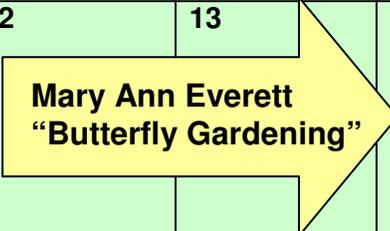




APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1  APRIL FOOL'S DAY	2  GOOD FRIDAY	3
4  EASTER	5  ORCHID FIELD TRIP	6	7 9:00 WORKDAY Burger Wed. 8:45 Herb Study Group Meeting 1-5:00 2010 Class	8	9	10
11	 Mary Ann Everett "Butterfly Gardening"		14 WORKDAY 10:30 Monthly MG Mtg. 1-5:00 2010 Class	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 WORKDAY 9:00 Greenhouse Com. Mtg. New Class Field Trip	22 	23	24
25	26	27	28 WORKDAY 9:00 Board of Directors Mtg. 1-5:00 2010 Class	29	30	

SPRING FORWARD!!

Submitted by Mel Myers, President

The first day of spring was anything but the likeness of spring. It was cold, wet and just plain miserable.

We all know it is spring because we turned our clocks ahead for this time we call daylight savings time. We know it is spring because of all the activity in our gardens. We often think of spring as our favorite time of year. Our gardens awaken from their dormant stage and start that beautiful process of transforming our world into a glorious scene.

Bell County Master Gardeners is very much the same way. Our class activity is coming right along. The election of new officers is coming up and before we know it the interns will be completing their requirements and be full members of our organization.

This month's lesson from the community gardens is one that could well be repeated each month of the year. Patience is something we desperately need. My favorite prayer is "Lord, grant me patience but please hurry". Spring is very much like that. We are so anxious to plant our tomatoes that we don't look at the calendar. Many of our gardeners learn this lesson the hard way. Those folks who sell us seedlings for transplants would surely sell fewer plants if we learned this lesson

Excuse this short article, but you see I've got to plant my tomatoes. Happy Gardening!!!



Monthly Meeting April 14th

Submitted by Mary Ann Everett

The speaker for April's monthly meeting is Mary Ann Everett on Butterfly Gardening. She will also touch on the demise of the Monarch butterfly this year.

Field Trip Thursday April 29 to North Fort Hood

Submitted by Mary Ann Everett

If you are planning to go on this field trip, please email Mary Ann at pma4514@sbcglobal.net. We need to carpool to the site. The more high clearance that your vehicle has, the better. Any vehicles not taken on the tour can be left at the meeting site. Gil Eckrich alerts the Game Wardens as to our presence. We do not need any picture ID on this trip as we will not be going through any check points.

Bring binoculars, sun screen, hat, water. Please wear hiking shoes. Meet at the Extension Office no later than 7:35AM. We leave for the site by 7:45AM.

Directions: We will be carpooling from the Extension Office and traveling towards Sparta Rd. (near Walmart). Continue on Sparta Rd to traffic light at intersection of the Loop and Sparta. (Belton High School is on your right.) Continue driving west, going through a stop sign at 5.4 miles. At a distance of 7.4 miles, you will drive over a cattle guard - you are now on Fort Hood (Sparta Rd. is now called North Nolan Road). Continue driving on the same road and past a sign to Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area (BLORA) at 7.5 miles. After 12.9 total miles, you will come upon an intersection (a paved road will be on your right, hereas a tank trail/improved dirt road will be to your left. Turn right. Right at the intersection is a large concrete pad where we will meet. By the way, signs will state that the speed limit on Fort Hood is 50 mph

for sedans and 40 mph for trucks. Regardless of what sort of vehicle you are in (pick-up, sedan, SUV, Van, etc.), you are considered a sedan. I will be in a silver Explorer with Government Tags.

Cotton Bur Compost

Submitted by Mary Ann Everett

I have two sources for bulk cotton bur compost:

Kent Knight of Georgetown

512-567-2064/office 512-868-9661

Kent has 1,000 yards of cotton bur compost priced at \$20/yd or around \$32 delivered. He can deliver 24 yards at a time. Please call ahead so he can meet you. The place is off Hwy 95, past Hwy 29. You will cross the river. There is a concrete embankment with a green gate and a drive. Check on this when you call about the directions from Temple.

