



The Scion

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A Message from the
PRESIDENT

Dear Master Gardeners -

Just a short note to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season hopefully wrapped in the warm arms of your families.

As we look around the room during our Christmas Party on December 10th and see our fellow Master Gardeners, we should appreciate the effort each has put forth towards our year of education and gardening successes - enhancements of our older programs, new programs bringing new audiences to us and the welcoming of a new class into our family of gardening friends.

As this is my last President's newsletter, please accept my sincere gratitude for the encouragement and support you gave me during my three years as your President. It was an honor to represent you in the forums of our state and community where I learned the Bexar County Master Gardeners are held in high esteem. Protecting that reputation is important.

A new set of officers will be elected to guide us in the future. Each of us need to support them as they strive to improve and extend our reach throughout the community. Let us all resolve to do our part in making them successful. It will benefit all Master Gardeners and our clients - the San Antonio community.

Good luck to each of you. I look forward to working with you in the future...and, thank you!

Jack Downey, President
Bexar County Master Gardeners

*Please join us for the
Bexar County Master Gardeners
Meeting and Member
Recognition Party*

Sunday, December 10, 1 - 3 pm

at the

San Antonio Garden Center

3310 North New Braunfels 78209

Come one and all...guests are welcome!

We will vote for the 2018 BCMG Board of Directors, recognize new active members and the top 2017 volunteers, distribute 5-10-15-20-25 years service pins and have lots of fun for all.

BCMG will provide the drinks. You are asked to bring the following dishes according to your last name:

A to M - Desserts

N to Z – Hors d'oeuvres

RSVP if attending by December 8 to Barbara Lutz

bblutz38@gmail.com





The ***ELECTION*** will take place during the **December BCMG Christmas Party** on **December 10.**

Slate of Officers:

PRESIDENT	Grace Emery (60)
VICE PRESIDENT	Bill Swantner (61)
SECRETARY	Brenda Burell (60)
TREASURER	Lori Bindseil (56)
MEMBER AT LARGE – 2 positions	John Maldonado (60)
	Don Crites (47)
DIRECTOR/MEMBERSHIP	Chris McKnight

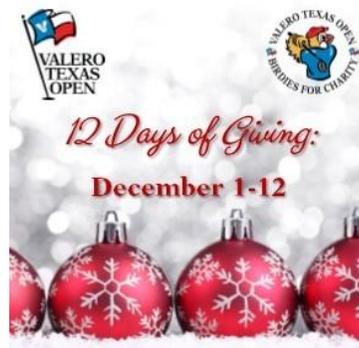


WORK PARTY – Children’s Vegetable Garden, SABOT

We’re putting the Garden to sleep:
 Date: Saturday, Dec. 2
 Time: 7:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Bookmark it! Children’s Vegetable Garden Program Blog –
New address – <https://childrensvegetablegardenprogram.wordpress.com/>

Gift Idea: Buy some stocking stuffers and help BCMG at the same time! Birdies for Charity® **12 Days of Giving** ticket campaign will be underway Dec 1-12 and BCMG will receive \$10 proceeds from each Good Any One Day general admission ticket (retail \$20 per ticket) sold [online](#) when you select Bexar County Master Gardeners as beneficiary. You can get all the [details here](#). And, BCMG will again participate in the 2018 Birdies for Charity® Fundraiser with pledge forms in January.





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Hello, Fellow Master Gardeners,

I hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving weekend along with the beautiful weather.

As we close out the year, I wanted to give you an update about our BCMG water conservation programs. We made great strides furthering our mission and expanding our outreach with new and interesting venues.

We continued our many presentations through the Speakers Bureau, hosted several Rainwater Harvesting workshops and supported both, spring and fall SA Home & Garden Shows as well as several other recurring events like Spring Bloom and Festival of Flowers.

We also started new programs to increase the number of educational contacts we make throughout the year. We hosted the first of what will become our signature event, *CULTIVATE!*, an educational seminar where we presented 9 horticultural workshops to over 75 attendees, along with a small exposition with 11 different gardening groups. We started working with HOA residents teaching water conservation and proper landscaping techniques. We now have two iPads to further our digital outreach as well as the Square, which allows us to accept credit cards for payments. We introduced the digital 'Gardening Library', which links our publications and makes them available to a broader audience.

I appreciate the support of all the Master Gardener volunteers, as these programs would not have been possible without your help.

As we look to another full year of educational outreach in 2018, we will need the help of all of you to have another very successful year. I am also open to any new ideas on how we can expand our programs and reach more of our community. If you are interested in helping with any specific program, or have any ideas to share, please just let me know.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with you in 2018.

