



# STAY SAFE IN THE HEAT!!

With temperatures projected to reach triple digits gardeners need to take precautions. Here are some suggestions to keep you safe....

1. Garden early. Even shady areas of the garden will be intolerable by midday
2. Dress appropriately. Use long sleeves, pants and skirts in a light-weight, loose fitting fabric to provide protection from the sun. Wear a well-vented, wide-brimmed hat to protect your face, head, neck and ears from the sun.
3. Hydrate. Drink 1 cup of water every 15-20 minutes, don't wait until you feel thirsty.
4. If you're sweating like Niagara Falls it's time to call it a day, there's always tomorrow!

<b>What's Inside</b>	
Calendar	2
President's Corner	3
Wizzie's Article	4
In The Garden	5
In the community	6
Texas Fruit Conference	7
Salado School Garden Grant News	8
Help Needed / Announcements	9
Help Needed / Announcements	10
General Information	11

# September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Work Day	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 General Mem- bership Mtg & Continuing Educa- tion 9:30 - Noon on-line	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Work Day	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 BOD meeting at 9 am on-line	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Work Day	30	31	

I like gardening - it's a place where I find myself when I need to lose myself.  
– Alice Sebold

**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**



Bell County continues to experience a high incidence rate (525+ per 100,000 people) of COVID infections and remains at Threat Level 1. This is the highest since January, I am asking all members to observe established guidelines and continue to keep yourselves and loved ones safe. As you all know, many of our scheduled events have been suspended until further notice and at this time we do not know when normal operations will resume. We will keep you posted as soon as we hear anything new.

I encourage all members to participate in as many events as possible as long as COVID guidelines and restrictions are followed. Work at the Extension Grounds continues but there is still much more to be done. The Help Desk is still functioning as normal, and the public continues to submit emails and phone calls seeking assistance on a variety of issues. If you are unable to work at the Help Desk, please consider working from home. We will forward requests to you and ask that you conduct research into a particular topic and advise the citizen what you have discovered concerning their questions. As always, you can contact any of us at the Help Desk if you need any assistance in your efforts to satisfy the client's needs.

Please remember that our monthly General Membership meetings, as well as the Board of Directors meetings are held virtually via the GoToMeeting program. Attendance at these events continues to grow and I encourage everyone to take the time to participate as often as possible. If you do not receive an email inviting you to attend either of these meetings, please go the VMS Homepage and locate the link under BCMGA Calendar & News section. Hope to see you all there.

Glenn

## Fall Armyworms



Fall armyworm larvae, or caterpillars, are light tan to light green with a brownish-black head.

These caterpillars have a white line between their eyes that forms an inverted Y-shape. Larvae have yellowish and black banding along their body as well as four large spots at the end of the abdomen. Adults are small moths with a wingspan of 1.5 inches with mottled brownish-grey wings.

Fall armyworms overwinter in the pupal stage in south Texas. Once adults emerge from the pupal stage, they migrate northward during spring as temperatures rise. Larvae feed for about 2-3 weeks and then enter soil to pupate.

Armyworms attack many types of plants. Small larvae feed on the green layer of leaves, causing a windowpane effect while larger larvae completely strip leaves. The last two larval stages eat about 85% of the total foliage consumed. Fall armyworms feed any time during the day or night but are most active in early morning or late evening. Fall armyworms strip foliage from plants and then move onto a new food source. With high populations, larvae appear to march side by side to new food sources, thus giving them the name of armyworm.

Various predators help keep armyworm populations from becoming too large. Parasitoids, such as wasps or flies, lay their eggs in armyworm eggs and/ or larvae causing death of the developing egg or larvae. Predators, such as ground beetles, also help reduce armyworm numbers by eating larvae. Many other animals like birds, skunks, and rodents consume large numbers of armyworms. Even with these natural controls, there are certain conditions that can cause outbreak populations. Typically outbreaks occur for fall armyworms in late summer or early fall after heavy rain or irrigation.

