

The Blooming Bell

NEWS . EVENTS . GARDENING TIPS. EDUCATIONAL ARTICLES

“Where flowers bloom, so does hope.” – Lady Bird Johnson



Established in 1986, the Ronald McDonald House of Temple is a place of hope. Its’ mission is to provide a home away from home for families of seriously ill or injured children. Their number one priority is the comfort of their guests. In the center of this 22,000 square feet facility is a courtyard garden.

“I started six years ago and the courtyard was an overgrown mess,” said Master Gardener Kathy Patterson. “We cut back limbs, weeds, and overgrown ivy and began the hard work of bringing in plants that added a variety of color.”

A year later, Kathy was joined by Master Gardener Carol Morisset. “We don’t really do any education, although sometimes families will join us in the courtyard and inquire about different plants.”

This past year Kathy and Carol were joined by two 2022 Master Gardener interns, Annette Shubert and Denise Daniel. Together, the four of them work to create a milieu of comfort and beauty for families in crisis.



Upcoming Events	2/3	Fall Plant Sale.....	9
President's Corner.....	4	Change, Is It A Good Thing.....	10
Floodwater Mosquitos.....	5	Ask A Gardener.....	11
Interns Fall 2022.....	6/7	Keep Salado Beautiful.....	12
KMCCG Report.....	8		



Have Gardening Questions? Submit your questions and photos at: bell.mg@agnet.tamu.edu

THE BLOOMING BELL OCTOBER 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS October 2022

OFFICER NOMINATIONS: The Nominating Committee is still looking **First Vice President** nominations to be voted on in November. Please email Glenn Melton at gmelton1@hotmail.com.

AWARDS COMMITTEE: Dave Slaughter is looking for a few good people to serve on the awards committee. It is also time to nominate someone or yourself for an award. The awards consist of Green Thumb, Golden Trowel, New Master Gardener of the Year (Spring class 2022), Golden Shovel, Lifetime Membership, and Meritorious Service Award.

Speakers Bureau

October 13th: Hands-On Milkweed Propagation (Seed Processing) with Dave Slaughter at the BCMGA Learning Center, 1605 N. Main St., Belton. 6:30-8:00PM. RSVP required by emailing speakersbureau76513@gmail.com (25 spaces for hands on and 5 audit spaces available).

October 29th – public only ~ Pressure Canning Class 9AM to noon, for the first 10 people to sign up at speakersbureau76513@gmail.com, so tell a neighbor.

WEDNESDAY WORKDAYS: Every **First & Third Wednesday from 8:00-11:00 am**, is a Master Gardner workday at the Extension Office. We have demonstration beds all around the facility. Bring a friend who may be interested in becoming a MG or just a friend of the BCMGS. Come for an hour or two or four.

October 5th is clean-up/pick-up the grounds. Come have some fun with us!

Monthly Outreach Seminar 6:30-8:00PM, in the Learning Center:

October 20th: Native Plants & Butterflies (other than Monarchs) with Master Gardener, Barbara Ishikawa.

November 17th: Attracting Wild Birds & Feeding them in the winter with Mary Ann Everett and Juan Anaya.

Board of Directors Meeting: Meets on **October 26th**, at 10:00 a.m., in the Education Center (which is in the AgriLife Building).

General Membership Business & Education Meeting: Meets on **October 12th** at 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship time at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will begin with the educational portion of our meeting. This month we will be kicking off our 25th Anniversary with a look back at our history with surprise guests. We will meet at the Harris Community Center, 401 N. Alexander St., Belton, TX 76513



Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Horticulture Program in Bell County

1605 N Main St Ste 102 Belton, TX 76513

Email: bell-tx@tamu.edu

Phone: 254.933.5305

Fax: 254.933.5312



Executive Board	
President	Kathy Love
1 st Vice President	Jan Upchurch
2 nd Vice President	Louann Hight
Recording Secretary	Misti Daniel
Treasurer	Barbara Ishikawa

Directors	
Communications	Teri Marceau
Facilities	April Marek
Membership	Sherry Oermann
KMCCG	Dave Slaughter
Outreach	Crystal Mears & Melissa Johnson
New Class	Pat Johnson
Projects	Wayne Schirner
Youth	Janice Smith

THE BLOOMING BELL OCTOBER 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS October 2022

Burger Wednesday: Every **1st Wednesday of the month**. Bring a dish to share and small donations are accepted. Our organizers and cooks are Don Wyatt, Ray Machovsky & Art Carr. For more information, contact Don Wyatt, dwyatt2005@sbcglobal.net, 254-314-6758.

Herb Study Group: Meets on the **3rd Wednesday** of the month, **10:00-11:30 AM**. See the Calendar of Events for location as it may fluctuate between the learning center and the extension classroom.

Please contact Tracy Brown for further information: bcmgtabrown@gmail.com.

