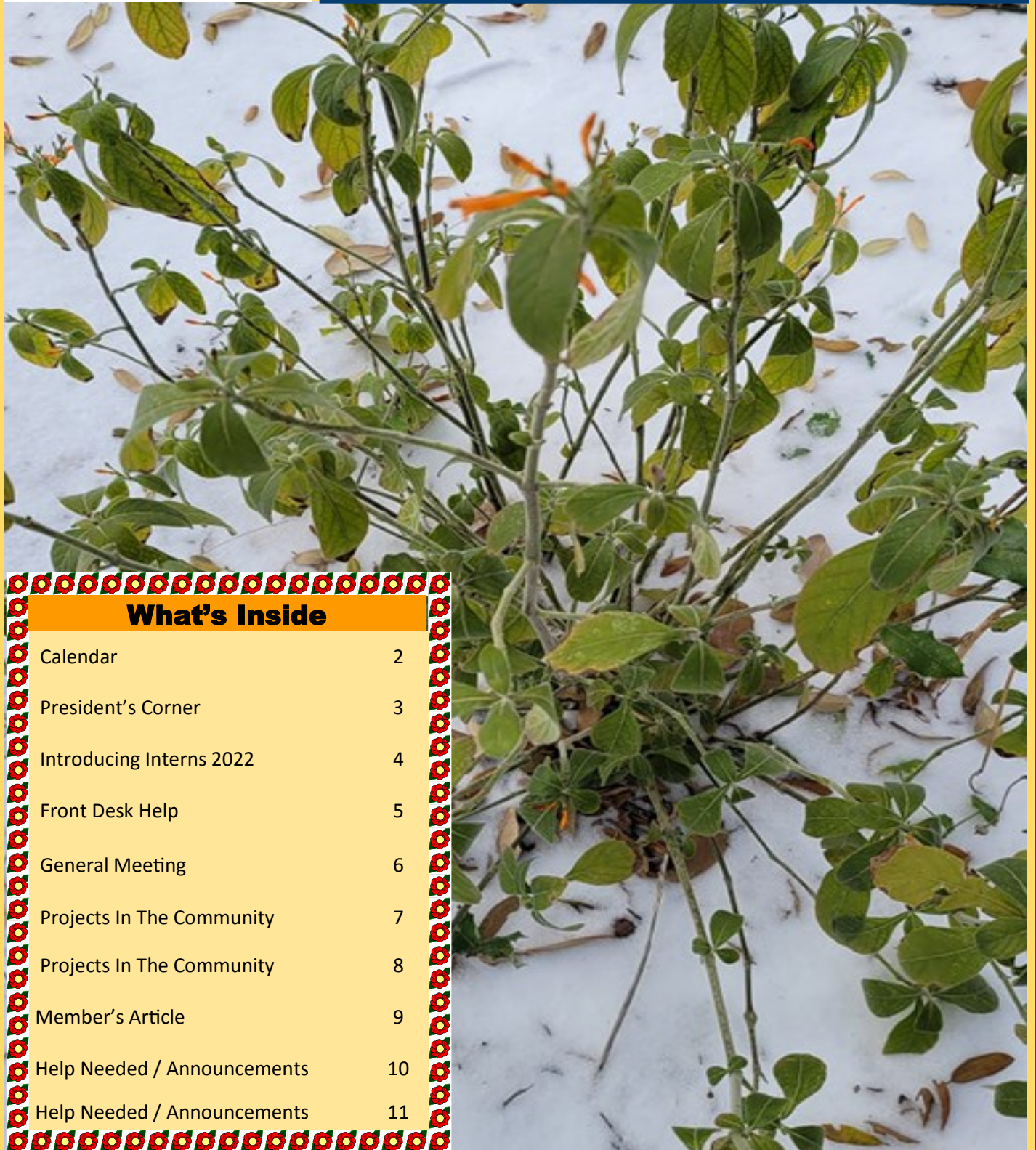


# The Blooming Bell

..... February 2022 .....



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# February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Work Day Burger Wednesday	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Work Day General Membership mtg 10:00am	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Work Day	24	25	26
27	28	1	2 Work Day Board Mtg.	3	4	5

"From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens - the garden outdoors, the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind's eye."  
- Katherine S. White

**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**

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### **Kathy Love**

We are expecting cold weather the first week of February so please prepare by protecting your plants, stocking up on necessities, winterizing your pipes and protecting your livestock and pets. Let's all hope and pray that nothing like the early weeks of February 2021 is not repeated in 2022.

We are still in need of a Facilities Director for the Board of Directors. We are trying to split up some of the responsibilities by getting volunteers to oversee specific portions of this directorship. For instance, Joan Bumgarner has agreed to oversee the demonstration beds under the directorship of Facilities. We are looking to find a volunteer to oversee the Learning Center and grounds around the learning center. We have Carla Harmon overseeing the greenhouse and are looking for another person to oversee the grounds in front of the extension building. If you are interested in the directorship or serving to support any of the sub-groups, please let me know as soon as possible. The Facilities Director will be the voting member on the Board but will be expected to consult with his/her subcommittee members on votes.

