

# The Blooming Bell

..... May 2022 .....



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# May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Grounds work day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Grounds work day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Grounds work day Garden Tour	19 Spring Fling Outreach Seminar	20 Garden Tours	21
22	23	24	25 Board of Directors Mtg. Grounds work day	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**"The garden is a love song, a duet between a human being and Mother Nature."**

***Jeff Cox***

**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**

Many of us in Bell County were blessed with ample rainfall this past Monday while some of us—not so much! I was in the not so much camp!

Our help desk is picking up as folks get into their lawn care, gardening and more. Our contacts are shifting from mostly tree concerns to lawn questions. We have A&M Lawn Maintenance Calendars for both St. Augustine and Bermudagrass lawns which Glenn Melton tells me if followed religiously, will deliver a perfect lawn so if anyone is needing that link, let us know on the help desk and we will get it to you.

We continue to need a Facilities Director to oversee the grounds and Learning Center. Please contact me or any member of the Board to let us know of your interest. It is early in the year but not too early to be thinking about Board vacancies for next year. Those vacancies include 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President whose primary duty is to plan and prepare monthly programs, Treasurer to handle our finances, Membership Director to handle membership issues, Youth Director to handle our youth programs, Outreach to handle our services to the community through programs, etc. and Communications Director to oversee our communications both internally and externally through such mediums as email, Facebook, our website, etc. Again, if anyone is interested in serving the Association in any of these capacities, please let me or a member of the Board know.

Last Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12 of our members including interns staffed Ask a Master Gardener Day booths at Belton & Temple Feed and Grizzlies Hidden Falls Nursery & Landscaping in Nolanville. We had a total of 123 contacts with area citizens who had questions for us on various horticultural topics. Feedback was very positive including remarks from store staff such as “Our customers told us they really appreciated you being here to help and give out information.” and contact comments such as “The information we learned was very helpful.” and “Awesome place and people!” Booths such as these are just one of the many outreach efforts we undertake, and we will do them again in the fall at the request of these facilities. If any of you are aware of any other facility that might like a 4-hour booth, please let us know.

Also, on April 23<sup>rd</sup> Dave Slaughter attended a tree planting ceremony at the Killeen campus of the Bell County Juvenile Justice Department. Our Association donated a Mexican Sycamore tree to the department in honor of Crime Victims Week. We have made similar donations in the past to the Belton Police and Fire Departments in honor of the victims of 9/11. We’ve missed making similar donations to our other area police and fire departments for the past two years but hopefully we can resume that practice this September.

Happy Gardening!



Andi Bowsher is labeling educational Demonstration Bed #2. She is one of the 2022 Interns responsible for designing and creating the labels. They named it "Salad bowl"



Annette Schubert is sharing her love of planting with a young student at Meredith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy. Master Gardeners are restoring the school's Spring Garden.



April Reding has spent many hours working in the beds at the Bell County Agricultural Extension grounds and at the Killeen Municipal Court Garden



From left to right, interns Cindy Claburn, Susan Burchfield, Lee Ann Smith and 2022 New Class Director Pat Johnson clean up the grounds in



Debbie Thompson rakes mulch in the final stage of restoring flower beds in front of the Agricultural Extension building.



Left to right, interns Greg Holland the David McWhorter are driving stakes into the KMCG landscape. Bell County youth can pay off Court fines by working in this garden along the with Master Gardeners. When not putting in fenceposts to beautify the garden, Greg goes into prisons and jails to educate inmates on what they are entitled to receive from the Veterans Administration. David, one of the virtual interns, is a primary partner of



Melissa Johnson is raking mulch in preparation for the March Plant Sale. Melissa also enjoys and feels a genuine connection with the KMCG.



Keith Cryer is cleaning up around our classroom, the BCMGA Learning Center, in preparation for the March Plant Sale.



Misti Daniel (seated) volunteers at Brookhaven Elementary School where Master Gardeners teach young students how to start seeds. Marjorie Gillmeister is showing Misti how to create seed starting pots from recycled newspaper.





Randine Bickel is checking on the native flowers that she planted in Demonstration Bed #9. Interns are invited to care for a bed of their own design.



Intern, Debbie Thompson and Master Gardener Carla Harmon took time out from spreading mulch to repair a curb broken by reckless drivers.



Velvet McKague takes a break from working on the grounds where she volunteers at least three days a week.



The mystery intern!

# Youth Corner

Master Gardener volunteers have been busy at local elementary schools this past month, with more to come in May.



Eggshell seed starting was a popular activity at both Cavazos Elementary School in Nolanville and Brookhaven Elementary School in Killeen, where almost 300 children and their teachers participated in planting seeds and learning about care of plant needs. We have two more Career Days coming up in May, where we will be helping kids make grass-heads.



