



..... October 2021 .....

Fellow members,

Our October issue of the newsletter is somewhat lacking in content.

On the upside, it means it won't take you long to read it. On the downside it means that our membership won't get to see all the marvelous activities and projects that groups and individuals in our organization carry out, both at home and in our community.

This is *your* newsletter. I would love to see more of your great photos and articles for future issues.

A big thank you to all past and future contributors!

Julian Hancock. Editor

### What's Inside

Calendar	2
President's Corner	3
Members Articles	4
In The Garden	5
In the community	6
Members Articles	7
BCMGA Projects	8
Help Needed / Announcements	9
Help Needed / Announcements	10
General Information	11



Association President Glenn Melton printed Rebecca Caldwell her Ten Year Pin at a KMCCG Workday 9-25-21.

# October 2021

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

Almost every person, from childhood, has been touched by the untamed beauty of wildflowers. –**Lady Bird Johnson**

**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**



As everyone knows October means it time to start finalizing the nominations for this year's elections. We will present the slate of nominations this month and vote in November. Please stand by for further information regarding voting procedures and who to contact to submit your name for consideration. As of this writing the positions of Director of Facilities and Director of Projects are vacant. I urge you to submit your name if you are considering volunteering for either of these or any other position.

We have modified COVID guidelines to address meetings conducted in the Learning Center. Effective immediately meetings conducted in this facility must adhere to the following guidelines: masks are encouraged, hand sanitizer available, sliding doors remain open, and social distancing observed. Following these guidelines will enable attendance for approximately 20-25 members (including instructors). Be advised that no meetings may include members of the general public.

Starting this month and continuing into early December work will begin in earnest on the landscape beds in front of the Extension Office. We will develop a landscaping plan, decide what plants to purchase and plant, which plants to completely remove, order mulch, and assist with irrigation installation. If you would like to participate in this project please contact Paul Carter, Karen Colwick, or me for scheduled dates and times for work and other meetings. We look forward to working with everyone who wishes to help. I think you will find this a very rewarding and worthwhile effort, and of course, earn you some much needed service hours. Speaking of service hours several members have not entered enough service or educational hours in VMS to remain certified this year. If you have earned the required hours, please take the time to enter them into VMS as soon as possible. If you lack sufficient hours do not wait any longer to earn them before the year is over. After all, time has a way of slipping up on all of us. I would like to stress to everyone how important you are to this organization. This is a large Association with many members who work hard to support the community, but without your help we cannot continue our mission. Please make a concerted effort to ensure you remain an active and valuable member of our Association by obtaining all the required service and educational hours. If you are having problems entering any of this data, as always, contact me or anyone on staff and we will help in any we can. Thanks again for everything you do.

Glenn

# Members Articles

## Perfect Basil Pesto!

I'm sure many of you have basil still growing in your gardens. You can go out and cut it back in the morning (it will encourage new growth) and make some great pesto that will not turn dark! For years, I've been making basil pesto and the surface always started to turn dark almost immediately. I tried putting plastic wrap directly on the surface and I tried covering it in olive oil, but nothing seemed to work well. And then I discovered a website called [foodandstyle.com](http://foodandstyle.com).



The key is blanching the basil for 15 seconds and then putting it into an ice bath. Put all the basil leaves and parsley leaves (or spinach) into boiling water. Push into the water and leave for 15 seconds. Drain and put directly into a bowl full of ice water. The ice water will keep it bright. Let it drain well, squeezing water out of it. Place in the food processor about 4 C basil and parsley with 2 garlic cloves, 1/2 C grated parmesan cheese, 1/4 C pine nuts, 1/8 t salt and 1/4-1/2 C extra virgin olive oil depending on how thick you'd like it. This is one of those "adjust the ingredients as you wish" types of recipes.

You can always use walnuts if you don't have pine nuts! I use a ratio of 4:1 basil to parsley or spinach. The amount of salt depends how you like it or how much parmesan cheese you put in since cheese is salty. I spread this on toast (I like HEB Rosemary sourdough), put sliced tomatoes on it, and then top it with that HEB Italian or Pizza mix of shredded cheese and put into the broiler for a minute or two to melt the cheese. It makes a great dinner! And this pesto will last a couple of weeks in the refrigerator without getting dark and yucky looking. It will be a beautiful bright green that will taste great on pasta, chicken, bread and pizza!

Happy Pesto making!

Terrie Hahn MG 2006



# In the garden



All photos: Julian Hancock

# Help In The Community



# Members Articles

As a Master Gardener I am always looking at trees and plants when I visit places outside of Texas. They fascinate me. Do you do the same thing?

This week I am in the state of Ohio. My travels took me to the capital city in central Ohio. Did you know that the Ohio state tree is called a Buckeye Tree? There is even a very delicious candy made to look like a buckeye seed made with peanut butter and chocolate.

I took some photos of some trees in my brother's backyard that I thought you might find interesting.

1. Buckeye Tree Leaf
  2. A Buckeye seed pod typically holds 2 seeds
  3. Sweetbay Magnolia Leaf
  4. Sweetbay Magnolia Seed pod
  5. Tartarian Maple (Acer tataricum - this tree is a medium sized shade tree and puts off seeds in the fall. As children we called them helicopter trees because when the seeds fall they spin like a helicopter blade).
- I hope you enjoyed my little trip around an Ohio backyard.

Do you have any fun photos of plants not common in Texas when you visited?

Teri Marceau



# BCMGA Projects



## *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

# *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.

## Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October, 27th at 9 a.m.**  
Please submit your agenda items to Sylvia Maedgen, Recording Secretary, by **Wednesday, October 13th.**

## 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