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July 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31					1	2
3	4	5	6 Grounds Work Day General Mtg.	7	7	7
10	11	12	13 Grounds Work Day	14 Outreach Seminar	15	16
17	18	19	20 Grounds Work Day	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Grounds Work Day	28	29	30

"Gardens are not made by sitting in the shade."
- Rudyard Kipling

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

First, let me thank all of you who sent well wishes and prayers during my recent accident injury. I seem to have ruptured by L1 disc when I somehow managed to fall out of my bed! Not entirely sure how I managed that but since I woke up on the floor, I know that is what happened.

I lost two weeks of work on the help desk and missed the 2022 New Class graduation. Thanks to Jan Upchurch for filling in for me at graduation and congratulations to our 22 graduates 20 of whom are fully certified Master Gardeners as of the end of June.

As posted by our communications Director Teri Marceau via email, Gail Koontz had to step down as our recording secretary due to health concerns in her family and Stacey Parry has been filling in for her during the last couple of Board meetings. The Board is soliciting volunteers to fill out her term which ends December 31, 2023. If you are interested in this position which is an executive officer function, please contact Bill Walker, the head of the Nominating Committee at bawwalk82@gmail.com and put your name in the hat. The position will be voted on at the July Board of Director's meeting.

As also mentioned in Teri's recent email we are still very much in need of a facilities Director to replace Karen Colwick and Paul Carter whose terms officially ended the first of June. Again, if you would like to submit your name as a candidate for this position, please contact Bill Walker. This position has remained unfilled since the end of 2021 so nominees will be voted on by the general membership.

Additionally, Bill is needing two non-Board members to serve on his nominating committee. This committee serves to identify and recruit members who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors in various capacities, from executive officers (president, 1st vice president, 2nd vice president, treasurer and recording secretary) who are replaced every two years on a rotating schedule. The committee also recruits members interested in serving in various Director positions. Again, if you are interested in serving on Bill's committee, please contact him at the above email address.

Wayne Schirmer has sent out an email regarding the upcoming fall plant sale seeking those who want to do seed starting for the Spring Plant Sale. BCMGA will provide all pots and trays, as well as the seed starting mix and mix for up-potting. Members will be asked to provide the seeds for the plants they want to grow. Please contact Wayne at docwas@me.com if you want to help with this important, upcoming project.

I hope everyone received your fair share of rain last week! It was sure a great relief for all of us from the non-stop triple digit days that took up most of the month. But it is summer in Texas after all!!!

Herb Study Group Field Trip

Here is a report about the Lavender Cove Farm field trip to Moody on Wednesday, June 1st that our BCMGA Herb Study group members attended. A big thank you to Jeanne Richard for scheduling this tour.

We got rained on a little, but the tour and information that Brandon Knight provided was really interesting. The information that he covered included:

- Planting lavender in pot vs. in the ground
- Explained the type of soil needed
- Watering – don't do it!
- Amount of sunlight needed
- How and when to prune
- The varieties for growing in our area
- Flowering/Drying/ making oil
- Common problems
- General maintenance



His father-in-law, Brad Fast, also showed us how he uses the lavender flowers and a distiller to get lavender oil and water.

We were also able to buy different varieties of lavender starter plants as well as soaps and sprays.



Educational Article



Cactus bugs

Cactus coreids or cactus bugs, *Chelinidea vittiger*, are shield-shaped insects with piercing-sucking mouthparts. They are most commonly red but can vary in color. They have distinctive antennae; if you look at the antennae in cross section, they are triangular in shape. Adults have fully developed wings while immatures, or nymphs, do not and are sometimes mistaken for weevils. Cactus coreids feed in groups on prickly pear cactus. Often the first indication of damage is round, yellowish spots on the cactus pads. If left unchecked, feeding areas can increase in size until they cover entire pads causing a yellow, pitted appearance.