To determine if populations are high enough to justify control, count the number of armyworms in a square foot for 8 different areas. Thresholds for lawns can vary, but treatment should be considered when there are 3 or more larvae per square foot. Look for products labeled for armyworms for use on lawns or turf. Active ingredients may include *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, spinosad, bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, carbaryl, or permethrin.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600.

*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.*

*The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal access in its programs, activities, education and employment, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity.*

# In the garden



Zinnia Flowers



Pearl Crescent butterfly on a Calendula



Passion Vine flower



Owl Fly eggs

All photos: Teri Marceau

# Help In The Community

BCMGA partnered with Carter Blood Center and had a blood drive on Saturday, August 14, 2021. We had six volunteers to work the blood drive .

BCMGA distributed pamphlets and free squash plants, fresh okra and fresh jalapenos to those attending and we also had Ask a Master Gardener with which we answered many questions.



# Texas Fruit Conference

**Registration is now open for the 2021 Texas Fruit Conference**

**October 11-12 at the New Braunfels Civic Convention Center,**

**375 S. Castell Ave., New Braunfels, TX 78130**

**Registration Site:** <http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/fruit/>

We have an expanded format this year, with an Intro to Fruit Growing Workshop, Monday morning, October 11<sup>th</sup>, and our Main Conference that includes five topical sessions, beginning Monday afternoon and continuing all day Tuesday. **See the full program at the following link:** [2021 Texas Fruit Conference Program - Fruit & Nut Resources Fruit & Nut Resources \(tamu.edu\)](#)

**Intro to Fruit Workshop:** Six presentations covering Site Selection, Fruit Crop Options, First-Year Plant Establishment, Time Considerations, Pesticide Use/Integrated Pest Mgt, and Orchard Economics.

Cost per person: \$55 for Intro Workshop Only (includes lunch Monday and access to 5pm Monday reception). A package price of \$125 provides access to the Main Conference Only.

**Main Fruit Conference:** Five general sessions: Marketing & Regulations, Alternative Fruit Crops, Fruit Research & Extension, Overview of Fruit Growing Approaches, and Orchard Management.

The main conference opens with lunch at Noon, Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>; Educational presentations begin 1:15, end at 5:00 pm and then Segway into the **Taste of Texas Fruit Reception** (with heavy hors d'oeuvres) from 5pm to 7pm. Presentations continue Tuesday morning, beginning 8:30 am and concluding 4:30 pm. Lunch is included Tuesday as well.

Main Conference Registration Fee: \$90/person. A package price of \$125 provides access to the Intro to Fruit Workshop Monday morning as well.

Texas A&M AgrLife Personnel Registration: \$55 for any/all access.

Texas Pesticide License CEU's will be offered: *Amount to be determined*

**Exhibitors:** The 2021 Texas Fruit Conference has expanded exhibit space this year, because we have rented the entire NB Civic Center. Exhibitor Registration is \$300 for complete access during all events for up to 3 representatives, display space, table, chairs and lunch both days. Exhibitors may also register at <http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/fruit/>

**Lodging in New Braunfels:** Due to the pandemic, we have chosen not to establish a conference hotel. New Braunfels has a wide variety of lodging choices which are readily accessible to the downtown location of the New Braunfels Civic Convention Center ([Convention Center | New Braunfels, TX - Official Website \(nbtexas.org\)](#))

Questions about the Texas Fruit Conference can be directed to:

Dr. Monte Nesbitt, (979) 862-1218, [monte.nesbitt@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:monte.nesbitt@ag.tamu.edu)

# GREAT NEWS!!



## **Salado Thomas Arnold Elementary Receives Texas Department of Agriculture Expanding 3e's (X3e) Grant**

*Grant will create a Farm Fresh sustainable organic school garden and outdoor learning center*

