of Directors with agreement by Bell County Extension Agent determined that inability to meet and conduct business in person this year constitutes Special Circumstances
- ❑ All Executive Officer positions will be extended by one calendar year

	Current term ends	Extended term ends
Glenn Melton, President	2020	2021
Jan Upchurch, 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Pres	2021	2022
Bill Walker, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres	2020	2021
Sylvia Maedgen, Record. Secy	2020	2021
Barbara Ishikawa, Treasurer	2021	2022

## Reminders

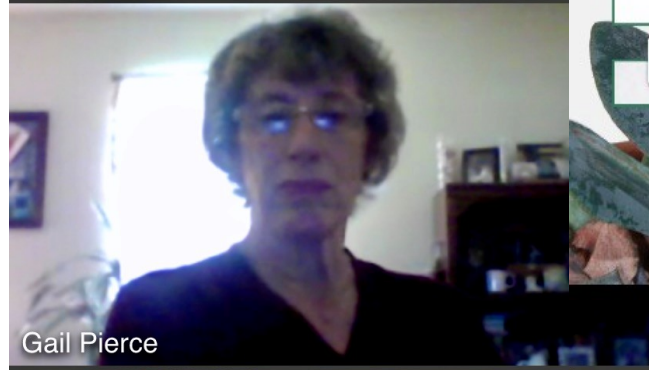
- ✓ We will begin virtual General Membership educational programs on July 15--featuring *The Latest in Texas SuperStars* with speaker Gary Slanga
- ✓ July virtual General Membership Meeting will be on July 8
- ✓ Log 1 hour of service in VMS for attending today's meeting
- ✓ Look for virtual / on-line educational opportunities and log your hours
- ✓ Volunteer to help research questions coming into the Help Desk



# General Membership Meeting

## July Online Membership Meeting

Photos by Randy Brown



### July Virtual General Membership Meeting

#### Meeting hints:

- Mute your microphone
- Turn off camera to reduce bandwidth usage
- Select "View" and "Who's talking"
- Use the chat box to submit questions at any time; answers at the end
- Remember chat box questions can be seen by everyone

Today's meeting qualifies as 1 hour of service

### Janice Smith, MD: Update from Bell County Health Authority

- Cases, Trends and Testing in Bell County
- Guidelines for action
- What does this mean for Bell County Master Gardeners
- More info at [bellcountyhealth.org](http://bellcountyhealth.org)

### Thoughts for Today

"The essence of America—that which really unites us—is not ethnicity or nationality, or religion. It is an idea—and what an idea it is: that you can come from humble circumstances and do great things, that it doesn't matter where you came from but where you are going." (Condoleezza Rice)

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." (Nelson Mandela)

"May we think of freedom not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right." (Peter Marshall)

"For you have been called to live in freedom, Use your freedom to serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)



# General Membership Meeting

## July Online Membership Meeting

Photos by Randy Brown

### Barbara Ishikawa: Financial Report

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	1/1	6/30
Bank Balance	\$40,479	\$35,336
Budget	\$85,765	\$59,455
Income (to date)		\$13,305
Expenses (to date)		\$18,446

- Reduced budget to eliminate Spring Plant Sale and Central Texas conference; further revision to reflect Fall Plant Sale plans
- Current spending is 31% of revised budget

### Paul Carter : BCMGA Grounds and Facilities Upgrades and Maintenance

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#### Upgrades:

- Irrigation system control panel replaced: Hunter Pro-C series 12 station Controller
- Irrigation control panel relocated inside learning center
- New rain sensor installed on top of security light pole
- New faucets purchased and being installed in member Demonstration Beds
- Bell County Maintenance has taken over grass contract and pledged assistance with irrigation audits

### BCMGA Grounds and Facilities Upgrades and Maintenance

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#### Maintenance:

- Learning Center floor stripped and sealed
- Learning Center interior walls painted and general cleaning of facility
- Power washed tables
- Iron fencing painted with industrial enamel black gloss paint
- Metal storage shed cleaned, de-cluttered, and organized (some items removed will be offered to the general membership for small donations)

### BCMGA Grounds and Facilities Upgrades and Maintenance

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#### On going needs for grounds:

