

# The Blooming Bell

NEWS . EVENTS . GARDENING TIPS. EDUCATIONAL ARTICLES

## Tomorrow's Master Gardeners!



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Have Gardening Questions? Submit your questions and photos at: [bell.mg@agnet.tamu.edu](mailto:bell.mg@agnet.tamu.edu)

# THE BLOOMING BELL FEBRUARY 2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS February 2023

### Speakers Bureau & Monthly Outreach Seminar

February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Center. "Honeybees and Native Bees" Greg Oermann, Master Beekeeper, will be discussing the overview of honeybees and native bees, some of the differences and similarities and why diversity is important in planning your garden, landscape, and agriculture.

Stay tuned for a new Speakers Bureau email address coming soon, **BCMGTASpeakers@gmail.com**. If you are interested in teaching a class please contact Debra Thompson at the above email address or text her at (210)441-0237.

**WEDNESDAY WORKDAYS: Wednesday February 15th, 8:00 am to 11:00 am**, are Master Gardner workdays at the Extension Office. We have demonstration beds all around the facility and new projects every month.

**Board of Directors Meeting:** Meets on **February 22nd** at 10:00 a.m.

We will meet at the Extension Office, Belton, TX 76513

**Burger Wednesday:** Cancelled due to weather

**Herb Study Interest 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](mailto:bcmgtabrown@gmail.com).

**Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden:** Meets every Saturday, **9:00AM**

Please contact Dave Slaughter [slaught915@gmail.com](mailto:slaught915@gmail.com).

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

**General Membership Business & Education Meeting:** Meets on **February 8th**, at 9:00 a.m. **Location:** Harris Community Center

**Herb Study Interest 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](mailto:bcmgtabrown@gmail.com).



Texas AgriLife Extension Service  
Horticulture Program in Bell County

1605 N Main St Ste 102 Belton, TX 76513

Email: [bell-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:bell-tx@tamu.edu)

Phone: 254.933.5305

Fax: 254.933.5312



### Executive Board

President	Kathy Love
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Anna Sartin
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Louann Hight
Recording Secretary	Misti Daniel
Treasurer	Jackie McLaughlin

### Directors

Communications	Teri Marceau
Facilities	April Marek
Membership	Sherry Oermann
KMCCG	Dave Slaughter
New Class	Pat Johnson
Projects	Wayne Schirner
Youth	Susan Burchfield
Outreach/Speakers Bureau	Debra Thompson

# THE BLOOMING BELL FEBRUARY 2023

## UPCOMING EVENTS February 2023

**Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> Teaching youth** (2-4 years) on plant growth and eggshell planting  
9:45-11:30 AM

**Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Youth Fair**

**Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> Harker Heights Outdoor & Science Expo 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM** at the Harker Heights Library & Activity Center 400 Indian Trail.

**Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> Christ Episcopal Church 6:00-7:30 PM** "Spring Gardening Starts Now" 300 N. Main St., Temple (Registration information to follow)

**Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Salado Museum 10:00-11:30 AM** "Spring Gardening Starts Now" 423 S. Main St., Salado (Registration information to follow)

**Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Home & Garden Show 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM** various presentations Bell County EXPO 301 W. Loop 121 Belton

## SPRING PLANT SALE - HELP WANTED

The Bell County Master Gardener Sale is scheduled for Saturday, March 25. We will be returning to the Bend of the River Ranch at 7915 S. General Bruce Drive in Temple.

Planning and preparation is underway now and we are looking for many volunteers to make this spring's sale a success. There are many opportunities to get involved before the sale including learning about the plants we will be selling by doing research for signage and posting to our website and Facebook in the coming weeks.

If you'd like to learn more about what happens behind the scenes of the plant sale, consider volunteering for one of our many lead positions. This is a great way to meet your fellow master gardeners and get your good ideas in action. Leads are needed for: Vendor contacts, site planning, set-up day, tally team, plant signage, pick-up crew, parking and traffic flow, greeters and more.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the February 8 General Membership meeting. A plant sale planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22, at 1pm in the Learning Center.

Contact Barbara Ishikawa at 817-716-5604 or [barbara.ishikawa@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.ishikawa@gmail.com) for more information.



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Kathy Love

The end of the first month of 2023 is ending but thanks to our New Class director and committee BCMGA has a fresh new start with 20 New Master Gardeners taking the course. As you begin to see those green name tags at meetings and events, please introduce yourself and get acquainted.