Conservationally Yours,

Anna Vogler

Water Conservation Coordinator

Master Gardener of the WINTER

Lynn Cox



December is a month when our focus is on giving, so it is appropriate that the Master Gardener of the Winter Season has truly been a gift to the Bexar County Master Gardeners. Lynn Cox is a gift because she has taken over two vital, but hard-to-fill jobs: she has agreed to maintain the Master Gardener website and is the new Chapter Librarian in charge of setting up a library of presentations that speakers can access and tweak for their own presentations. This unexpected gift came to the BCMG just one year ago. No, Lynn is not a beginning MG, but rather a transfer from the Washington County Master Gardeners, located in and around Portland, Oregon. Before that, she was a MG in Montgomery County, close to Houston.

Lynn's checkered career actually began in Texas. Born in Lubbock, Lynn comes from a long line of Texas gardeners, mostly of the ornamental plants variety. She remembers that, as a child, she hated gardening and would try to get out of her weeding chores by offering to clean bathrooms, an offer her mother was quick to accept. In response to Lynn's complaints about her gardening chores, her mother made the sage prediction that Lynn would change her mind about gardening tasks when she was planting and pulling weeds in her own yard.

This prediction came true when Lynn married and moved to San Antonio, where she finally had her own yard. Although she began to enjoy working outside, Lynn did not get involved with the BCMG. She taught math for five years at both Lee and Madison High Schools, "retired" to raise her two boys. In her new role as "Mother" Lynn volunteered to serve on the Boards of various PTA organizations and became active in the Boy Scouts. Lynn was a "Boy Scout" for nine years and proudly boasts that both boys rose to the level of Eagle Scout.

It was only when her husband's job took the family from San Antonio to the Houston area that Lynn became active in the Master Gardener Association of Montgomery County. There she became proficient in the gardening techniques needed for the Houston area. When her husband's job took the family from Houston to Portland, Oregon, Lynn was not too

concerned about transferring her gardening skills to Portland. After all, both regions are in Zone 8 and their soils are acidic. The reality was a shocker!

Arriving in Portland, Lynn went from being an experienced Master Gardener to a novice who needed to start her Master Gardener training all over again. Lynn learned the reason why each region requires that transfer Master Gardeners retrain before certification. Lynn found that the Zone 8 designation is deceptive since it only indicates the lowest temperature range for a particular area. What these Zonal categories leave out are the other climatic conditions that are necessary for plants to survive. Oregon plants cannot survive in the high heat and relatively hot nighttime temperatures of South Texas. They require a slow temperature rise and fall instead of the rapidly rising and falling temperatures of our region. Lynn adapted her gardening habits and enjoyed the seven years in Oregon, but was glad they moved back to San Antonio when her husband retired last year, where her love of gardening first surfaced.

Lynn is very enthusiastic about her present work with the Bexar County Master Gardeners. She has a Master's Degree in Education, with a specialty in curriculum development, so working as the Chapter Librarian and setting up presentation files for the Speakers Bureau is a natural fit. While she has no specific training for website development, she brings to the task a husband, who helps her with the technical side of website maintenance. His expertise leaves Lynn free to apply her skills to content. As of now she has updated all of the website pages except for the home page, presently under construction. Lynn is most proud of the online library that she and Anna Vogler have incorporated into the website. Master Gardeners and the general public can now access research based articles on gardening topics through links to respected sources, such as the AgriLife Extension Service at Texas A&M. Lynn hopes that the public will begin to use our website's Gardening Library as a starting place for web research, providing accurate, research-based regional information.

Lynn's collaboration with Anna Vogler, our Water Conservation Coordinator, has been a fruitful one. Besides the work on the Chapter Library and the Website, Lynn has teamed up with Anna to begin a program called "Cultivating Communities." This program aims at working with interested homeowner associations to aid homeowners in improving their landscapes with the help of BCMG volunteers. This three-part program begins with a 2½-hour Cultivating Communities Fair, which has the goal of providing homeowners with the opportunity to ask MG's gardening questions, to learn about the workshops that are part of phase 2, and the optional landscape review that is phase 3 of the program. In addition to information about the program, homeowners will also be provided with information on Earth-Kind gardening practices. In the second phase, homeowners have the option of attending one or two workshops selected by their HOA, including topics such as drip irrigation, rain barrel construction or a new workshop on the selection and maintenance of basic gardening tools. Phase 3 is the option for homeowners to have an individual landscape review by a team of two Master Gardeners. This program should lead to the beautification of neighborhoods in Bexar County when it launches in 2018.

