



..... July 2021



Special work day at the
 Killeen Gardens
 6 May 2021

What's Inside	
Calendar	2
President's Corner	3
Wizzie's Article	4
In The Garden	5
Projects in the community	6
Projects in the community	7
July Community Outreach	8
Presentation	9
Members Articles	10
Help Needed / Announcements	11
Help Needed / Announcements	11



July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Work Day	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 General Mem- bership Mtg & Continuing Educa- tion 9:30 - Noon at Harris Center	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Work Day	17 Community Out- reach Seminar 6- 8 at the Learning	18	19
20	21	22	23 BOD meeting at 9 am in Learning Center	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Work Day			

Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade. –
Rudyard Kipling

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

**To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, please continue to practice
social distancing and wear a mask where appropriate.**

President's Corner

Glenn Melton



Now that COVID guidelines and restrictions have been lifted we are back to business as usual. I would like to remind everyone that much work is needed to bring the Extension Office landscape areas up to a more presentable condition. Wednesday workdays is a good time to focus on these areas and remember that Burger Wednesday will resume on July 7th. I hope to see you all there to enjoy a little fellowship and get some much-needed work done.

We are not however, to do any work or correct any issues done to the landscape adjacent to Main Street as a result of the vehicle accident last month. Select members have met with representatives of the Belton maintenance department and together we developed a plan to address damage to the landscape bed and irrigation system. This plan addresses, among other things, the replacement of lost or damaged plants, replenishment of sod and mulch, replacement of damaged stones, installing a new AgriLife sign, and replacement of the irrigation system. The irrigation system will be repaired temporarily to ensure the continued health of existing plants and landscape bed. We will need to wait for more favorable weather to install replacement plants, so work may not be completed until Fall of this year. All work will be performed and/or coordinated by the city of Belton maintenance department. The BCMGA will act as consultants only. We will keep you posted on the progress.

We had a total of 71 members in attendance at the June General Membership Meeting and I appreciate everyone coming out to support our organization. As Bill Walker (2nd VP) announced, elections are coming up and terms for several positions are set to expire this year. Please take the time to talk with fellow members about these upcoming vacancies and help us identify potential candidates. Although it is only July, I don't need to remind anyone about just how fast time has a way of slipping up on all of us.

Finally, business as usual means that as of June 1st the General Membership, Board of Directors, and the various committee meetings, will all be held in person. General Membership Meetings will be at the Harris Center and the Board of Directors Meetings at the Learning Center. Once again, I want to thank everyone for their patience and support during these past difficult and trying months. Hope to see you all at the upcoming meetings and especially on workdays at the Extension grounds. Glenn



by Wizzie Brown

Connection

I remember way back when I was in college and I called my mom, excited to share with her that I decided to change my major. It went a bit like this.....

Me: "Mom, I decided to change my major. I'm going into entomology!"

Mom: "What?"

Me: "Entomology. It's the study of insects."

Mom: "What are you going to do with that? Do you plan on spending your life spraying bugs?"

Me: "I have no idea, but it will be fantastic!"

While at the time, my mom could not see exactly what I was going to do with a career in entomology, fortunately, for me I found an amazing job with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension where I have the opportunity to educate people on insects. Fortunately for my parents, they now have someone to identify all their insects.

So why the story? Well, you all have the same opportunity as my parents to become educated on various insects. There are a variety of ways to do this, and all are resources that I directly post or am involved with in some way. If you want to learn more about insects, you can connect with me (or my colleagues in some cases) through:

Instagram: urbanipm

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UrbanIPM

YouTube channel: Wizzie Brown

Podcasts: I am involved in two different podcasts.

Bugs by the Yard- this one covers insects in the landscape

Unwanted Guests- this one covers structural pests

Insect ID requests-

Email me at ebrown@ag.tamu.edu

Submit images to <http://texashighplainsinsects.net/>

Educational webinars on various insect topics- email me to get onto the list for sign up links

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas 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.

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 or the Texas A&M AgriLife Research is implied.

In the garden



Baltimore Oriole feeding on trumpet vine.

Juan



Daisies.