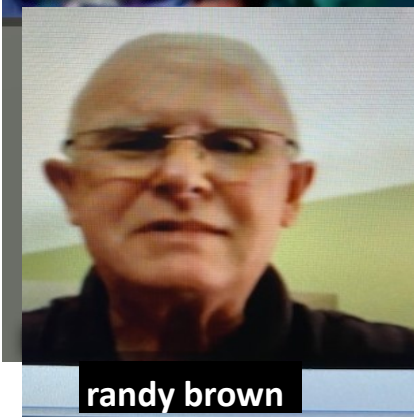
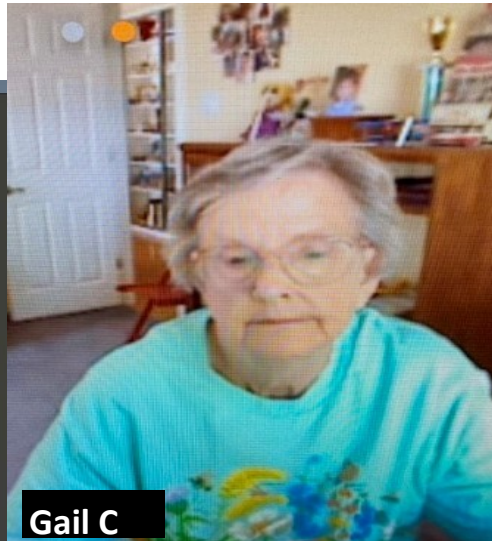
- Weekly maintenance of front and side demonstration beds
- Hand watering of some areas to help survive the hot summer days
- Weeding and general beautification throughout the extension complex



# ***General Membership Meeting***

## **July Online Membership Meeting**

Photos by Randy Brown





# ***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. 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.

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

**Maintain Social Distancing!**

**Webinars hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife in July. Join in during lunch, 12-1pm, for webinars.**

### **July 14 - Question and Answer with David Rodriguez**

Get all your burning gardening questions answered live!

### **July 15 - How Insects are Beneficial and Harmful and the Truth About Asian Giant Hornets**

Get the scoop on the ways we consider insects to be beneficial and how they can be so detrimental to our world AND what if you should really worry about the Asian Giant Hornet.

### **July 22 - Get Ready for Fall Veggie Gardening**

It's time to start prepping that bed for fall gardening! Get started right with David's tips.

### **July 23 - Keep the Fall Veggies Pest Free!**

There are plenty of pests that plague a fall veggie garden. Learn how to catch them and manage them before they become a big deal.

**Copy and paste this link to join.**

<https://agrilife-tamu.webex.com/webappng/sites/agrilife-tamu/meeting/download/7d9716bb89bf4f39b16501f9aa32d59f?siteurl=agrilife-tamu&MTID=m9251097900a15d7d57a12b6672213fc7>

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

## **FREE Friday Webinars (10AM)**

Wizzie Brown has created ONE link for multiple webinars for every Friday through the end of July.

### **Meeting link:**

<https://agrilife-tamu.webex.com/agrilife-tamu/j.php?MTID=m2a3d2b0b2f2b78a3b0acc65ed3ca1829>

### **Meeting number:**

145 712 2533

### **Password:**

M5Ud26a6Q9C

### **Upcoming Topic schedule:**

July 10th- veggie pests

July 17th- attracting insects to your yard (including beneficials)

July 24th- butterfly & caterpillar ID

July 31st- insect orders

## **What has been recorded thus far**

### **Stinging & biting arthropods:**

<https://agrilife-tamu.webex.com/webappng/sites/agrilife-tamu/recording/play/6dd84f06206d4341abbd19693cebf841>

### **Fly ID & Management:**

<https://agrilife-tamu.webex.com/webappng/sites/agrilife-tamu/recording/play/b665549b9a8c4cd8b748a987d5ef5222>

### **Mosquitoes:**

<https://agrilife-tamu.webex.com/webappng/sites/agrilife-tamu/recording/play/e10dedca6c4c47beb602552535b4bb52>

### **All about ants:**

<https://agrilife-tamu.webex.com/webappng/sites/agrilife-tamu/recording/play/3a997b4c14bd4ed0a1f81858992b6035>

**Don't forget to record education hours in VMS! :-)**



# What's Growin'?

## In Jan's Garden

Photos and text by Jan George

"Celebrating Memorial Day at Jan's"