Since becoming a Bexar County Master Gardener, Lynn has been a gift to this organization. During this Christmas season we should be thankful that she returned to San Antonio and chose to take responsibility for the Master Gardener website, a main communication artery for members. We are also thankful for Lynn's organizational skills, put to use to expand and improve the Speakers Bureau. Finally, we know from the work that Lynn is now doing with "Cultivating Communities" that she is also a gift to the community at large.



Hello All! Welcome to the **Junior Master Gardener Monthly Updates Page**. Here you will find what our special JMG trained volunteers and Bexar County Master Gardeners have done for the Youth Gardens Program and some new volunteer opportunities with kids.

Children’s Vegetable Garden Picnic and Vegetable Contest

Thank you so much to everyone that helped out at the Picninc and Vegetbela Contest. We couldn’y do it without you! Thank you to judges Numa and John Opiela. Thank you to Section Leaders Terri Bills, Sandra Woodall, Layla Quiroz, John Maldonado, Karen Glaser, and Mary Cross. Thank you to Lorene Ad, Betty Anderson, Valerie Hartfield, Mark Reis, Juan Garza, Lorraine Keidel, Nora Richards, Linda Sierra, Margarita Rubio, Ana Stubblefield, Jerry Ferguson, Judy Wells, Suzanna Torres, Daniela Torres, Susan Porr, Michelle Hobbs, Pat Tiner, Alexei Sanchez, Nicolas Torres, Barbara Lamm, Greg Salyers, and Suzanne Watson. A big Thank you to our photographer Lou Kellog and Garden Leaders Mary Fernandez and John Mayer. We had over 130 people attend!

Thank you to all the folks who not only donated their time, but also items to the picnic. And a Special thank you for all the folks and families that stayed to the very end to help clean up and polished of their plots. Greatly appreciated! Congratulations to Abigail Cosby, Section 4, for winning the Grand Champion Vegetable, ‘Cheers’ Head Cabbage!

Kids & Kows & More

Thank you so much to Donna Armstrong, Margaret Chavez, Juan Garza, LaVunn Mims, Marybeth Parsons. We saw over 1600 kids and talked to them about Chickens, Bees, Aquaculture, Dairy Cows, Vegetables, and Curds and Whey. Way to go, guys!





PHOTO GALLERY

From our friend, Steven Chamblee, who shared his love of Texas flora and stories of being a Texas gardener at our November general meeting..... Here is some of what he admired while on his stop in San Antonio to visit with us on his recent journey to South Texas. Enjoy!

(The photos and “postcards” that follow are shared with BCMG with the gracious permission of Steven Chamblee, who photographed and authored this content [and more] for publication in Neil Sperry’s e-gardens newsletter on Nov. 16, 2017. See all the “postcards” online at Sperry’s website.)



Steven L. Chamblee, Horticulturist
Chandor Gardens, 711 West Lee Avenue, Weatherford, Texas 76086