Gail Pierce



Garden mix

Julian Hancock



Cherokee purple

Juan

Projects in the community

Lakewood Elementary Project

On May 4th, Master Gardeners Janice Smith, Jo Carlsen, Joan Bumgarner, Barbara Richey and MG intern Marie Hill helped 100 first graders make grass heads, a fun and educational activity. It was a super windy day, and we were chasing googly eyes and pompom balls all over the school yard, but the kids and volunteers alike all had a great time!

The photo with the children holding the grass heads with actual grass growing from them was taken 3 weeks after they were “planted” Kids couldn’t wait to be able to give them a “haircut”!



Projects in the community

Salado: Thomas Arnold Elementary School Garden Transformation – “Cultivating Community”

The winter was harsh but still the bluebonnets bloomed. No wonder they stand as a symbol of rugged resilience.

We too as parents, teachers, administrators and students have pushed through the weeds of this year with our own rugged resilience to keep blooming.

Let's commemorate this year by RESTORING OUR SCHOOL GARDEN.

We will soon lose the masks and restore our connections, because that is what we do, but why don't we take the garden with us!

The students thought this was a good idea, so during Earth Week, EAGLES went OUT and picked up trash, pulled weeds and planted seeds.

The Salado Education Foundation thought it was a good idea too, so they put a little seed money into our garden-gloved hands for dirt and plants.

Now we just need a few more garden-gloved hands to finish what the students started.

by: Melanie Lane, 3rd grade Teacher, May 4, 2021

Melanie wrote this and she and several other teachers got to work, created a plan, and she applied for a Salado Education Foundation Grant. “Cultivating Community” was born. By the end of May, each grade level was assigned a garden area and had begun to clear and plant. With \$1000 grant funding, Melanie plans to enlist community help to complete the garden infrastructure, to include clearing the beds, irrigation, soil and mulch. One area will be dedicated to raised beds for vegetables and herbs. The students, hopefully, will return to a school garden ready for a fall garden to be planted, and well equipped for learning.



Mixing Hummingbird food



Planting Milkweed

July Community Outreach Seminar

The Many Benefits of Trees

By Gail Koontz



From Gail Koontz - Master Gardener

I was certified a Bell County Master Gardener in 2015. That was the year BCMGA hosted the Texas Master Gardener State Conference. No one had any problems getting their volunteer hours that year! I have advanced training in Turfgrass, Entomology, and now Trees and Tree Care this year virtually. I have served as Youth Director and as Treasurer.

In my presentation “The Many Benefits of Trees”, I’ll share some interesting benefits of trees you may not have even considered. I know I learned a lot during this advanced training. Plus I have a couple of favorite “tree” poems to share with you. Looking forward to seeing you on July 15!

Members Articles

Digging In Your Yard

Before you dig in your yard, call 1-800-344-8377 (DIG TESS) or visit the web site at www.texas811.org and get a one call ticket number. It doesn't matter if you are planting a tree, building a fence, installing a sprinkler system or excavating for a new building. The call is free and required by state law two business days prior to work beginning. Underground utilities do not necessarily run in a straight line and erosion may have lessened the amount of cover over the utility.

If you hit an underground utility you are required to call the company, 811, or the Railroad Commission. I also have found 911 to be a useful number to get police and fire personnel on site.

From experience it is comforting to have the 811 one call permit number on hand when you hit an underground utility and it was not correctly marked. My house in Killeen had a 10 foot easement in the rear where the underground electric was located. You may be charged for damage, and that can be expensive. An electrician that does work for me drove a grounding rod through a gas line and was billed \$5,000.

When the underground utilities are marked, the tolerance is 18 inches either side and one half the diameter of the pipe. A 12 in pipe would have a tolerance of 18 plus 6 or 24 inches either side of the marking. In this tolerance you are required to dig carefully with hand tools. I have found 24 pair phone cables in some of my post holes, and the cable was laid in a serpentine fashion. Flint Hills Resources requires their person to be on site if you are excavating within 25 feet of their pipeline.

Underground water and sewer that belongs to the city or county may require a separate notification. East Bell and Little Elm water supply have lines on my property and require a separate call. And then there was the rancher having a pond dug in his pasture and the dozer hit the water supply line to a city. That is another story.

