

The Blooming Bell

..... April 2022



What's Inside

Calendar	2
President's Corner	3
Spring Plant Sale	4-6
Youth Corner	7
Educational Article	8
In The Community	9
Outdoor and Science Expo	10
Home and Garden Show	11
General Meeting	12
Help Needed / Announcements	13

April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 General Membership mtg. plus edu- cation mtg	7	8	9 Garage Sale
10	11	12	13 Work Day	14 Monthly Outreach Seminar	15	16
17	18	19 San Antonio Botanical Gardens Tour	20 Board of Directors Mtg. Work day	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Work Day	28	29	30

“In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.” – Margaret Atwood

**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

Kathy Love

Congratulations everyone on another great plant sale! Saturday was a beautiful day, and we had a lot of beautiful plants for our faithful and new customers. I don't have a sales total to report in this article but we will have that by the next meeting I am sure.

Thanks goes out to everyone who helped with preparation, setup, sales, etc. but especially to Barbara Ishikawa and Wayne Schirner for their leadership on this major event.

At the March Board of Directors meeting, we decided on some changes to the general membership and education monthly meetings, based primarily on your responses to our recent survey.

Starting in April we are moving the social time to 9 to 9:30 a.m. and we will lead with the education program rather than the general business meeting. This decision is based at least in part on fairness to our speakers. They have devoted time and effort to the preparation of their presentations, and we want to be sure they get their full hour to educate which we have failed at in the past when our business meeting runs long.

The education program will run from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. followed by a formal 15-minute break, followed by our general membership meeting from 10:45 a.m. – noon or when completed. Please keep in mind that we have agreed to vacate the Harris Center by noon so please that in mind when visiting each other after the meeting. We need to be good stewards of our meeting facility.

Also, at the Board meeting we voted to lease a copier/printer for the new office space. This will allow us to do much of our own copying taking some of that burden off the office staff. It will also allow us to make color copies for many of our events, which the office lease of their copier often prohibits.

Our new laptop for presentations and events has arrived as well thanks to the planning and research done by Barbara Ishikawa and Teri Marceau. Teri is also the shopper for the new copier/printer.

Our community outreach is really gearing up with many contacts from the public seeking speakers and educators. If you have not yet signed up for the speaker's bureau and you have a topic or topics you would like to offer, please do so. Thanks for Rebekah Lackey for service as a co-director for community outreach for the last year and 3 months, but she is stepping down from that position effective April 1st. Crystal Mears remains as a director, but she would like to have a co-director as she was with Rebekah so if anyone is interested in this position, please let Crystal, me or any Board member know of your interest. Because it is a resignation, our By-Laws indicate that someone can be named to fill the remainder of the term position by a vote of the Board. Things are warming up! Hope you are out there gardening!

Spring Plant Sale

From our fearless Plant Sale leader, Barbara Ishikawa.

“Sending out a big Thank You to all the Master Garden volunteers who helped make this weekend’s Plant Sale a success! We welcomed 570 guests, sold nearly all of our plant inventory and collected over \$13,000. Such an enthusiastic response from the community is because you:”

Started seeds and nurtured seedlings through this chilly spring; dug up, clipped or otherwise propagated plants from your gardens; saved & packaged seeds

*Spread mulch, watered, weeded, clipped, dug up, planted to make our grounds look so good for visitors
Selected & ordered plants, unloaded, labelled and re-labelled, watered and re-watered and got them ready for sale*

Set up and took down tables, moved and re-moved them, put up and took down signage, donated boxes

Directed traffic – automobile and people – keeping everyone safe and moving in the right direction

Answered countless questions, researched and provided educational signage, promoted the sale, and enthusiastically greeted the community

Thank you, Thank you.

Before the Plant Sale is just a memory, please take a few minutes to wrap up the details.

Share your thoughts on how to make the next sale even better. A survey link was sent from ishikab1@yahoo.com via SurveyMonkey on Sunday. Many of you were taking notes on improvements, please make sure to enter them into the survey. If you need a new link to the survey, let me know.

Barbara”

If you missed the spring plant sale you did miss out on seeing and meeting some of our biggest supporters. The weather couldn’t have been any better with sunny skies and cool breezes. It was exciting to see all the interns get into it and work effortlessly with one another and with the community. The sale was truly a success and while Barbara gives us the credit, she is a wonderful example of how to lead a large event. She has a plan, which is fluid and flexible. She empowers everyone to do their job and to do it to the best of their ability. The whole association thanks you Barbara Ishikawa for making it look easy and for your leadership. Great job!