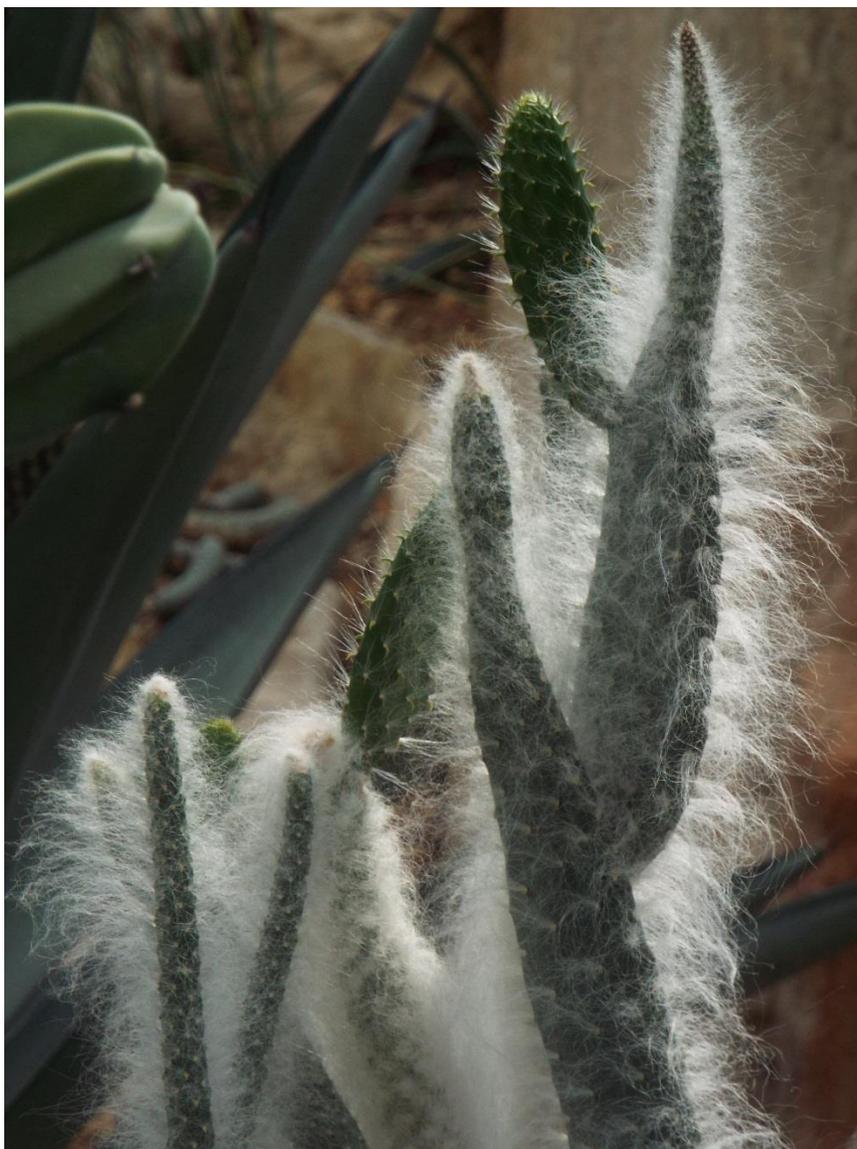
POSTCARDS FROM THE ROAD

Six days; five presentations; nine new friends; 1397.2 miles. Solo round-trip from Weatherford to Brownsville...the scenic route. All that remains is a head full of memories and a few tattered postcards. C’est la vie...



*John,
Found this little tableau at the
SABG. Reminded me of all of the
magnificent displays you created
for all those years back at the
FWBG.
San Antonio has some great stuff,
but they don't have a Water
Garden like the one in Fort Worth.
Peace & love,
Steven*

*John Langevin
Fort Worth, Texas*



<p><i>Dad, Saw this white-haired Old Man Cactus in the Desert Pavilion at the San Antonio Botanical Garden...and naturally, it reminded me of you! Your sweet son, Stevie (the green Persimmon) PS--I know...I'm not far behind ya! ☺</i></p>	<p><i>Buz Chamblee Fort Worth, Texas</i></p>
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Mark,
I was deep into the East Texas section of the San Antonio Botanical Garden when I sensed someone was watching me...and they were! This big Baldcypress tree was giving me the ol' crocodile-eye...which made me wonder who or what might be lurking in the water. I moved on...
Peace & love,
Steven

Mark Carter
Fort Worth, Texas



*Jimmy,
Found the most amazing brisket
I've ever tasted in a little place just
off the Riverwalk in San
Antonio... La Villita Café. Figured
this is the best I can do to give you
a taste of Texas while you are
Down Under. We miss you!*

*Peace & love,
Steven*

*Jimmy Turner
Sydney, New South
Wales
Australia*

SAVE THE DATE!!!

*Dec. 1, Friday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

*Dec. 2, Saturday: 10 a.m. – noon

POINSETTIA PICKUP

*Dec. 10, Sunday: **BCMG Meeting-Recognition/Holiday**

Party, Election of Officers 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. (Details on p.2.)

San Antonio Garden Center

3310 North New Braunfels, SATX 78209

***DEADLINE!!! - Jan. 18, Thursday:**

Rodeo Release and Indemnification Agreement {on the 2018

Rodeo Volunteering webpage} Form must be 2-sided, signed, and notarized and delivered to Nick @ AgriLife Office front desk. Link to form is above.

*Jan. 18, Thursday: **BCMG “Rodeo” Meeting**

AgriLife Extension Office. Bring your favorite chili or cornbread!

Social - 6:00 p.m., Meeting – 6:30 p.m., CE 1.5 hours

Guest Speaker: Mark Hansen, SALE

***RODEO!!!! – Thursday, Feb. 8 – Sunday, Feb. 25**

Get your boots, jeans, and MG apparel ready for another boot-scootin’ round of volunteer opportunities for public outreach, construction and landscape, plant sales and watering, school tours, clickers, and van drivers at the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo!