



# *The Blooming Bell*

**April, 2011  
BCMGA Newsletter**

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	<b>6 Herb Study Group</b> <b>8:30 am</b>  <b>Grounds Committee</b> <b>9 am</b>  <b>BURGER BASH 11 am</b> <b>Social 10:30 am</b> <b>Come One, Come All!</b>	<b>7 Work Day</b> <b>8 am</b>	8	9
10	11	12	<b>13 Work Day</b> <b>8 - 10:30 am</b>  <b>MG General Meeting -</b> <b>11 am</b>	<b>14 Work Day</b> <b>8 am</b> <b>Grounds Committee</b> <b>9 am</b> <b>Field Trip sign up</b> <b>deadline</b>	15	16
17	18	19	<b>20 Work Day 8 am</b>  <b>Peckerwood Field Trip</b>	<b>21 Work Day</b> <b>8 am - noon</b>	22	23
<b>24</b>  <b>Easter</b>	25	26	<b>27 Board of Directors</b> <b>Meeting 9 am</b>	<b>28 Work Day</b> <b>8 am - noon</b>	29	30

Important upcoming dates: Garden Tour is May 7, 8 am - 3 pm  
Deadline for Graduation Lunch reservation, May 13  
New Class Graduation May 18



# The President's Corner

## Isn't Spring Nice?

At the time of this writing, Spring has arrived. I fear that we may have another frost, but we'll have to wait and see. I remember 2009 when Easter was the middle of April and our last frost was on April 7. Maybe this year we will sneak by without that last cold spell right before Easter.

Our plant sale went very well. I don't have the final numbers but with such a turn out, and so few plants left, surely it was our best sale or at least very close. Everyone worked so hard and it showed. Thanks to all who participated!!!

There is a lot going on around Bell County Master Gardeners. As you recall at the last regular meeting we voted to sell the hardening house. We received two bids and the highest bid was for Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars. The successful bidder is a current master gardener. We actually had a third bid turned in, but they withdrew the bid before bids were opened because the person who was going to move the structure backed out.

We will have a meeting this Wednesday (March 30) at 9:00 A.M. to discuss the greenhouse and our options regarding it's future. We need to determine many things regarding our future plans before any decisions are made regarding the greenhouse. I would hope that the membership will respond and come up with ideas regarding out campus and perhaps a master plan for future development.

I am happy to announce that your nominating committee has presented an excellent slate of officers for the next year. We will vote on these officers at the next regular meeting and they will be installed in May at the Expo Center and will take office on June 1.

Happy Gardening!!!

- Mel Myers



Photo from Wildflower Center in an irrigated spot.  
- Terrie Hahn

## 2011 Propagation Lab In Full Swing

- Santanna Bay

The third annual propagation lab got under way at the beginning of this month for the 2011 Bell County Master Gardener Intern Class. Thanks to Jann Dworsky and the help of many Master Gardener mentors, the intern class is getting first hand experience of many different propagation techniques.

Interns involved in this year's propagation lab must come prepared for a full day of learning. In addition to the scheduled afternoon classes, the interns meet with their groups and mentors every Wednesday morning prior to class to get hands-on propagating experience. These first few weeks of propagation lab have allowed the interns to attain information on the proper way to start seeds, bulb chipping, seed floating, and simple layering. Like the newly started seedlings, the 2011 Intern class is off to a great start.

# A Great Spring Plant Sale-March 23, 2011

- Don Wyatt

When you read this the spring plant sale will be history. What a great day and sale this was. A total of 36 Master Gardeners and new interns came to sell plants, answer questions and whatever else had to be done to help 583 customers select plants. We had warned people to come early to get the best selection and they took us up on it. We were ready and waiting at 7:00 AM. They came with flashlights and all you could see in the greenhouse were lights moving about and customers looking for their favorite plants. From 7:00 AM to 8:00 AM we had a total of 205 customers come through the gate.

By 1:00 PM we had sold out of Roses, Herbs, Succulents, Trees and we only had a few tomato plants and perennials left over. What a great way to end a sale.

Darla Menking is doing a terrific job with the Kids Kamp. There were more kids at the sale this year than any time in the past so the word must be getting out. It was great to see so many smiling faces with a Mr. Seed Head clutched in their hands.

Three seminars were available; Mel Myers did one on Vegetable Gardening, Mary Ann Everett taught Earthkind Roses and Gary Slanga did Vegetable Pests in the Garden. About 30 people took advantage of these informational seminars.