If you feel the need for management, try high pressure water sprays, hand-picking or squishing, or vacuuming them off the plants. Insecticidal soap can be utilized on smaller stages but may not work as well on larger nymphs and adults. You could also use a contact pesticide, either naturally derived or synthetic. If you eat the fruits or pads, avoid using systemic products which are taken into plant tissue.

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

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Projects in the community

KMCCG

18th June 2022

Very Hot, muggy day. A Gardener Only Work Day with students off for the holiday. Potatoes and Onions harvests were completed. Had a total of 212.6 lbs of potatoes, onions, peppers, squash and tomatoes. Produce for the month of June, is over 550 lbs.



25th June 2022

Beautiful morning in KMCCG. 61.6 lbs of squash, peppers, garlic, zucchini and tomatoes. Maintenance including watering, weeding, and fencing work. New planting of squash seeds in new rows.



30th June 2022

Settling into the hot summer heat. This week harvested produce was 81.25 lbs of squash, tomatoes, and peppers. Gail and Ann harvested Thursday 30 June.



It's All About Volunteering! by April Marek

[Hi Kathy,](#)

In the last BOD meeting you asked why there were so many people volunteering at the Killeen Municipal Court Community Gardens, so I wanted to share my perspective. I cannot speak for everyone, but these are some of the reasons I have identified for high levels of engagement in Killeen.

1. Schedule: I began attending the Saturday morning workdays because this was the only ongoing, organized group service event that did not conflict with my work schedule. This is something to consider if we want to recruit a more diverse membership.

2. Sense of camaraderie: The people who show up to work in Killeen are pretty consistent, and over time we have all gotten to know and depend on each other to work as a team. Even when the temperature is 90 degrees or more, we can count on each other to show up and make the work fun.

3. Meaningful work: The produce from the Killeen gardens is something tangible that we can see a result and see the product go to populations in need. We also get to work with youth who sometimes show an interest in learning about gardening and community service.

4. Leadership: Dave displays exemplary leadership, and I tend to gravitate toward those kinds of people. He cultivates camaraderie and teamwork by ensuring we all know each other, feel welcome, and have a purpose. He sets an example of a good attitude and strong work ethic. Dave is also quick to share information or answer questions without being condescending.

In short, he checks all of the boxes on the qualities below:



Thank you for your time,

April Marek

Member's Article

The Long way to being a Master Gardener

By: Teri Marceau

My husband and I moved to Texas in 2018. Our journey to Texas began a year or so earlier while we discussed our future after caring for my father at the end of his life. We knew we didn't want to live where the winters were long, cold, and gray. We also knew that we didn't want to move back to California. I had done a lot of research on the best place to raise red wigglers. OH, if you didn't know already, I raise red wigglers. Allow me to digress a little.

After my dad passed away, my husband John, and I traveled parts of the US and Canada in our RV for about 7 months, when we got the call that my mother-in-law was about to have open heart surgery. Therefore, we headed back to California to care for her (thankfully, she recovered nicely). While staying in the 'Inland Empire' as it is called, I sought out an organic dairy farm who was using red wigglers to compost cow manure. It was a shot in the dark for sure. But, by the grace of God, there was a progressive dairy farm just 3 miles from where we were parked and 4 miles from John's mom's home. I wrote a letter and popped in their office unannounced and three weeks later, I began an internship there working the worms and their castings. I learned so much about the life of these little recyclers and how magnificent their poop is to the micro farming community. So naturally, I wanted to raise worms full time. If you want to know more about my red wiggler journey, just ask me but be warned, I can talk about red wigglers all day long.