Schedule of classes:

October 19 - How to Make Extracts with Debbie Thompson. Learning Center

November 16 - Thanksgiving pot luck. Bringing our favorite dish made with our garden herbs. Sharing recipes and talking about the prominence and history of recipe and herbs. Plus, doing a gift exchange, no more than \$10 (must be garden related), white elephant stealing style. In Agrilife Education room.

December - No meeting

Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden: Meets every Saturday. Beginning on October 1, the start time is 9:00 am. It is harvest season and fall garden preparation time.

Please contact Dave Slaughter slaughtd915@gmail.com. See VMS for additional Harvest Days to earn extra service hours.

Planning Meeting: The next planning meeting is **October 4th**, beginning at 9:00 AM. Intern, Santi Duncan is providing teaching on desert roses.

During the month of September, we harvested a total of 588 pounds, bringing the yearly total to 4158 pounds. The harvest consisted primarily of multiple squash varieties and okra. During September, 11 young adults worked on their community service hours: consisting of eight young ladies and three young men. Also, during the month of August, 42 Master Gardeners participated during Saturday workdays. Interns from the current class continue to work at the garden, regularly.

Besides harvesting and maintenance, in both the vegetable garden and perennial beds, we planted another round of yellow squash, butternut squash, and preparing to set out cabbage transplants.

HELP DESK: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am to Noon & 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

Blooming Bell Newsletter: You can find the newsletter on the Home Page of our Website at txmg.org/bell.



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

On behalf of Kathy Love

25 YEARS!

October 2022 marks the beginning of celebrating BCMGA's 25th birthday. The BoD is very excited about the year to come and there are many ways we will be celebrating such a milestone. Our celebration will begin with hearing from some of our veteran master gardeners at our October general membership meeting. We are very honored to have founding member, Ilene Miller in our midst. She will be talking about how our organization began and other interesting facts about the Bell County master gardeners. Sadly, she will not be in person at the meeting, but she will be on the big screen. Can you imagine how many changes she has seen and been instrumental in enacting with the association. I will leave the other panel members as a surprise. Not only will we be looking to the past, we will be looking to the future of BCMGA. You don't want to miss a thing because we have a few other surprises up our sleeve to keep the party going through the year.

BCMGA will be welcoming our new Ag Agent, Floyd Ingram. You will be able to get to know him starting in November. It is serendipitous that he starts in a celebratory year for us. We are very excited for our future partnership with the AgriLife agent. Be sure to stop by the AgriLife office to say hello.





Floodwater Mosquitoes

If you've been outside lately, you have most likely noticed the giant mosquitoes that seem to want to pick people up and carry them off. With recent weather conditions, floodwater mosquitoes have emerged in large numbers.

Floodwater mosquitoes lay their eggs above the water line in ponds, ditches, pastures, or other places where water collects. The eggs can remain in dry areas and when these areas are flooded, the eggs hatch, leading to swarms of hungry mosquitoes. These mosquitoes are larger than mosquitoes we are used to around our homes and can swarm in high numbers.



While floodwater mosquitoes won't last forever, other mosquitoes called container breeding mosquitoes emerge when floodwaters begin to recede. Many of these species are ones that we are used to seeing around our homes.

While floodwater mosquitoes species can be difficult to predict and manage, as they can fly up to 5 miles for a blood meal, container breeding mosquito problems can be reduced. Eliminate all sources of standing water. Containers such as watering cans, buckets and bottles can turn into mosquito breeding grounds. Water should be drained from birdbaths, gutters, flowerpots and pet dishes at least once a week. Children's wading pools should be emptied of water at least once a week and stored so they cannot collect water when not in use. Tree holes should be filled in with sand, mortar, expanding foam, or drained after each rain. Leaky faucets and pipes located outside should be repaired. Fill in low

lying areas in the lawn with topsoil or sand or install a French drain.

Areas that cannot be drained, such as ponds or large rain collection systems, can be stocked with mosquito fish that eat mosquito larvae. Dunks can also be used in these areas. Dunks are a small, donut-shaped product that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israeliensis*. The donut disrupts the life cycle of the mosquito and is non-toxic to humans, amphibians and fish.

When outside, wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing with long sleeves & long pants. Repellants containing active ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus can be effective to keep mosquitoes from biting when activities cannot be rescheduled.

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

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Please welcome our interns for Fall 2022!



Alicia Block – Alicia lives in Salado and is originally from Little Rock, AR. She was an elementary teacher and Library Media Specialist. She became interested in gardening as a teen helping her grandparents in their garden. Her hobbies include animals, gardening, reading, and wine making.



Chuck Lauer – Chuck lives in Killeen and is originally from Mitchell, SD. His career was in the US Army and DOD civil service in healthcare administration. His interest in gardening started with helping his wife (Joyce—who is also taking this class) in her gardens and wanting to keep his lawns healthy. He has many interests and a few serious hobbies.