Expanded shale/cotton bur compost

Steven Lovecky of Mt. Calm (northeast of Waco)

254-749-2282 Birome Gin 254-533-2291

Report from the Nominating Committee

Jane Capen
Jann Dworsky
Mary Lew Quesinberry

These are the Bell County Master Gardeners who were nominated and who have agreed to serve on the 2010 Board of Directors:

Recording Secretary - Jeannette Karr, class of 2001

Corresponding Secretary/Education - Ellen Majestic, class of 2009

Director/Greenhouse Liaison - David Fitch, class of 2007

Director/ Grounds Liaison - Pat Maskunas, class of 2008

Director/ Garden Tour Liaison - Beth Buhl, class of 2009

All of these candidates come highly recommended and are well qualified to serve on the Board. As a group, their service and educational hours to the Bell County Master Gardener Association total over 800 hours.

There were no additional nominations at the March 10th meeting. This Slate of Nominees will be presented at the April 14th meeting for a vote by the membership.



NEW CLASS FIELD TRIP

Submitted by Suzi Judd & the New Class Committee

Mark your calendars and plan to go with the new class on our upcoming spring field trip! This year's trip is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2010 and tickets for a seat on the bus will be \$20.00. In the morning, we will be traveling to The Natural Gardener, Austin's premiere organic garden center to tour their fabulous demonstration gardens. John Dromgoole, owner of The Natural Gardener will be speaking to our group about organic gardening practices and answering our questions.

In the afternoon, we will be visiting Zilker Botanical Garden. There we can visit the Cactus and Succulent Garden, Herb and Fragrance Garden, Japanese Garden, Butterfly Garden and more wonderful gardens.

We will leave the extension office at 8:30AM and return around 5:30PM. Make checks payable to BCMGA and mail to: Sue Judd, 2312 Stratford Dr., Temple, TX 76502.

Orchid Field Trip April 5th

Submitted by Diane Calderwood



One of the 2010 Interns, Johnny Chu, has a fantastic orchid collection that he has invited us to see! We have scheduled a tour for Monday, April 5th at 1:00PM. Directions to Johnny's home are below. If you have any questions, or would like to carpool from the Extension Office, please contact Diane Calderwood, 771-1218; dcalder@hotmail.com.

To Johnny's home and greenhouse (directions are from the Extension Office):

Go North on FM 317. Turn East (right) on FM 2305 (Adams). After you cross over Loop 363, you will turn right on Emery (7-11 store on the corner there). Turn right on Erie Drive. Johnny's address is 601 Erie Drive; 771-5821 (H) 760-3139 (C)



MAY MONTHLY MEETING AND NEW CLASS GRADUATION

Submitted by The New Class Committee

Graduation for the Class of 2010 and the May monthly meeting and installation of new officers will be held on Wednesday, May 19th at the Expo Center. The luncheon will be catered and the cost to the membership will be \$12. There is no cost to the New Class students as the cost was included in your class fee. New Class members and all other association members are welcome to bring a guest.

Please make your reservation by Friday, May 14th with Fran Sheppard at 254-698-3532 or Diane Calderwood, dcalder@hotmail.com. We will have a reservation sign-up at the April general meeting. You can pay Fran or Jan Anderson in advance or pay at the door the day of the meeting.



Herb Study Group

Submitted by Terrie Hahn

The next Herb Study Group meeting is April 7th (we may be meeting in the conference room). Social time is 8:45AM and the meeting starts at 9:00AM. Terrie Hahn's friend, Robbin Voight, will be presenting a program on elements of aromatherapy and use of essential oils. Everyone will be making a blend after watching Robbin demonstrate making an herbal spray such as an herbal insecticide, anti-heat exhaustion blend or physical stress reliever blend. Robbin owns Interior Gardens of Austin. Her company installs and does the upkeep on plants in individual offices and office buildings. Robbin and Terrie were co-leaders for their daughters' Girl Scout troop long ago. At the time, she had a large greenhouse and was growing everything organically and selling herbs to Whole Foods. She has also held seminars on how to cook with herbs. Terrie will buy 8 oz spray bottles from the Walmart cosmetics department which you can reimburse her for or you can bring your own along.



2010 Propagation Lab Attracts Almost Entire Intern Class

Submitted by Donald Gold

Over 90% of the 2010 Bell County Master Gardener Intern Class is participating in the second annual propagation lab. Functioning on Wednesday mornings before the afternoon intern classroom sessions, participation in the optional lab requires an all-day commitment from the interns.

Within a week, the first seed propagation applications resulted in sprouted plants in the heated and domed greenhouse environment. With much more to come involving seed scarification, cuttings, and such, the 2010 class is fully engaged in the fascinating science of propagation.

Can an Archduke be Beautiful?

