



April Calendar

2nd – Burger Wednesday

9th – Herb Study Group 8:25 a.m.

9th - Monthly meeting 11:00 a.m.: Annette

Ensing, “Lessons Learned from Garden Tours” and election of officers.

12th - Plant Sale Greenhouse, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

16 - 2008 Class Field Trip to the Holistic Gardens at Texas A&M University and the Herb Gardens at Festival Hill in Round Top.

19th - Deanna Rankin Memorial Garden Tour

30th – Ag Day, Bell County Expo

President’s Corner

4/1/08

Spring Fundraisers Galore:

The success of the vegetable sale and seminars on the 15th and 16th of March is the good news for this month. The sale grossed over \$6000.00, which makes it the largest sale we have ever had. And the money could not have come at a better time. But then, I expected we would do well – these were the best looking plants I think we have ever grown. We all need to thank Lawrence Cox for “tweaking” the soil mixture that produced these beautiful plants. I think that our current greenhouse crew leaders are the best that we have ever had. Kudos are due to all of them, including Lawrence Cox, Ken Richey, Don Wyatt, Gary Slanga, and last, but not least, Karla Tomaka. I also want to thank all of you that participated in any way, from planting the seeds, nurturing and watering the seedlings, organizing the inventory, and helping patrons select the proper plants. Additional income came from book sales of Doug Welch’s

“The Garden Almanac” and the other books sold by Nolan Young. Thank you, Nolan.

This was the first time that we extended our sale into Sunday. Since our Sunday receipts were greater than \$500.00, the Board of Directors felt that it would be worthwhile to have part of future sales carry over into Sunday.

Our next big fundraiser, the spring Plant Sale, is coming up on April 12. It will be held in connection with the Pecan Growers Seminar at the Extension Office. Again, we should have a great selection of healthy plants for our patrons to select for their yards.

Our third fundraiser this spring will be the Deanne Rankin Garden Tour on April 19th. Sue Morgan and Rae Schmuck have enlisted an outstanding group of gardens for our tour on that day. We are looking forward to a day of fun and learning, as we see these beautiful yards. When you greet the owners of the yards, thank them for their hard work and for letting us learn from their talents. Accolades should also be given to Sue and Rae for their hard work in organizing the tour.

Progress in Money Management:

With the financial success of the spring vegetable sale completed and the spring plant sale about to occur, I felt that it was time for the Board of Directors to develop a savings strategy, so that we can have funds on hand to cover emergencies when they occur, like we just experienced with the excess water bills last fall and the propane costs through the winter. At the March 26th meeting of the Board of Directors, I appointed a committee to assess the best way to accomplish this goal. I personally feel that some

portion of the funds obtained at each fundraiser should be set aside for possible future use. Committee Members appointed consist of our Treasurer, Judy Herrmann, our past Treasurer, Jan Anderson, Board member Johnny Buck, and Greenhouse Crew member Don Wyatt. They will meet and report their deliberations back to the Board of Directors at the May meeting.

Annual Elections:

The April BCMGA meeting will be our annual election of officers and directors. The slate of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee was presented to the members at the March BCMGA meeting. At that time, a call for nominations from the floor was made and none were forthcoming. The proposed slate of candidates was also sent by email and snail to the membership. Since none of the positions have been contested, we will not have to vote at the next association meeting on April 9th. I will ask for a motion to elect the slate of officers and directors by acclamation, which will streamline the process. According to our new election policy and procedure that was accepted by the Board at the February meeting, nominations from the floor must be made by the March BCMGA meeting to allow the Nominating Committee to assess the candidates willingness and ability to carry out the office for which they are nominated.

New Officers and Directors proposed by the Nominating Committee are: David Fitch, President; Raymond Marr, 2nd VP; Annette Ensing, Corresponding Secretary, Beverly Wickersham, Recording Secretary, and for Directors, Don Wyatt, Mel Myers, and Ursula Nanna.

I will be looking forward to seeing you at the April BCMGA meeting, the Plant Sale on April 12th, and the spring Deanna Rankin Garden Tour on April 19th.

Gyman Okeson

President, BCMGA



Healing Garden at S&W has Artwork of BCMGA gardener and artist, Crystal Fisher

Bell County Master Gardener Crystal Fisher displays her contribution to Scott and White Hospital's Healing Garden in Temple. Fisher was recently honored at the dedication ceremony by Dr. Alfred Knight, president and CEO of Scott and White. Fisher sandblasted this sandstone boulder with words from a poem written by Dr. Hyla S. Watters, a Methodist missionary and Chief Surgeon of Wuhu Hospital on the Yanhtze River during the WWII era.