Also, Burger Wednesday lead Joann Zieschang has asked to step down from that leadership position after over 2 years of service. I have asked Don Wyatt, Ray Machovsky and Art Carr to assume this responsibility, but if any of you would like to step and up head this project, please let me know as my understanding with this group is they are standing in for now.

I regret to inform you that our Association will not be submitting any state search for excellence award nominations for 2021. A lack of authors and data is preventing us from submitting the two nominations that were considered. This solves a problem the state awards committee (of which I am a member) was facing. Since I am the Judge recruiter for the committee and now president of our Association, the committee and I were concerned about our national judges knowing which Association I was a member of as the name of the Association president goes on the nomination—we were concerned it could work either in favor or against us.

Two new school projects were approved by the Board of Directors at our January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, Tanner Elementary in Belton, and Clear Creek Elementary on Fort Hood—both are pending final approval by Lyle. Janice Smith is our Youth Director and if you are interested in finding out more about these new gardening with youth projects, please get in touch with her.

Please plan on working on our Spring Plant Sale scheduled for March 26<sup>th</sup> on our Master Gardener grounds. We need to be getting the grounds cleaned up and ready and thanks to everyone who is growing for the sale. Happy growing!

Kathy

# Welcome our 2022 interns!

We are very excited to welcome our new interns and to help them get plugged in serving our community and being a part of our wonderful organization.

We want you to familiarize yourself with the names of our 2022 Interns. Julian and I will be compiling their photos and biographies this month and will present their story to you in March newsletter. But for now here is the class and what part of the county they hale from. You can find their contact information in VMS.

Last Name	First Name	City
Balkum	David	Salado
Bickel	Randine	Salado
Bowsher	Andrea	Kempner
Brown	Tracy	Temple
Claburn	Lucinda	Salado
Cryar	Keith	
Daniel	Denise	
Daniel	Misti	Temple
Davis	L.E. (Lou Ellen)	Temple
Holland	Greg	Temple
Johnson	Melissa	Killeen
Jones	Lynette	Salado
Marek	April	Temple
McClelland	Keri	Florence
McKauge	velvet	Temple
McWhorter	David	Copperas Cove
Reding	April	Killeen
Shubert	Annette	Temple
Smith	Brenda	Salado
Smith	Lee Ann	Belton
Snelson	Jimmie	Temple
Thompson	Debra	Troy
Wells	Jane	Belton

# Front Desk Update

## JANUARY HELP DESK

By Teri Marceau

Kathy Love and I enjoyed presenting the Help Desk How To at our last general membership meeting. We discussed briefly how we keep track of our contacts that walk-in, telephone, and or email us with their garden and yard concerns.

The winter months are typically a little slow which gives us the opportunity to enhance our knowledge on common questions received on the help desk. This winter has not been any different with the exception of working on the new Education Center. We fielded nine calls on trees alone, a call on holes in a lawn. I want to share the one on the lawn and one of the tree concerns, which is very interesting. In this article I will include the links to the articles that we sent to our citizens. My hope is that you will take the time to read the articles as they are quite interesting.

Let me start with the lawn. Brian K. emailed us with a concern of “burrowing holes in lawn of newly constructed home”. Kathy Love fielded this question by calling Brian and asking him some questions to obtain further information in order to help her research. She found and emailed a very informative article by Texas A&M Extension to Brian K., <https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/library/wildlife-nature-environment/managing-mole-damage/>. I found the information in the following paragraph new information to me. I never knew that such a small animal needed a large space to live and feed in. *“The principal diet of moles consists of earthworms, grubs, beetles and insect larvae. Vegetation occasionally makes up a small portion of their diet. They eat from 70 to 100 percent of their weight each day to compensate for the tremendous amount of energy expended in burrowing through soil. Because of their food requirements, moles must cover a larger area than most animals that live underground. Therefore, three to five moles per acre is considered a high population for most areas.”* I hope you find this article as interesting as I did.

The next concern came from Fred H. with this concern, *“I did prune the small oak and observed active galls. The tree is probably about six years old. It is placed prominently in front of the house. It appears to be infested. It also appears to be not only balls but permeating the limbs of the tree. I have never seen this in my 68 years until now. From reading the literature you sent it appears as though my options are few. Thought I would share this with you and see what you think?”*.



After reviewing the photographs, Kathy responded *“I think you have a significant problem. I am assuming you made this cut on what we have been calling galls but it really looks more like a burl to me. I believe the white we are seeing is the eggs and larvae of some type of borer. I am sending a link to wood boring insects. Please note that borers are most often found in dead and dying trees or highly stressed trees. This is because the tree’s natural defenses against pests and disease are in decline. I think your tree’s viability is certainly in question. Let me know if there is anything else I can do for you.”* And included an extensive PDF article from Texas A&M. The article talks about several different tree borers along with the damage they cause. Then it includes with potential management solutions. I personally did not know anything about borers or that they could cause such damage to a tree. I highly recommend reading the article in its entirety. <https://cdn-ext.agnet.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/EB-5086-wood-boring-insects-of-trees-and-shrubs.pdf>.