Our spring 2022 new class featured 20 in person participants and for the first time, 2 online students, and our first ever fall class had 15 students, 4 of which achieved certification before the end of the year. Those classes have greatly bolstered our organization, providing 6 new members on our Board of Directors, e.g. Anna Sartain, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Jackie McLaughlin, Treasurer, Misti Daniel, Recording Secretary, Susan Burchfield, Youth Director, April Marek, Facilities Director and Debbie Thompson, Outreach Director. We are very grateful to these new members for stepping up in their first year to serve our organization on the Board of Directors.

Wayne Schirner has been elected to the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President for the Texas Master Gardener Association and at that level, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President moves up from that position in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President then on to President in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, then serves as immediate past President for an additional year. We are all proud of Wayne for his willingness to step into these important roles.

There is some confusion and frustration over the recent changes to the background checks required by the state. Many of you have not received the email from Sterling Volunteers and if you have not reported that to membership director Sherry Oermann you should do so. For those of you who have given your information to Sherry, it has been resent, so please keep an eye out for an email from Sterling Volunteers to update your background check. Let us know if you have any questions or problems with this issue.

It's that time of year again and everyone has an opportunity to garner volunteer hours by assisting at the Bell County Youth Fair, Family and Consumer Sciences Division. Christy Reese serves as the supervisor for this division and has set up sign-up opportunities in the Event Calendars in VMS so find the date you want to volunteer and sign-up! Let Christy know if you have any questions.

February is also the month of another major volunteer opportunity, the Temple Area Builders Association Home & Garden Show which will be held February 24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup>. For more information or to sign up to volunteer contact Louann Hight or for Kidz Zone opportunities, Susan Burchfield.

Our very active Outreach division is busy setting up classes around the county and has compiled the schedule for the monthly Thursday evening classes. Those classes have traditionally been held from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. but beginning in March, the time will change to 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Check out our webpage for the list of upcoming events including those classes.

There are plenty of events coming up which provide members with great opportunities for service hours so please take advantage of them.

Finally, we have compiled our end of year data and are pleased to report that our 2022 membership provided 16,143 total service hours through over 30 approved projects, and 4,424 education hours. Way to go everyone!

## WELCOME - SPRING INTERNS 2023



*Intern name:* Julian Garza

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Fort Hood

*Where are you from originally?* Yorktown, Texas

*What is/was your career?* Employed/retired? Land development / E-commerce

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* Always interested in gardening, just not always good, but I'll be moving to my own homestead later this year.

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* Fast learner / good with my hands.

*What are your hobbies?* Hunting/fishing

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*Intern name:* Randy Thompson

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Troy

*Where are you from originally?* Troy

*What is/was your career?* Employed/retired? Retired teacher

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* When I was a child

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* Tech/filmography/writing

*What are your hobbies?* Historical research/genealogy/film making

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*Intern name:* Nellie Pennington

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Killeen

*Where are you from originally?* Killeen

*What is/was your career?* Employed/retired? Retired accountant

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* As a young girl, my dad and aunt were influences.

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* Perennials, also tomatoes, pumpkins, Cards, peppers, and herbs.

*What are your hobbies?* Gardening, photography, spoiling the grandkids.

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*Intern name:* Holly Arnold

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Killeen

*Where are you from originally?* Killeen

*What is/was your career?* Employed/retired? First grade teacher

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* Since I was 4, "working" with my grandparents in their garden.

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* Art background, some computer skills

*What are your hobbies?* Hiking, gardening

## WELCOME - SPRING INTERNS 2023



*Intern name:* Linda Mills

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Belton

*Where are you from originally?* Kansas City, MO

*What is/was your career? Employed/retired?* Technology, agriculture-animal

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* Since I was young, now retired and have more time.

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* Public speaking. I like building indoor and outdoor projects. I was raised on a working farm, so pretty "hands on".

*What are your hobbies?* Gardening of course! Running, writing, jewelry making.

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*Intern name:* Karen Miller

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Belton

*Where are you from originally?* Carmel, CA

*What is/was your career? Employed/retired?* RN / Business owner (Perfecto Parties and Photos)

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* Growing up with avid gardeners

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* I adept well to most situations.