At Meridith Dunbar Early Childhood Academy, 10 MG and intern volunteers spent 4 days helping youngsters plant seedlings from the eggshells they planted last month, in addition to transplants and seeds provided by the BCMGA spring plant sale. Over 300 students had the opportunity to “get dirty” and learn about plant parts and plant needs. Thanks to the plant sale committee for the beautiful vegetable and herb plants!



The LGEG (Learn, Grow, Eat, Go) programs at Raye-Allen and Hector P Garcia are continuing with weekly lessons and time in the garden. This past week, MG volunteers Teri Marceaux and Rebecca Caldwell taught the kids about vermicomposting, which was a lot of fun as well as very informative and well received.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped with our youth programs this spring, and If you are interested in being more involved with the youth activities, please be sure an let Janice know. The more the merrier!

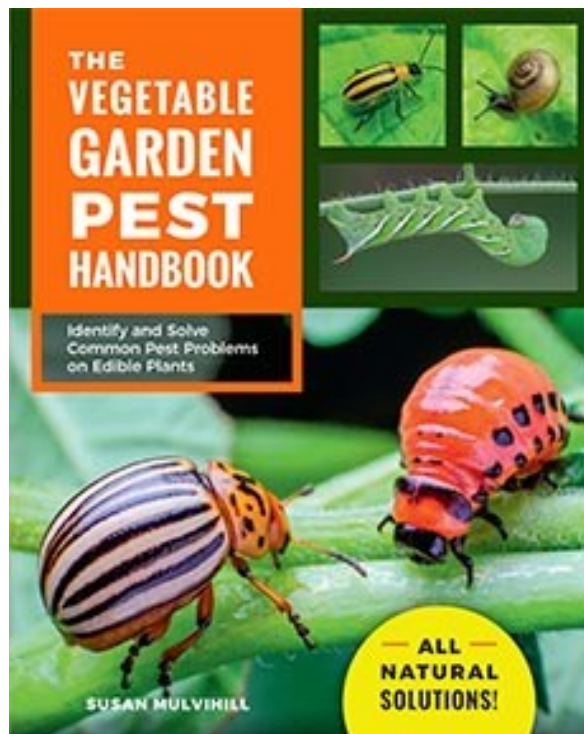


# Book Recommendation by Wayne Schirner

I am always on the lookout for information that can help us be better gardeners, and especially better Master Gardeners. I came across a book this week that I believe will help satisfy that goal. The book is THE VEGETABLE GARDEN PEST HANDBOOK, Identify and Solve Common Pest Problems on Edible Plants. It is written by Susan Mulvihill, a fellow Master Gardener and was first published in 2021.

After reading through this book, I whole-heartedly recommend it, especially for gardeners like me who struggle with pest identification and then treatments. This book provides great photos of almost all the garden pests that we encounter, and the plants that those pests most frequently attack. The treatment focus is on integrated pest management (IPM). Good cultural practices that help deal with garden pests is discussed, as well as coverage of beneficial insects that also help us in this seemingly never-ending battle. The chapter on “Meet the Bugs” Takes two approaches. First, the common crops are presented with information about the problems we might see and the possible culprits causing the damage seen. Then the focus shifts to specific insects with photos of the typical damage done by that insect. I found this approach particularly helpful because I could see damage on a specific crop, quickly see which insects might be causing that damage, then go to the detailed information on those pests.

The information on each insect includes the IPM recommendations for that insect. When it comes to treatments, the focus is on organic methods. I recognize that in our role as Master Gardeners we should not recommend organic methods as preferred over non-organic methods, but I found it useful to have the different approved organic methods listed for the different insect pests. I was glad to see that no homemade concoctions were included, since we shouldn't recommend these to anyone asking for our advice. As part of the IPM approach, there is even a chapter on DIY projects that can help you control pests, including various traps and row covers. In the resources part of the book, information about different apps and online resources in addition to other books and podcasts that you might find helpful are listed. Overall, I found this book a useful resource and I'm glad I have now included it in my library.



# Projects in the community

## KMCCG

2nd April 2022

Great day in the garden. Bluebonnets in bloom, new two Texas Super Star Roses planted and corner posts for new fencing installed. Work continued on new walkway and rock border of the farm. Completed the planting of tomatoes. Lots of maintenance including watering, weeding, and zipping around beds. Four interns were a great addition to the crew. Metal borders added to entry flower beds...a great workday!





# Projects in the community

## KMCCG

9th April 2022

Another great day in the garden, perfect weather and a hard working crew. New fencing for protection against deer is progressing well. Good maintenance day; weeding, watering, repairing irrigation leaks, and fertilization. Peaches are growing even on newest peach trees. Wild Verbena is all over the garden. Two 2022 interns worked with us.



## ***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 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.

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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**

**25th May**

## **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!***

**BCMGA Webmaster:** Rachel Glass - [glass.rachel@gmail.com](mailto:glass.rachel@gmail.com)

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