

~ Bluebonnet Master Gardeners ~

The Blooming News

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Letter from the President

Is everyone about rained out? I've stopped counting the inches. I have had an inch several days this last week, and .9 yesterday. Prayers also go out to the families who have lost homes in all the floods and tornados around the country. My garden is flooded and the corn that really likes water is beginning to get yellow leaves at the bottom. Hopefully, the rains can settle down so that it can survive. Ironically, the gophers that are so dastardly, have provided a run off for the rain that runs down the rows and into collapsed gopher holes. Shouldn't have any problems with gophers for a while.

Unfortunately, the rain has also necessitated the **cancelling** of the trip to Cuts of Color in Weimer. The owner has requested that we reschedule the trip when the weather is better. Everyone should have gotten an e-mail regarding the cancellation. We are going to try and have a make-up meeting for the missed meeting. We will still have the

board meeting in Bellville at the extension office at 8:30am.

The Big Tomato Contest will be held at Linseisen's feed store on June 20th in the early morning. Pam Langston, who took the recent specialist training at A&M recently will be our speaker. Hopefully, we will have vegetables to judge and view. I realize that gardens are late and slim this year.

Faye Beery



And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden...And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food...And a river went out of Eden to water the Garden...

Genesis 2:8-10

*It is good to be alone in a garden at dawn or dark so that all its shy presences may haunt you and possess you in a reverie of suspended thought. James Douglas
Down Shoe Lane*



Congratulations to BR and Charlene Koehler who just won the 1st Conservation Wildlife Award for Austin County given by the Soil & Water Conservation Dist. #347. They removed all non-native plant materials and replanted tall native grasses to reintroduce the native animal populations such as quail and deer.

*A morning-glory at my window
satisfies me more than the
metaphysics of books. Walt
Whitman Song of Myself*



Energy, Water and Food—A Coming Crisis?

Michael E. Webber is a deputy director of the Energy Institute at the University of Texas at Austin. His forthcoming book, *Thirst for Power*, examines energy and water use in the modern world. He posits that the world is trying to solve the problems of energy, food and water individually, while it should be addressed in one integrated manner. He asserts that this approach will benefit poverty, the environment, population growth and disease as well. Reducing food waste and urban indoor farms as well as using waste water, wind turbines, and smart grids can alleviate future problems. He cites the largest blackout on earth, 620 million people in India, about 9 percent of the population were plunged into darkness when the grid failed due to increased pumping of water by farmers during a drought in 2012. Recent drought in California has also brought about considerable concern for farms and populations. California produces nearly half of the country's fruits, nuts and vegetables, and almost a quarter of the



country's milk according to Dr. Webber. About 80% of the water that we consume is for agriculture, for growing food.

He proposes that power plants, and water delivery systems be redesigned to integrate energy, water and food resources into sustainable designs rather than using the same outdated methods. Americans throw away about 25% of our food. Processing refuse into energy with anaerobic digesters which produce methane gas for energy could be one solution. Another is turning wastewater into a resource for crops which some areas in California are now doing. Vertical farms have been proposed for cities such as New York which produce a billion gallons of waste water a day. He discusses capturing CO₂, and capturing methane to power distillers for fracking water as well as cleaning brackish water from the Southwest to raise crops. Smart grids, data sensors which assess food condition, eliminating the need for expiration dates which waste food are some of his ideas about saving energy. He proposes a new thinking in energy policy, one that reduces energy and water demands.

Let's all do our part by growing our own food, using less and recycling.

FAYE BEERY

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I have often thought that if heaven had given me choice of my position and calling, it should have been on a rich spot of earth, well watered...No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth. Thomas Jefferson

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