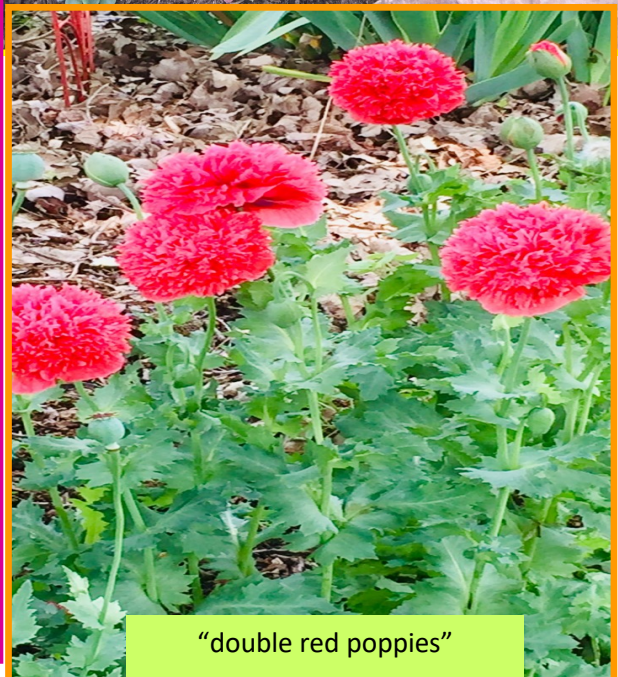


"Bed dedicated to my sister."

1 of 3



"Container blooms!"



"double red poppies"



# What's Growin'?

## In Jan's Garden

Photos and text by Jan George

2 of 3



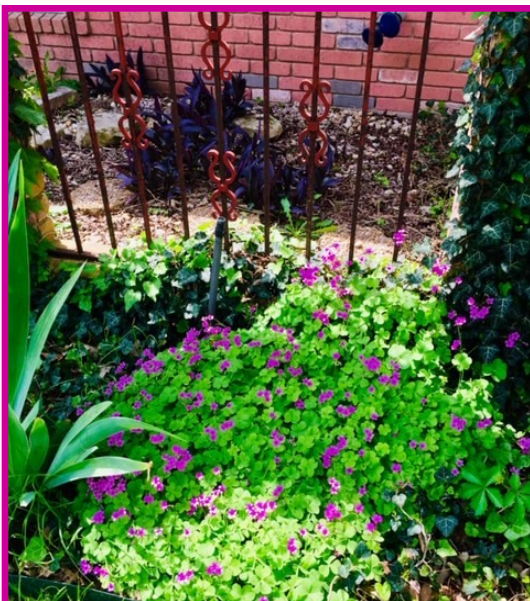
"Hover Fly investigating a Poppy"



"Manfreda"



"More succulents!"



"Reflecting on the cool beauty of my spring garden while enduring the summer heat!"



"succulents"



"sweet peas in Jan's garden"



# What's Growin'?

## In Jan's Garden

Photos and text by Jan George

3 of 3



"Succulents on patio"



"Pride of Barbados & Esperanza showing off! They bloom so profusely all summer long. It seems the hotter it gets, the better they like it!"



"Winecups still blooming"



# ***Announcements...***

## **July General Meeting**

**When:** July 8, 2020

**Where:** **Via Online Meeting**

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when the meeting starts. <https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/251125589>

**Time:** Business meeting at 10:00 AM

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

The Board of Directors Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, July 22 at 9 a.m. via teleconference.** Members are welcome to join the call.

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

## **Grounds Work Days**

**Karen Colwick and Paul Carter**

We are all advised to make any day a work day. Karen has posted a list of "to dos" on the Annex gate. Please check the list before "digging in".



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

## **Communications**

While restrictions are in place, please send photos of your garden with a note about your photos to [TeriMMarceau@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:bell.mg@agnet.tamu.edu), or our correspondence secretary, Debbi Harris, at [dcharris99@yahoo.com](mailto: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@hot.rr.com](mailto:bargasv@hot.rr.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	<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!



Red & yellow Yuccas surround a Color Guard Yucca in a demonstration bed at the AgriLife Center.

Photo by Jan George

### 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	Jan George
Wizzie Brown	Susan Terry
Wayne Schirner	Ilene Miller
Randy Brown	Victoria Ezagui
Sylvia Maedgen	
Juan Anaya	
Crystal Fisher	

### 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 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>



1605 N. Main St.  
Belton, Texas 76513  
(254) 933-5305

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