Salado, Texas – Texas Department of Agriculture has recognized Thomas Arnold Elementary School garden as the recipient of a \$10,000 Expanding 3e's (X3e) Grant. This grant will provide resources necessary to continue restoring the garden established by the PTO and Community partners in 2012. We selected this Farm Fresh project because of the 2020-21 Covid 19 pandemic crisis. Thomas Arnold Elementary opened to all students with the agreement that each student and every teacher would wear a mask and maintain a social distance. This procedure continued throughout the entire school year. One day in early spring, my third-grade class and I took a mask break in the area that we called the garden. Though no longer a garden, it did have some native plantings, a limestone amphitheater and a nice trail that encircled the entire area. On this particular day, the students ran the trail like butterflies coming out of their cocoons. The bluebonnets were beginning to sprout in the weed-filled, forgotten beds and the sun was shining. For this teacher, it was a moment I will never forget. This moment of bluebonnets, Texas-native plants and children, all determined to grow in spite of the circumstances, reminded me of my Texas roots - OUR Texas roots. If ever there was a time to restore this garden and reimagine education, it should be now as we leave our Covid cocoons to learn from the difficulty of this school year.

The Farm Fresh Project that we look forward to implementing is a successful, sustainable elementary school garden. Our ultimate vision is to provide PK through 5th graders with a hands-on educational experience where they learn about nutritional food choices by giving them the opportunity to plant, tend, harvest and taste the herbs, fruits and vegetables that they themselves cultivate.

Currently, we have six raised beds in a large garden area. Thanks to our community partners, the beds are ready for irrigation. In the larger garden area, there is space designated for fruit trees and pollinator plants. This Farm Fresh project goal is to create our school's first edible garden, cultivated by the 3rd grade classes in this initial year, and expanding to other grade levels in subsequent years.

The Farm Fresh grant funding will provide for the acquisition of vegetable seedlings and fruit trees, irrigation installation, student-friendly garden tools, garden seating; and restoration of the existing amphitheater with a shade canopy, to create a true outdoor learning center.

Our community partners have made an amazing difference this summer; Cen-Tex Partnership provided our link with Ft Hood and arranged three workdays when soldiers cleared weeds and large plants, moved raised beds and hauled soil. Keep Salado Beautiful and Bell County Master Gardeners have provided planning and plant expertise, and several area landscapers have offered advice on irrigation and amphitheater repair.

**The Kathi Walrath Memorial Garden** will be dedicated on Friday, August 27, 9:00 am.

Kathi Walrath was a school volunteer who not only worked tirelessly on behalf of students and staff, she also found time to support young soldiers stationed at Ft. Hood.

Because Kathi played a significant role in creating this school garden years ago, it is with great pleasure that we at Thomas Arnold Elementary dedicate this new raised bed garden area in her memory.

## *Help Needed / Announcements*

### Cancelled/Suspended Activities:

- Monthly community Outreach Classes
- Burger Wednesday
- Herbal Study Group suspended
- Fall Plant Sale
- Some current projects may be suspended
- New projects might not be considered

### Meetings:

- All meetings, to the extent possible, should be held virtually
- In-person meetings will be kept to a minimum with a limit of 12 participants
- Masks are encouraged, hand sanitizer should be made available, social distancing practiced
- General Membership meetings will include 30 minutes for business and 30 minutes for education, will be virtual via GoToMeeting
- Board of Directors' meetings will be virtual unless otherwise specified
- Christmas Party still scheduled for Dec 2; planning meetings will be announced

### New Class Committee:

If interested in being a part of this committee contact:

Bernie Hurta

bhurta@gmail.com

# Help Needed / Announcements

## Communications

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.

Community Outreach had a FB Live with Juan Anaya on August 18, 2021 and that can be viewed at any time on our Facebook page.

Also available on Youtube.

## Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 18th, at 9 a.m.** Please submit your agenda items to Sylvia Maedgen, Recording Secretary, by **Wednesday, August 11th.**

## 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.

### 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 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Jan Upchurch	2020-2022
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:glass.rachel@gmail.com)

Please send your updates for the BCMG website to Rachel.

### Editor: Julian Hancock

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](mailto: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