Amy Lohse – Amy lives in Moffat and is originally from Gruver, TX. Her career was as a registered nurse working in hospice. She became interested in gardening as a child in her family's garden. Her hobbies include cooking, music, photography, and children's literature.



Jackie McLaughlin – Jackie lives in Little River where she grew up on her family farm. Jackie just retired from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service as an Extension Agent earlier this year. Her other employment included the VA Hospital, Santa Fe Hospital, and school teacher. She grew up in her family's garden, and taught the Learn, Grow, Eat, Go (LGEG) program for AgriLife. Her hobbies include cattle raising, horseback riding, dancing and flower gardening.



Anna Sartin – Anna lives in Temple and is originally from Pocola, OK. She is a dietitian. Her mom is a master gardener in OK and encouraged her to research and learn as much as possible as she wants to work on her yard. Her hobbies include baking with her kids, teaching barre classes and hiking.



Joyce Lauer – Joyce lives in Killeen and is originally from Wakonda, SD. Her career was in education serving as a teacher/CIS/principal. She became interested in gardening as a child with her mom on the farm. Her hobbies include sewing, cooking, and gardening.



April Hignojos – April lives in Morgan's Point Resort and is originally from Pecos, TX. She is currently a teacher. Her love for gardening came from her father's love of gardening. Her hobbies include quilting, stamping, scrapbooking and reading.



Linda Champlin—I'm a native Texan recently returned to Texas after 21 years as a military spouse (Navy). Have lived on the East, West and Southern coasts, including Alaska and have experienced lots of different types of gardening conditions. My father was a MG; I grew up helping and learning from him. I am now a retired training coordinator for Maryland MHMR & data analyst. and a caregiver for my disabled spouse, currently living in Gatesville.

THE BLOOMING BELL OCTOBER 2022



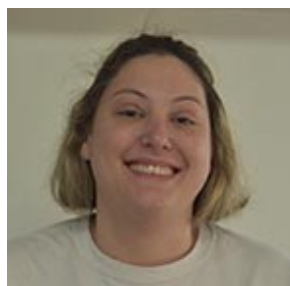
Melanie London – Melanie lives in Salado and is originally from Newport, RI. Her career is in interior design and construction project manager. She grew up in the family garden canning their harvest of tomatoes, making jams, and cooking what they grew. She wants to be a good steward of her land. Her hobbies include cooking and canning.



Santi Duncan – Santi lives in Harker Heights and is originally from Atlanta, GA. She owned retail shops in Atlanta, but is now doing visual media merchandising, crafting and gardening. She became interested in gardening while living in Germany and took a LSV online gardening class. Her hobbies include plants, plants and more plants, her dogs, crafting, and traveling.



Melenda Pomykal – Melenda is from Troy and recently returned home after living in Las Vegas for many years. She is a retired teacher. Her interest in gardening is because she likes to cook and would like to grow some of her own food. She enjoys quilting.



Rachel Champlin – Rachel lives in Burleson and is a Texan. She is an environmental science major and a caregiver. She is into succulents and orchids, and now has an herb garden and grows some seasonal veggies. Her hobbies include photography, gaming, quilting, baking, dog training, growing succulents and canning.



Melissa Jordan – Melissa lives in Troy and is originally from Temple, TX. She currently works as a library cataloger at the Temple Public Library. Her dad always had a garden and she started gardening after college. Her hobbies include gardening, cooking, birdwatching, and reading.



Stacy Roberts – Stacy lives in Kempner and is originally from Wichita, KS. Her career is in banking. She has always loved to garden. Her hobbies include scrapbooking, photography, and quilting.



Nancy Williamson – Nancy lives in Moffat and is originally from Arlington, TX. Her career included working as a programmer and an IT Contracts Negotiator. She remembers her grandmother giving her mom plants stuck in cans of water. She loves plants and wants to help others. Her hobbies include gardening, volunteering for Special Olympics and around town.



Susan Hicks – Susan lives in Temple and is originally from Northeastern Arizona – White Mountains. She is a retired Educational Diagnostician. As a child she participated in 4-H and was involved in gardening and entomology. Her mother's love of gardening was passed on to her. Her hobbies include hiking, fly-fishing, and reading.

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KILLEEN MUNICIPAL COURT COMMUNITY GARDEN REPORT



Please contact Dave Slaughter slaughtd915@gmail.com. See VMS for additional Harvest Days to earn extra service hours. Follow KMCCG on our FaceBook page.

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FALL PLANT SALE



"The 2022 Fall Plant Sale was wonderful. There was a wide selection of plants and the location allowed plenty of space to move around."