*What are your hobbies?* Gardening, walking, reading, traveling, family, fur babies.

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*Intern name:* Monique Armas

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Copperas Cove

*Where are you from originally?* Republic of Panama

*What is/was your career?* Special education math teacher

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* Growing up my mom and dad gardened.

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* I'm really good at growing tropical plants.

*What are your hobbies?* Growing indoor and outdoor plants, reading, and crafting.

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*Intern name:* Wayne Dodson

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Temple

*Where are you from originally?* Killeen

*What is/was your career?* Store manager / Veteran

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* Early 20's. Have been around plants all my life with my grandpa

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* I love propagating

*What are your hobbies?* Gardening, reading and grilling

## WELCOME - SPRING INTERNS 2023



*Intern name:* Lindell Small

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Temple

*Where are you from originally?* Oklahoma

*What is/was your career?* Aerospace Engineer and IT, retired

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* Wife forced me from early age, better part of 60 years!

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* I talk a lot. Write sometimes and some computer skills.

*What are your hobbies?* Woodworking

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*Intern name:* Dawn Woodcock

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Salado

*Where are you from originally?* Minnesota

*What is/was your career?* Accountant for CPA firm, retired 2022

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* My entire life.

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* Accounting. Knowledgeable on native and adapted flowering plants and shrubs.

*What are your hobbies?* Flower gardening, crafts (ie macrame), flower arrangements.

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*Intern name:* Sonia Cabrera

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Harker Heights

*Where are you from originally?* El Paso, TX, originally Bogota, Columbia

*What is/was your career?* UTSA lecturer, retired

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* New home with ½ acre.

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* Accounting. Bilingual Spanish

*What are your hobbies?* Learning piano, remodeling, landscaping

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*Intern name:* Dalila Poyser

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Belton

*Where are you from originally?* San Antonio

*What is/was your career?* Retired, substitute teaching. Military husband so moved frequently, had many different jobs.

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* As a girl, mom always gardened.

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* Sewing, I cook and garden

*What are your hobbies?* Cooking and gardening



## WELCOME - SPRING INTERNS 2023



*Intern name:* Sara (Liz) Orosio

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Nolanville

*Where are you from originally?* California

*What is/was your career?* LPC - associate

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* A long time ago

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* I can speak Spanish!

*What are your hobbies?* Hiking, trying to garden, outdoors stuff.

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*Intern name:* Chuck Christian

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Temple

*Where are you from originally?* La Habra, California

*What is/was your career?* Retired school band director, TX National Guard, Soldier (20yrs)

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* Through my dad.

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* Music educator, Teacher

*What are your hobbies?* Computers, embroidery, gardening, cooking

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*Intern name:* Cynthia Beck

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Belton

*Where are you from originally?* San Antonio

*What is/was your career?* Retired from a career with the United States Government

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* All of my adult life

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* Vegetable and landscape gardening. Project experience with gardening club.

*What are your hobbies?* Seashell collecting, I belong to related clubs and organizations. Recreational sports.

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*Intern name:* La'Paris Sherman

*What town/city do you live in or near?* Killeen

*Where are you from originally?* Louisiana

*What is/was your career?* Nurse, employed

*How/when did you become interested in gardening?* From studying herbalism

*What unique skills/talents do you have?* Nurturing

*What are your hobbies?* Holistic medicine making





## Insect Life Cycles

Insect life cycles can be broken down into two major categories: incomplete and complete. Incomplete can then be further broken into three varying types.

Incomplete metamorphosis, also called paurometabolous, has three life stages. The first stage is the egg which hatches into an immature insect called a nymph. The nymph eats, grows and molts, going through several different nymphal stages called instars. With each successive molt, the nymph grows larger and begins to develop wings. Nymphs look similar to adults in appearance with the exception that they do not have fully developed wings. The final stage is the adult which has fully developed wings (of course, unless the insect is wingless i.e. bed bugs). Adult insects seek out the opposite sex, mate, and females lay eggs to begin the cycle anew. An example of an insect with paurometabolous metamorphosis is a cockroach.

One variation of incomplete metamorphosis is called ametabolous and happens in primitive insect groups. This type of metamorphosis also has three life stages: egg, nymph, and adult, but the immatures/ nymphs look exactly like the adults except they are smaller in size. Dissection may be needed to tell immatures from adults. An example of an insect with ametabolous metamorphosis is a silverfish.

The second variation of incomplete metamorphosis is called hemimetabolous and insects with this type of metamorphosis have an immature stage that is aquatic. Again, there are three life stages: egg, nymph, and adult. The nymphal stage of hemimetabolous insects lives in water and is called a naiad. The last nymphal instar- or the last stage before the insect molts into an adult- crawls out of the water onto a dry surface so the adult insect can emerge without getting their wings wet. An example of an insect with hemimetabolous metamorphosis is a dragonfly.

The second basic category of metamorphosis is called complete, or holometabolous, metamorphosis. Complete metamorphosis has four life stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Eggs are laid by fertilized adult females and hatch into the second stage called a larva. Larva\* look very different from the adults and often feed on different food sources than adults. Larva are often have elongated bodies, no wings, and may or may not have legs. After going through several instars, or larval stages, the insect turns from a larva into a pupa. The pupa is a transformation stage for the insect where it rearranges it's body into the adult form. Sometimes you can see adult features in the pupal stage, but other times the pupa is within a case- like with fly or butterfly\*\* pupa- and you cannot see development. The adult insect emerges from the pupal stage, seeks out a mate for mating, and continues the cycle.

\*Larva is the general name for immature insects that go through complete metamorphosis. There are more specific names for various types of larva based on what Order they belong to. Larva that are in the Order Lepidoptera and turn into butterflies and moths are referred to as caterpillars while larva in the Order Diptera and turn into flies are called maggots. Also in the Order Diptera, wigglers are the larval stage of mosquitoes (and mosquito pupae are often called tumblers). Larva that turn into beetles, Order Coleoptera, are called grubworms or wireworms (depending upon what type of beetle they turn into).

\*\*A butterfly pupal case is called a chrysalis.

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

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## Does Your Seed have a STD (Seed Transmitted Disease?)

*By Wayne Schirner*

This issue of the Blooming Bell has other articles focused on seed saving. Seed saving is a great way to share seeds, but it is important to recognize that it is not without risk. I readily admit that I have not previously known much about this potential problem. I suspect I may not be alone. I only recently became aware of this issue from a course I am taking through the joegardener Online Gardening Academy™ I thought it was important enough to share here.

Pretty much all the common diseases we deal with in the garden (fungal, bacterial, and viral) can be transmitted through the seed. If you are saving seed, you should only save seed from plants that have shown no evidence of disease. If you are getting seed from another seed saver, query them to make sure the seeds came from disease free plants. If they don't know, I wouldn't plant those seeds in my garden.

If a seed saver wants to make sure that their saved seeds are not infected, there are two types of treatment: hot water and diluted bleach. Diluted bleach is effective for bacterial or viral diseases, but not fungal. The hot water treatment is effective for all the diseases that can be transmitted by seed, but it is more complicated.

The links below provide information about the diseases affecting different crops and the treatments that can be used on those crops.

[https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/seed\\_transmitted\\_diseases\\_its\\_time\\_we\\_had\\_the\\_std\\_talk](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/seed_transmitted_diseases_its_time_we_had_the_std_talk)

<https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/fact-sheets/hot-water-seed-treatment>

<https://www.vegetables.cornell.edu/pest-management/disease-factsheets/managing-pathogens-inside-seed-with-hot-water/>

<https://www.vegetables.cornell.edu/pest-management/disease-factsheets/treatments-for-managing-bacterial-pathogens-in-vegetable-seed/>

<http://vegetablemdonline.ppath.cornell.edu/NewsArticles/Veg%20Crops-Seedborne%20and%20Treatable.pdf>

<https://www.lsuagcenter.com/NR/rdonlyres/26772246-4C4A-4028-992D-95BF6DD51C6D/96988/43SeedTreatmentsVegetables2014FINAL.pdf>

Happy Gardening.

Wayne

# THE BLOOMING BELL FEBRUARY 2023

## KILLEEN MUNICIPAL COURT COMMUNITY GARDEN REPORT



**KMCCG 1-7-23** Was an off and on light rain today, but a comfortable temperature. Four things were accomplished: harvesting of carrots, the pruning of fruit trees, a lot of weeding in the front entry and planting of seven onion rows. The garden is conducting a test of two rows of two onion rows separated by six inches with a nitrogen trench and drip hose in between, versus three rows done normally with a nitrogen trench, the drip hose and then the onion row. Want to determine if there are differences in the size, quality and quantity of the onions between the single and double rows.

**KMCCG 1-14-23** It was a crisp, windy beautiful day in the garden the opposite of last week. Today was a student holiday but we had a great MG Crew. It was primarily a maintenance day with a lot of weeding in The Farm, Memorial Bed and Front Entry. April M and April H did plant Beets in a raised Bed. A lot of preparation for Spring Planting completed on the Three Sister Demonstration Bed. The plum tree is beginning to leaf out and Bluebonnets have broken surface in a raised bed. April M made banana nut bread and apple brownies which were popular. Barbara Ishikawa spent the morning at KMCCG preparing for her new Blog on the BCMGA Website.

**KMCCG 1-21-23** Overcast but pleasant day in the garden. Fruit trees were pruned and nut trees had the pruning process begun. Tomato Fence was moved to 2023 location. Compost was added to the center of tomato fences to prepare for turnip planting next week. Compost was added to other areas. Lots of maintenance and preparation for Spring Planting. As a note, April H and Santi Duncan brought Chinese New Year (tomorrow) treats.





## TEXAS SUPERSTAR OF THE MONTH



### **Mystic Spires Blue Salvia** **Salvia longispicata x farinacea**

*By Debbie Thompson*



The Mystic Spires Blue Salvia is usually grown in Zone 7 but is an outstanding plant for Zone 8b. Mystic Blue Spires is a shorter version of Indigo Spires. It produces masses of flowers during the entire growing season that compliment nicely with other annuals and perennials. It is heat and humidity tolerant as well as pest, disease and deer resistant.

Mystic Spires grows best in full sun and grows to a height of 18-30 inches. This perennial can be planted in spring to summer from containers and adapts well to most soils but requires good drainage.

This perennial can best used in bedding, containers, borders or cut flowers. Excess water and fertilizer can result in excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers. If needed, plants can be pruned during the growing season to produce more flowers. Shoots can be pruned to 12 inches in the fall after being killed by freezing. Refrain from pruning to the ground until growth is strong in the spring.

The Mystic Spires Blue Salvia was awarded the Texas Superstar in 2018 after four years of research. Initially called the Mystic Spires Improved Blue Salvia. Later "Improved" was deleted and became known as the Mystic Spires Blue Salvia.

This is an excellent choice for your landscape. The Mystic Blue Spires can be purchased at local retailers.

Source: [https://issuu.com/gotexan/docs/tda\\_superstar\\_2020\\_0520?fr=sNjU3ZjkxMjg2](https://issuu.com/gotexan/docs/tda_superstar_2020_0520?fr=sNjU3ZjkxMjg2)



## *In The Community*

### McLane Children's Hospital

***By Breanna Howeth***

I have been visiting McLane Children's Hospital throughout the years since about 2019 as a means and on our behalf, to stay productive with our mission. I bring them gift bags containing seasonally relevant data and well wishes. They are delivered to the lobby. Child Life Specialists take the material up and distribute to kiddos (patients) and their parents. I know it's not much, but around full-time work and being a band booster mama, it's the best I can do for now. I figure it keeps our foot in the door there while still reaching our community regularly. It is also rewarding and keeps me both motivated and learning :) I decided to share images / proof this year lol of what I've been up to for us in case any of it was worth sharing. Thanks for y'all's time! Be seeing ya!

If anybody is interested in helping with seasonal ideas & or putting together gift bags throughout 2023 they can reach me via text or email. I have delivery dates secured with the Child Life Specialists. My phone number is 682-326-7488



## Seed Saving Project

*How can you save seeds? It is simple.*

By Tracy Brown

How can you save seeds? It is simpler than you believe. Let me give you a scenario....

Best carrots ever. Coloring, taste, size, and easy growth. Let approximately six-eight of the carrots go to flowering. This attracts the pollinators, which assists the flowers into seeds. When the flowers begin to turn brown, place a brown paper bag over the flowers, then cut the stem. This allows the seeds to fall into the bag. If any parts are still a bit green, keep in the bag for further drying. Leave the top open (if you do close the top, put a couple of slits in the bag to allow moisture to escape).