Remember, be safe and call first even if you know for sure there are not any underground utilities.

Charles Newsom

Help Needed / Announcements

Bell County Youth Fair – FCS Photography Superintendent Needed

The Family and Consumer Science (FCS) Division of the Bell County Youth Fair is looking for an additional Photography superintendent for our upcoming 2022 Bell County Youth Fair. The Photography superintendent should have some basic knowledge of photography. Photography entries are submitted and judged online prior to the week of the Youth Fair. Some of the superintendent responsibilities are:

- Recruiting judges knowledgeable in Photography

- Answering questions from students, parents, leaders and judges

- Assigning judges to areas to judge, getting the entries to the judges and making sure the judges finish judging on time.

- Placing ribbons and scoresheets in envelopes for exhibitors

- Organizing the entries on check in day and displaying photos during the week of the Fair.

If you have questions or are interested in being a Photography superintendent, please contact Christy Reese at hotmixworld@yahoo.com or Betty Nejtek at bnejtek@gmail.com.

ADVANCED TRAINED MEMBERS MEMO FROM TERI MARCEAU

I am compiling a list of MGs who have gone through any advanced training to keep handy at the Help Desk so we can start to share the wealth of inquiries we receive. Just in May with all the rain we received over 80 calls/emails. It would be very helpful to be able to spread the work load out as the summer approaches, so will the calls/emails increase. Just send me a quick email with your name, preferred phone number, email and what your advanced training is in. Thanks so much. Teri Marceau

I am still taking orders for our BCMGA merchandise. I need a minimum order of 25 for the T-shirts order since these are screen printed. I currently have 10 orders and I need 15 more orders. I only have 1 order for the sweatshirts and I would need 24 more orders. The other items that are embroidered do not require a minimum order.

Screen printed items - T-shirts, aprons, & sweatshirts - these are royal blue with white screen printed logo
Embroidered items - mesh caps, visors, tote bag - these are royal blue with white embroidered logo.

The men's and women's denim shirts are a chambray with colored embroidered logo.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sylvia Maedgen

254-624-6171

Help Needed / Announcements

Communications

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.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors Meeting will be held on

Wednesday, July 23rd, at 9 a.m.

Please submit your agenda items to Sylvia Maedgen, Recording Secretary, by

Wednesday, July 16th.

Grounds Workdays

Karen Colwick and Paul Carter

List of individual tasks are posted on the gate each week. Gate code is 2019 and extra tools may be found on back of the wood shed.



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

Refreshment Committee General Membership Meeting

A minimum of 7 volunteers are needed for each meeting.



Directors

Communications	Teri Marceau	2020-2022
Facilities	Paul Carter, Dave Slaughter & Karen Colwick	2019-2022
Membership	Sherry Oermann	2020-2022
KMCCG	Dave Slaughter	2021-2021
Outreach	Crystal Mears & Rebekah Lackey	2021-2022
New Class	Gary Slanga / Gail Koontz	2019-2022
Projects	Wayne Schirner & Stacye Parry	2020-2022
Youth	Janice Smith	2020-2022

Executive Board

President	Glenn Melton	2019-2022
1 st Vice President	Jan Upchurch	2020-2022
2 nd Vice President	Bill Walker	2019-2022
Recording Secretary	Sylvia Maedgen	2020-2022
Treasurer	Barbara Ishikawa	2020-2022

AgriLife Agent Lyle Zoeller

Texas Master Gardener website

<https://txmg.org>

Bell County Master Gardener website

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

Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Management System

<https://vms.texasmg.org/>

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

Please send your updates for the BCMG website to Rachel.

Editor: Julian Hancock & Julie Reid

Please submit articles with photos not to exceed 300 words and without photos not to exceed 500 words as Word documents. Photos should be sent separately in a folder through a link using OneDrive, Dropbox, or Google Photos. **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 Julian at julianhancock61@gmail.com.

***Please do not send PDF documents.
I will send them back to you!***

CHECK OUT BCMGA FACEBOOK PAGE! GO TO

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



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

A publication of the Bell County Master Gardener Association sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension of Texas A & M University