Remember if you do read the articles the time spent education yourself counts towards your continuing education hours.

# January General Meeting





# Projects in the community

## KMCCG

Week of 3-8 January 2022

For the week, 55.5 lbs Carrots, Turnips, Broccoli and Beets were harvested. This completed the harvest of turnips, broccoli and beets. Expended plants were removed. 8 January was a cool, foggy day. Fourteen Master Gardeners were present including three 2022 interns. Bio-soil was added to the garden to prepare soil when seed potatoes are available. General Maintenance; watering, weeding and trimming were also accomplished.



Interns Class of 2022



Larry M spreading biosoil



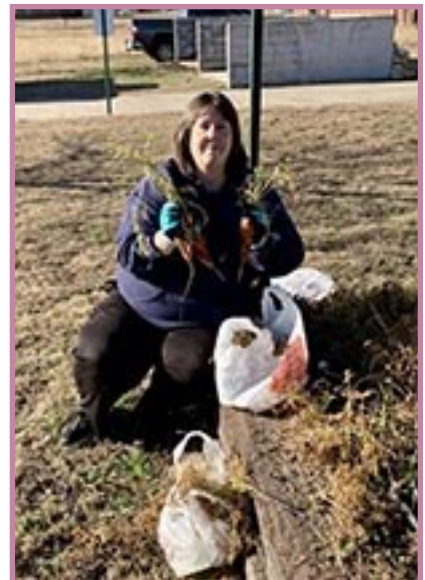
Gail Pierce and Walter Schneider on carrot harvest

# Projects in the community

## KMCCG

Cold start, but soon beautiful workday. Final carrot harvest of seventeen lbs . 2022 Intern Melissa Johnson holding the largest carrots of this season's harvest. Areas that received bio-soil 1-22 were tilled in. 2022 Intern David McWorter, and Glenn Melton did a great job on the tiller. Rebecca Caldwell, Gail Pierce and a hard working crew of students got the front entry cleaned up and weeded. Randy Brown and students watered the gardens. Bob Gordon returned to garden after some health issues. Gail Pierce showing a wonderful crop of carrots.

A great day in the garden!





# Member's Article

Mary Lew Quesinberry

## Lion's Tail

*Leonotis leonurus*

Lion's Tail (*Leonotis leonurus*) is a wonderful late summer blooming perennial. It's dazzling orange tubular flowers attract hummingbirds. It is a native of Africa and adapts well to the growing conditions of Central Texas. It is tolerant of heat, drought, and dry soil. Give Lion's Tail plenty of sun and cut this perennial back to 3 inches after a hard freeze. It pairs beautifully with the purple blooms of Mexican Sage (*Salvia leucantha*).



# ***Help Needed / Announcements***

COVID19 restrictions have been lifted and most projects are gearing up for 2022 and could use your help. You can find a complete list of projects in VMS; there you can email the project manager for volunteer opportunities. For help with finding an active project to volunteer in you can contact Stacey Parry at [stacye1120@gmail.com](mailto:stacye1120@gmail.com).

HELP DESK: Beginning in 2022 the HELP DESK will be open 5 days a week. We are looking to fill 3 hour shifts with 2 people per shift. There is a morning shift, 9:00 am to noon and an afternoon shift, 1:00-3:00 pm. We are already starting to take volunteers. Working in the new Education Center is a great way to learn. getting your continuing education hours and to fill you service hours.

NEW OFFICE NAME & HOURS: Beginning January 2022, the MG office will be called The Education Center. We will have displays for the public both from MGs and from the Master Naturalists, along with our education materials being displayed and available for the public. The Education Center will be open Monday through Friday (closed on Holidays) 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (closed for lunch noon-1:00 pm). The Education Center is located in the first office on the left as you enter the Extension Building. Stop by and see us. We are currently working on the display plans while we are working at our new help desk.

## **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



# ***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.

**BIRTHDAYS:** The communication committee is looking for your birthday (month and day) so we can celebrate with you. Please send the date to Teri Marceau at [ter-immarceau@gmail.com](mailto:ter-immarceau@gmail.com). We LOVE to celebrate our Master Gardeners.

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

### **To Be Decided**

## **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	TBD	2019-2022
Membership	Sherry Oermann	2020-2022
KMCCG	Dave Slaughter	2021-2022
Outreach	Crystal Mears & Rebekah Lackey	2021-2022
New Class	Pat Johnson	2019-2022
Projects	Wayne Schirner	2020-2022
Youth	Janice Smith	2020-2022

#### Executive Board

President	Kathy Love	2022-2024
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Jan Upchurch	2020-2022
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Louann Hight	2022-2024
Recording Secretary	Gail Koontz	2022-2023
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/>

#### 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!***

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