The Hospital Speaks

I stand by the side of a current
That's deeper by far than the sea
And storm beaten craft of every draught
Come in to be healed by me
But some have more grief than pain
God help me make whole
both body and soul
Before they go out again
Dr. Hyla S. Watters

April 9th Herb Study Group

The Herb Study Group will meet at 8:25 p.m. on April 9th under the oak trees. The subject will be "Garden Tours Galore – Charting a course with so little thyme!!" The emphasis will be on Tender Herbs: Cardamon, Ginger and Tumeric in the Zingiberaceae Family

Gy Okeson



Lawrence Cox, Greenhouse Coordinator

A “thank you” to Lawrence Cox, Greenhouse Manager Karla Tomaka, Gary Slanga, Ken Richey and Don Wyatt , interns and master gardeners that grew the magnificent veggies sold at the March 15-16 sale.



Members of Tiger Town 4-H sell hotdogs, drinks and snacks to visitors of the veggie sale. They also happily carried out customer's plants.



Master Gardener Nolan Young sells gently used gardening and cookbooks at the Spring Veggie Sale

Deanna Rankin Memorial Garden Tour

Bell County Master Gardeners are hosting the *Deanna Rankin Memorial Garden Tour* April 19, from 9 am to 4 pm. Deanna's Garden at 6289 Eagle Point Main in Belton will once again be on the tour.. The tour this year is named in honor of Deanna Rankin, member of the class of 2001, who served as a director on the board and was a member of the garden tour committee for many years. Mrs. Rankin was active in The Bell Fine Arts Association and this love of gardening and art is reflected in her home and gardens. Deanna's large cottage garden will be featured on the tour along with seven other gardens.. Deanna's garden has a panoramic view of Lake Belton and showcases native plants, poppies, fragrant herbs and roses. Its many sitting areas, garden art, bird feeders, birdhouses and native trees like Desert Willow, Texas Vitex, Texas Mountain Laurel and ancient Oaks give her garden year round interest.

Joyce Richardson is working with David Rankin to prepare Deanna's garden for the tour. Joyce has a team of interns from the new class busy manicuring Deanna's garden. Joyce Richardson and Nancy Hawkins will be hosting Deanna's garden the day of the tour.

The eight gardens on the tour are vastly different in size and theme, but they all show a love of nature and gardening enthusiasm. They each demonstrate a unique gardening perspective. Some gardens are quiet woodlands and others are loud and boisterous with color. Some feature xeriscaping and others have water features. Many gardens showcase rainwater harvesting, composting, vermiculture and demonstrate the benefits of mulching.

A five dollar fee will be charged. Money collected from the tour will be used to fund Master Gardener greenhouse projects and a portion of the proceeds will be offered to the Living Garden Memorial Fund at the First Methodist Church in Killeen in memory of Deanna Rankin.

Sue Morgan (254-698-8668)and Rae Schmuck (254-933-7765) are co-chairwomen of the event. Information and directions to the gardens will be available at area nurseries in Belton, Killeen and Temple and at the Master Gardener greenhouse gate and the Texas AgriLife Extension Office located at 1605 n. Main, Belton, Texas.

BCMGA gardens on the tour will be at the homes of: Jay and Marlene Gillman, 3553 Love Road, Killeen Dr. Ursula Nanna , 802 Woodlawn Drive, Harker Heights

Janice Canard, 4930 Lakeaire Circle, Temple
Betty Nejtek, 5537 Cliff Lane, Temple
Rowena Fengel, 4205 Briar Cliff Road, Temple
Ken Richey, 2225 South 45th, Temple
Diane Calderwood, 2908 Sleepy Hollow, Temple



Garden tour committee members Jeanette Karr, Joyce Richardson, Sue Morgan and Rae Schmuck meet on a cold March day to finalize plans for the April 19th tour.



Deanna Rankin in her Garden

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee has the following Master Gardeners who have agreed to serve BCMGA. They are President: David Fitch, 2nd Vice President: Raymond Marr, Corresponding Secretary: Annette Ensing, Recording Secretary: Beverly Wickersham and Directors: Donald Wyatt, Mel Myers and Ursula Nanna. Committee members are Mary Ann Everett, Bob Gordon and Diane Calderwood.



Don Wyatt and Ken Richey Examine Plants

Bell County Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale April 12, 8 am to 1 pm

Native and adapted plants will be offered at the spring plant sale. Dr. Doug Welsh's latest book, [Texas Gardening Almanac](#), as well as other new and used gardening books will also be available. Tiger Town 4-H will sell hot dogs, snacks and drinks.

The Bell County Pecan Growers Association and the Bell County Agrilife Extension Office will host a pecan grafting work shop in conjunction with the master gardener plant sale. Registration for the pecan clinic is 9 am. Commercial growers will receive 2 hours CEU's. Attendees to the seminar will learn about pecan grafting and treatments for insects and diseases affecting pecan trees. Both of these events will be held at the Bell County AgriLife Extension Office, 1605 North Main, Belton, Texas. More information available (254-933-5305).

BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
are sponsored by the **TEXAS**
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION of
TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY
1605 N. MAIN ST,
BELTON, TEXAS 76513
254-933-5305



Contributing editors:

Mary Lew Quisenberry

Co-editors:

Mary Ann Everett, Retta Deiterman