You may be wondering what this has to do with becoming a Master Gardener, be patient I will get there, I promise. You may also be wondering how I found a dairy farm that was doing anything with their cow manure. Indulge me here, as a child, we moved a lot as my dad climbed the corporate ladder. My mom taught us that the best way to make new friends, get to know your new home, and make friends, was to volunteer. She volunteered at our schools, libraries, pools, etc. She also joined book clubs and sporting clubs, mainly tennis and swimming as we tagged along. I never really knew a stranger and still don't. I remembered this valuable lesson when beginning high school. Many of you might relate to this, I went from a small-town grade/middle school with 50 children in my grade to a high school with over 500 girls only. Yes, that is right, I went to an all-girl high school. Rather than be intimidated by all the new people, I volunteered, I served, and I made friends. I also learned to be a leader, a follower, and a teacher all at the same time.

Back to what brought us to Texas. While doing my research where John and I would want to live I discovered that the climate in central Texas wasn't much different than the inland empire and drew a red triangle on our atlas to show John the spot we should consider moving to. We put the subject on the shelf not certain how his mom would do with her defibrillator/pacemaker. John went back on the road as a long-haul truck driver. Then one day in February 2018 he called to ask me if I still wanted to live in central Texas. The answer was "YES!." His company wanted to transfer him to a permanent route located in Temple, which happens to be dead center of that red triangle I drew almost a year earlier. All I could think of is we don't know a soul in Texas and what was my plan.

I began my search for places I would like to spend my time. First, we needed a church so we found a small church we could see ourselves attending. Then I thought I have to do something with my red wigglers. But it was proving to be more difficult than I had hoped. Then the lightbulb went off in my head and I thought gardens. I talked with my mom, and she suggested I look into the Master Gardener program. I thought *great idea!* Before I knew it, I had my application saved on my computer but knew I needed to get settled first. Once we were in place, friends were being made, I made the jump and submitted my application and payment in August 2018 for the 2019 class. I could hardly wait for it to begin.

Member's Article

Since graduating I found that being a Master Gardener is more than growing plants and raising worms. The Cambridge Dictionary defines volunteer as a person who does something, especially helping other people, willingly and without being forced. Some of my first acts as a master gardener were to teach what I know about worms to the children in our school projects. I used my worm castings in a demonstration bed displaying the benefits of worm poop verses other compost materials. I have a disability, so I offered my assistance to other master gardeners with various tasks, since I am unable to get on the ground. While taking the class some of our required hours were working the help desk, which is where you can find me most Wednesday mornings. Currently I serve as the communications director for our organization. But I am always open to serve at speaking engagements as a greeter or whatever task needs to be filled.

My mom calls me a volunteer servant, which describes all master gardeners. I love to give my time freely serving people in my community. I am blessed to share my knowledge and love of gardening with so many people. I have made some tremendous friends along the way. If there is anything else, I have taken from childhood into the life of a master gardener is that to teach is to receive. I had a boss once say, "if you aren't training someone to take your position and not learning a new position then you will soon be out of a job." I have taken this to heart throughout the years and love to share what I know and learn what others know so that this knowledge can be passed along to others, thereby empowering others to achieve their goals.

WE ARE VOLUNTEER SERVANTS

BCMGA Mission Statement

The Bell County Master Gardeners Association assists the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in providing high quality, relevant, research-based horticultural education, and service to the residents of Bell County and the state of Texas through outreach, teaching, and demonstration projects.

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.

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 terimmarceau@gmail.com. We LOVE to celebrate our Master Gardeners.

Board of Directors Meeting

TBD

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			Executive Board		
Communications	Teri Marceau	2020-2022	President	Kathy Love	2022-2024
Facilities	TBD	2019-2022	1 st Vice President	Jan Upchurch	2020-2022
Membership	Sherry Oermann	2020-2022	2 nd Vice President	Louann Hight	2022-2024
KMCCG	Dave Slaughter	2021-2022	Recording Secretary	Gail Koontz	2022-2023
Outreach	Crystal Mears & Rebekah Lackey	2021-2022	Treasurer	Barbara Ishikawa	2020-2022
New Class	Pat Johnson	2019-2022	AgriLife Agent Lyle Zoeller		
Projects	Wayne Schirner	2020-2022			
Youth	Janice Smith	2020-2022			

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
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.

***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>



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