"Awesome job one and all!! I went for one plant, found three, picked up information sheets, got ready to leave, mentioned the one plant I came for, was directed to the place they were, and even had a personal shopper bring it to me!"



CHANGE: Is It a Good Thing?

By Teri Marceau

BCMGA celebrates its 25th birthday this year. The organization certainly has grown and changed over these past 25 years. There have been a few changes since I became a master gardener in 2019. I tend to look at change from a positive lens. It reminds me of the seasons changing. As a child growing up in the Midwest, the air would start to change in late August to early September, just as we were heading back to school. I can almost feel the air if I close my eyes long enough. The same but different kind of feeling came over me when spring was starting to show up. With both seasons there was the feeling of excitement of new things and trepidation of losing familiar things.

BCMGA has seen some significant changes in the past two years. Learning how to manage our organization during a worldwide pandemic caused us to be stretched technologically. That change came with much trepidation and angst for many, including myself. As an organization we had no experience in what to expect or how this would affect our organization. Sadly, we lost quite a few members because of this transition from in person meetings and classes into the virtual world. However, some really good things came out of it. We learned to use the power of social media which has opened new doors for us. Although I still say we are **master gardeners** and not master videographers. I keep hoping we have someone who wants to come along and help us bump up our visual impact. Until then we will stick with what we know best.

According to the dictionary change can be a verb: *to make different, replace with something else* or it can be a noun: *the act of making different or replacing something*. “Change, regardless of the source, has significant impact, both positive and negative, on organizations [3]. When change is positive, the efficiency and productivity of the organization are increased, facilitating the achievement of the organization’s goals and mission. Individual and group morale are improved and there is an overall sense of cohesion and well-being. When change has a negative impact, there is a significant increase in stress, anxiety, and resistance [4].” [A]

“Change **may force people into new roles and new ways of doing things**. At the same time, change makes people give up established and valued ways of functioning; for many individuals, their sense of identity is linked to these established behaviors.”[A] How do we embrace change in our own lives and in the life of BCMGA? Are we looking at the glass half full or half empty? With each year we elect new project directors and executive officers and with these new leaders comes change. Ask yourself, how do I contribute positively to the growth of BCMGA? Do I embrace the changes our new leaders want to make? Is my identity embedded in the old ways too much? Are my words encouraging or discouraging whether when talking with my small group of friends or directly to the one who is making changes? What can I learn from new ideas? How is my behavior contributing to the mission of BCMGA?

If I were to ask you, is change a good thing, how would you answer? I said previously that change brings feeling of excitement and trepidation all at the same time. Therefore, if I were to answer the question, is change a good thing, I would say yes even when the change is seen as a failure. Because with each season I learn something new about myself and about others. The buzz around the grounds reflects the mixed feelings change cultivates. It is full of excitement and trepidation. I encourage each of us to examine ourselves and learn to embrace change like we embrace the change of seasons.

“Adding wings to caterpillars does not create butterflies, it creates awkward and dysfunctional caterpillars. Butterflies are created through transformation.”

Stephanie Marshall.

[A. Theodore B. Feldman: Understanding the Dynamics of Change and the Impact on Psychiatric Education: August, 2022]

[3. Bridges W. Managing transitions: making the most of change. Cambridge, MA: Perseus Publishing; 2003. [Return to ref 3 in article](#)]

[4. Bovey W, Hede A. Resistance to organisational change: the role of defence mechanisms. J Manag Psychol. 2001;16(7):534-48.]

ASK A GARDENER!

APHIDS

Is there a sticky mess under your pecan oak or crape myrtle trees? Aphids are everywhere! It's not sap, but honeydew excretions, an unusual amount from aphids which feed on the leaves from your trees. According to our regional A&M entomologist and Texas Forestry Urban forester, it is something to just wait out. Wash it off with a jet of water and hopefully rains and cooler weather will kill off the aphids. Check out the website <http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7404.html> from University California Agriculture & Natural Resources.



According to TX A&M Entomologist Wizzy Brown, you can use an insecticidal soap to spray on your smaller plants and trees. She also said in her Backyard Bug Hunt that there is an explosion of aphids because their natural predators are fewer due to the drought. She agrees with the forestry service that the best thing to do is to wait them out.

To remove the honeydew from your car, driveway and sidewalks simply use some soap and a hard jet spray of water.

Call the Bell County Master Gardener Help Desk between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday at 254-933-5304 for more information.

THE BLOOMING BELL OCTOBER 2022

KEEP SALADO BEAUTIFUL!

Please mark your calendar and join us October 3. We will meet at the Museum at 8:00am to weed and trim the beds, as well as the bed at the corner of College Hill and Sirena.

Special thanks to those that helped prep the school garden beds in August and assisted with planting on September 23. The students were very excited and sent thank you notes. The lead teacher, Melanie Lane attached a few for your enjoyment!!