Usually within three to four weeks, the seeds and stems should be completely dry. Shake the bag and remove the larger debris. Left inside the bag should be your seeds. Drop onto a paper plate or a tray of some kind. This can be used to separate any more plant debris from the seeds. Place in smaller envelopes, marked with what it is and year.

By the same system, flowers you use for cutting, herbs or pollinator plants. Place a bag over the brown, dry looking flowers, place a bag over them and cut the stem.

Simple. Easy. Why don't we all do this?

When not to save seeds? Hybrids. Generally, when they seed, the plant you grew will not be the same plant as when it seeds. For Herbs, Basil cross breeds, a lot! So keep in mind, when different Basils are next to each other and receive pollination, their seeds could be a whole new breed.

Cilantro is another great herb, that quickly flowers (called bolting) when the weather warms up. Not only are the seeds used to plant for more cilantro, the seeds themselves are ground up and it is now Cumin.



Everyone should save seeds. As the World's Climate changes, so do the animals, plants, microbes.... everything. Keeping seeds alive, viable and to allow germination, assists everyone, all down the agriculture, horticulture line.

So, remember, save those seeds. Swap and share those seeds. Help our pollinators and our neighbors to keep the life and growth cycle moving. And if for whatever reason you choose not to save seeds. Let us know, we would be more than happy to collect all your seeds.

Below are some helpful links.

<https://www.motherearthnews.com/organic-gardening/saving-seeds-zmaz87sozgoe/>

<https://www.seedsavers.org>

<https://www.livingseedcompany.com/pages/about-us>

# THE BLOOMING BELL FEBRUARY 2023

## Community Outreach Encore Presentations Scheduled for February

*By Debbie Thompson*

Please plan to join us for two BCMGA Community Outreach encore presentations of “Spring Gardening Starts Now”. In this presentation, Master Gardener, Wayne Schirner will discuss the common vegetable crops grown during the spring gardening season in Bell County. He will include information on when to start plants from seeds and when to transplant or direct sow. Included in this presentation will be basic gardening information for those who are beginners to vegetable gardening. Wayne will also provide information on the Square Foot Gardening Method.

The first encore presentation is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, at 6:00 p.m. at the Christ Episcopal Church, 300 N. Main St., Temple followed by the Salado Museum on February 25th at 10:00 a.m. at the Salado Museum, 423 S. Main St. Please watch Facebook and local newspapers for registration information.

Please plan to join the BCMGA as we continue to expand our Community Outreach & Education program to cities within Bell County.

Wayne Schirner was a family physician in the United States Army for 35 years. After Wayne retired in September 2014, he signed up to take the 2015 Master Gardener course with the Bell County Master Gardener Association. After becoming a certified Texas Master Gardener, Wayne obtained Advanced Training in vegetable gardening, composting, and irrigation efficiency. Wayne served the BCMGA as President during 2017 and 2018. He has served as a director representing the BCMGA to the Texas Master Gardener Association since 2019 and he was recently elected to serve as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the TMGA. Wayne follows the Square Foot Gardening Method and is a certified instructor and advisor for the Square Foot Gardening Foundation. Wayne is passionate about disputing common gardening myths. He also enjoys giving presentations on vegetable gardening and composting.



## Community Outreach Special Events Scheduled for February

*By Debbie Thompson*

We have two outreach special events scheduled in February that are a great way to reach out to the community. Please plan to join the festivities or sign up to help with the events.

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, the BCMGA will be at the Harker Heights Activities Center Outdoor & Science Expo, 400 Indian Trail, Harker Heights from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Currently, we are scheduled to have tables set up for Ask a Master Gardener, Kids Zone, Seed Table as well as presentations on gardening beginning at 9:15, 10:15, 11:15 and 12:15. We are still in need of one speaker for the event. If you are interested in presenting, please email [bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com](mailto:bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com). Please include “Harker Heights Speaker” on the subject line.

Our second special event is the Bell County Home & Garden Show on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Currently, we are scheduled to have tables set up for Ask a Master Gardener, Kids Zone, Seed Table as well as presentations on gardening beginning 11:00 am, 12:00 pm, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm and 3 pm. We are still in need of two speakers. If you are interested in presenting, please email [bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com](mailto:bcmgaspeakers@gmail.com). Please include “Home & Garden Speaker” on the subject line. I appreciate everyone’s willingness to speak at our events. If you are interested in speaking at future events, please contact me at the email address above and include “Interested Speaker” on the subject line.