Submitted by Jann Dworsky

Lawrence Cox is a long-time Bell County resident. His ancestors came through Bell County in 1849 on their way to the California gold rush. They broke the axle on their wagon and had to stay through the winter. The Texas countryside was so beautiful that spring that they just couldn't leave. His family has been here ever since.

Mr. Cox is a Bell County Master Gardener and he has been happy to make Bell County an even more beautiful place by sharing cuttings of his famous rose, the Archduke Charles, with us. This rose is the pride and joy of his family and they have been growing it since 1937 when a friend, Brad Tuttle, gave them their first cutting in Killeen. Mr. Cox is a nurseryman and had his own business from 1968 until 2001 near Killeen and cuttings have been passed down in his family and to his customers for many years.

Lawrence's current Archduke Charles is 7 feet tall and 5 feet across and has dozens of beautiful blooms that bud in light pink then mature to a beautiful red. The blooms are in varying stages all over the bush and give the delightful impression of dozens of different



colors of roses on one bush at the same time.

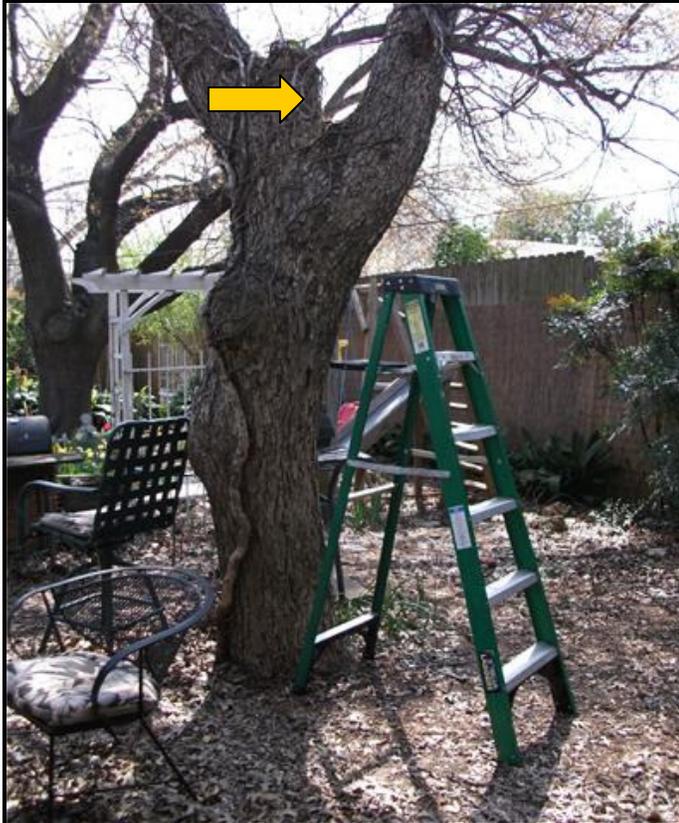
Lawrence's current Archduke Charles has been in the same location since 1968 and he has been delighted to give over 100 cuttings off this rose to the BCMG to grow for their own or to sell.

The historical individual Archduke Charles was a formidable commander and inflicted on Napoleon his first defeat in 13 years on the Danube River near Vienna, Austria in 1809. I suspect he was less beautiful than Lawrence's lovely rose.

The rose Archduke Charles is a fine old China rose that gives a constant bloom that is as changeable as a chameleon. Indeed, the day I visited Mr. Cox, his rose was full of dozens of blooms in every imaginable range of colors from delicate pink buds to crimson and pink flowers and some mature solid crimson blooms. On the internet type in the words " Archduke Charles rose" to see more photographs of this lovely rose.

Perhaps you already have one, or can now identify one you didn't know you had. Lawrence is still willing to share cuttings of his rose.

Can an Archduke be beautiful? Just ask Lawrence Cox and he will tell you, definitely, the answer is "Yes".



Squirrel Plants Tulip Bulb in Tree

Submitted by Donald Gold

There's an old saying among news reporters....

"When a dog bites a man, that's not news. But when a man bites a dog, that's news!"

Likewise, when Master Gardeners plant Spring bulbs and they come out with the new season, that's not news. Cynthia and Don Gold, interns in the 2010 class, planted over a thousand bulbs late last winter, and they're blooming all over the place now. Every year, they lose a few to the squirrels.

This year, however, at least one squirrel noticed that Cynthia and Don had gotten really serious about their gardening efforts, and obviously wanted to show his support. The critter stole one of their tulip bulbs and "planted" it at his or her front door, 18 feet off the ground in a huge old backyard tree.

Some might say that qualifies as gardening news.



BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Are sponsored by the

TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION of TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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