BCMGA Seed Starters

Congratulations to all the members of the BCMGA who worked to make our spring plant sale a resounding success. I would like to specifically thank the members who grew plants for our plant sale. The availability of vegetables to purchase from outside vendors was extremely limited and if we had relied on that alone we would have had less than 25% of what we were able to offer. This group started in January growing plants, mostly vegetables. They stuck with it through the many cold spells that limited access to sunlight. In spite of all the challenges, they were successful beyond expectation. This was a great learning experience for everyone who participated, and I am hopeful that they now feel confident in starting seeds and growing seedlings suitable for transplanting into a garden. We learned about ways to enhance seed germination, the critical importance of adequate light for seedling growth, the up-potting process, supporting the growth of our plants, and the hardening off process to prepare plants for transplantation into the garden. We will be doing an after action evaluation so that we can share our learning experiences to make us even more successful in future endeavors. Thanks again for taking a chance and hopefully this will just be the beginning of your seed starting journey. Maybe other members will also be encouraged by our success and join in the fun.

Wayne Schirner

Spring Plant Sale

Set Up Day



Spring Plant Sale



Youth Corner

Kid's Zone at the 2022 Home and Garden Show

After a year long hiatus, the Kid's Zone at the Home and Garden show was back with two activities to help kids learn about gardening. At the first booth, kids (and their parents) learned about the benefits of starting seeds in eggshells, and each child was able to plant and take home their very own eggshell to tend and later plant in their garden. We also hosted a booth where kids could learn about the life cycle of butterflies, and each child make their own representation of the life cycle using different shaped pasta.

Thanks to the many volunteer MGs and interns who helped make this a success!



Meridith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy

We are excited to have been invited back to MDECA to help restart their award-winning garden project, which due to construction and Covid-19 has been untended for the past 2 years. The first week of March Master Gardeners Gail Koontz, Janice Smith and Barbara Dalby led sessions with 12 classes of preschoolers on seed starting, and each child planted an eggshell with seeds. In early April, we will return to help plant the seedlings and other transplants in their raised beds. We are also helping to design and plant a pollinator garden on the school grounds. If you are interested in helping with this fun project, please contact Janice or check the VMS calendar for School Projects.



Learn, Grow, Eat and Go

This elementary school junior master gardener curriculum is now being offered at Hector P. Garcia and Raye-Allen Elementary schools in Temple. In coordination with Bev Hodges in the Agri-life office, weekly after-school sessions with 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are held at each school. MGs Sylvia Maedgen, Susan Fogelman and Marie Hill are working at Hector P. Garcia, and Janice Smith, Ann Munroe, and intern Susan Burchfield at Raye-Allen. Along with planting their own school gardens and learning about as well as tasting new foods, the students will also learn about water conservation and composting during this 12 week course.

Educational Article by Wizzie Brown



Forest tent caterpillars

Forest tent caterpillars cause damage in the larval, or caterpillar, stage. Caterpillars are a greyish- brown color with bright blue and yellow stripes running down the sides of their body. The back of the caterpillar has white shoeprint/ keyhole markings. Larvae also have fine white hairs over their body but are not a stinging caterpillar.



These caterpillars, although called tent caterpillars, do not make an actual tent like others in their group. Other tent caterpillars make a web between two branches where they join or split from each other. Forest tent caterpillars make a silken mat on the tree trunk or large branches where caterpillars gather in groups between feedings.

Forest tent caterpillars appear once a year, typically in April. In some years outbreak populations can occur and numerous caterpillars can be seen in certain areas. They chew foliage of trees, usually deciduous hardwoods. Even though the caterpillars eat foliage, many trees can withstand 20% loss of foliage without being harmed. Concern should be when other stressors are apparent along with the caterpillars, such as drought or disease.

If the need to manage forest tent caterpillars occurs, less toxic active ingredients that can be used to treat foliage are *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) *kurstaki* or spinosad. Another option would be to treat the silken mat with a pyrethroid product when the caterpillars are resting there.

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.

Projects in the community

KMCCG

5th March 2022

Cloudy, breezy work day. Lots of maintenance, weeding, fertilization and watering accomplished. Four 2022 Interns participated today. Bruce Plum tree has first blooms. First two rows of potatoes have numerous germinations and plants breaking ground.



Harker Heights Outdoor and Science Expo



Home & Garden Show



March General Meeting



Financial Update

Monthly Activity
Income: H&G show, dues, merchandise, new class fees, donation
Spending: Soil, meeting room, office set-up, energy, awards, internet, water

Monthly Summary	
2022 Beginning Balance	\$43,404
February 28 Balance	\$43,039
February Income	\$1,851
February Spending	(\$2,432)



Help Needed / Announcements

COVID19 restrictions have been lifted and most projects 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 Stacye Parry at 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 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.

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. We LOVE to celebrate our Master Gardeners.

Board of Directors Meeting

20th April

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 st Vice President	Jan Upchurch	2020-2022
2 nd 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.

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

BCMGA Webmaster: Rachel Glass - 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>