Terrie Hahn and Linda Young with help from Mary Ann Hill and Gary Slanga did an Herb class on Thursday night with 19 people in attendance.

Steve Overby did a composting class on Friday night.

Plant sales are a lot of work and also can be a lot of fun especially with the crew we had Saturday. I appreciate

all the new class interns that came out to work and hope that they enjoyed themselves and learned a lot. Preparation for these sales from the day the date is set to the actual sale is approximately six months. The Fall Plant Sale is next on the agenda. Pat Maskunas and Bernard McDevitt will be heading up this sale.

The first planning meeting will be the first part of April. The first thing that will happen at this meeting is to recap the events of the spring sale - what did we do right, wrong or need to do better, the financials of the spring sale will be available. Master Gardeners and interns, when you see the e-mail invitation for the Fall Plant Sale, please plan to attend as they are fun meetings and we need your help and input on plant sale dates, vendors, plant selection, seminars etc.

***Thank you all for another successful event.***

Photos by Gail Christian



Continued on next page...



# Plant Sale Workers



MG's unloading plants for the Sale and training for the Sale.

Photos by Gail Christian

Continued on next page...





# Crowds Hunt Sale in Dark

Customers hunting for plants in the early morning hours.



Photos by Gail Christian and Crystal Fisher.

Continued on next page...





# Sun Comes Up On Plant Sale



Photos by Gail Christian and Crystal Fisher.



# The Great Moving Vegetable Garden

- Don Gold, 2010

I live in a 75 year old house surrounded by immense old trees, and there just isn't anyplace that gets enough full sun all day to grow vegetables...except the paved driveway. Pavement is a little hard to till up, and as the growing season progresses, the sun exposure moves around on the driveway. So I've decided to have my vegetable garden follow the sun on the sun's terms. This 4 by 8 by 1 foot raised bed garden on rolling casters is inexpensive to build in about 5 hours.

## Materials used:

(5 pieces) 2x4x8 treated exterior lumber

(3 pieces) 1x6x8 treated exterior lumber

(2 pieces) clear plastic corrugated roofing

26"x8'screening or netting

15 cubic feet of garden soil

## Tools:

circular saw

power drill

3" & 4" wood screws

2.5 inch casters with locks

**Total cost about \$80.00**



Photos by Don Gold



# Herb Group Update

- Kim Pringle and Gary Stone

At the March 2nd Herb Study Group Meeting, Gary Stone shared a great deal of information on why and how he incorporates herbs into his everyday life. The elderberry syrup was delicious. He orders herbs from Texas Naturals and Mountain Rose Herbs. The book *The Way of Herbs* by Michael Tierra is one of his favorites. For herb information, Gary likes the websites [learningherbs.com](http://learningherbs.com) and [herbalpedia.com](http://herbalpedia.com).

Gary covered decoctions, infusions, how to make and use herbal vinegars, syrups, many different kinds of medicinal herbs and how to make liniments. The liniments and Elderberry Syrup were very popular topics with all the participants, so the following is off of his new Power Point, *Herbal Basics*. He's happy to answer any questions you might have.

## LINIMENTS

A liniment is an herbal preparation made by infusing herbs in rubbing or grain alcohol. The liniment will be applied to the skin and the alcohol will evaporate rapidly allowing the herbs to penetrate quickly to accomplish such actions as relieving sore muscles and increasing circulation.

In this liniment we are using cayenne and cinnamon as warming herbs that will help increase circulation in the area affected.

The valerian root will work to relax the muscles.

The comfrey and calendula are soothing herbs that will help with healing bruises and injuries. This combination can also be helpful in easing the pain of arthritis.

### Herbs:

1 oz (weight) of comfrey root

3/4 oz valerian root

1/2 oz calendula flowers

3/4 oz cinnamon powder

1/4 teaspoon cayenne (powder)

Weigh out the appropriate amount of each herb and put them into a pint jar. Pour rubbing alcohol or grain alcohol (preferred) over the herbs to fill the jar. Stir to release any bubbles, and put a lid on the jar. LABEL the jar. Stir or shake once each day for two weeks. Strain through cheese cloth, squeezing the herbs to extract as much liquid as possible. Pour into new jar through coffee filter to get out any extra particulates. LABEL the jar you are storing the liniment in.

## ELDERBERRY SYRUP

We are going to make a syrup using dried elderberries (*Sambucus nigra*). This syrup is especially helpful for those with colds or flu. The elderberry will assist with the healing while the added cinnamon, ginger and cloves will help the syrup to be warming and the honey adds an antibiotic quality while also making the syrup soothing for sore throats and coughs. Take 1 tablespoon per hour during illness.

Elderberry syrup is also a wonderful preventative so you can take a few tablespoons of this syrup each day during cold and flu season to help avoid getting sick. Better yet, pour it over your pancakes and benefit from it's health promoting properties while enjoying this special breakfast treat!

We briefly discussed having Part 2 on this subject in a few months.

**The next meeting is April 6.** Beverly Wickersham will be presenting a program on Mexican Mint Marigold and classifying herbs.

Photo by Gail Christian.



# ***Help Wanted...***

## **The Speakers Bureau**

**- Gary Slanga**

Well, the speakers bureau is off to a flying start. Thanks to all who volunteered to participate. We still need interested Master Gardeners to help as assistants and are willing to take over as back-up speakers if necessary. Any one with an interest in the topics that we have in our speakers library is welcome to help.

Here is a list of the topics that our speakers are currently presenting:

Butterfly Gardening

Insects in the Garden

Vegetable Gardening

Square Foot Gardening

Rain Water Harvesting

Making Rain Barrels

Wildflowers of Texas

Vermiculture (Raising Earthworms)

Trees of Central Texas

Earthkind Roses

Earthkind Principles

Common Poisonous Plants

Planting/Pruning Trees and Shrubs

Safe Use/Handling of Pesticides

Integrated Pest Management(IPM)

Drip Irrigation

Fire Ant Control

Raised Bed Gardening

Growing and Cooking with Herbs

ABC's of Herbs

American Colonial Gardens

Oak wilt/Tree Diseases

Edible Flowers

History of Spices

Chili Peppers

Hardscaping

Basic Plant Propagation

Soda Bottle Propagation

African Violet Leaf Propagation

Succulents and Their Propagation

Propagating Roses

Perennials/Selection and Planting

Growing Grapes

Thinking About a Backyard

Greenhouse?

Composting

Native Plants

If any of these topics are of special interest your help as an assistant or back-up speaker will be appreciated.

A special thanks to David Fitch and Diane Calderwood for presenting vegetable gardening and square-foot gardening at Salado Ace Hardware. This will be a continuing series of lectures the second Saturday of each month for those folks. Kudos to Melvin Meyers for his vegetable gardening presentation at the Copperas Cove Library. Mary Ann Everett has done two butterfly gardening presentations at the Salado Library. More thanks go out to Candace Mullen for agreeing to do a composting presentation for Salado's Earth Day. Candace also volunteered, along with

Continued on next page...



## ***Help Wanted***

### **Speaker's Bureau...continued**

Rowena Fengel to represent the Master Gardeners at the Ft. Hood Library. And of course thanks to the herb group for all the presentations they do.

Upcoming events that will require speakers are a tree planting seminar for Harker Heights Arbor Day, a gardening teaching/hands-on for the Harker Heights Cub Scouts, tree planting information for the City of Temple and a gardening class for a retirement home in Belton. I am just waiting on contacts and details to put the final touches on these events.

As you can see the speakers bureau has been very active and we hope to continue educating the public every opportunity we get.

Thanks again to all the volunteers. Keep up the good work, and those of you who would like to be speakers, but don't know where to start, just contact me and we will get you started.

### **Herb Group Opportunities**

**- Kim Pringle**

If you need service hours, below is an updated list of program requests for the next couple of months. Please check your calendar as your help is needed to present program, answer questions and pass out information. We can copy the power point presentation for you to practice and you can always comment on your personal experiences with herbs. If you are unfamiliar with some of the herbs, what a great way to learn and become involved.

April 9, from 8:30 to 3:30 -Seventh Rockport Herb Festival.

May 10 at 1:00 - Sun City Horticulture Club, Georgetown. "American Colonial Gardens" with costumes.

May 17, at Copperas Cove Library-Brown Bag Lunch

As always, please contact me with questions or comments.

## **Master Gardeners and Interns**

**- Mary Lew Quesinberry**

Deadline for the May and June "Tip of the Week" articles is April 30th. Please send a 300 word article to our editor Candy Mullen: [candylane@taptrain.com](mailto:candylane@taptrain.com) by April 30th.

Candy needs the articles before she leaves on vacation.

Any gardening subject that interests you will be helpful to other gardeners. Thank you for supporting the "Tip of the Week"

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## **MG's Attend Temple College Landscaping Classes**

**- Mary Lew Quesinberry**

Master Gardeners Carol Runyan, 2010 intern Karen Colwick and Mary Lew Quesinberry are pictured with horticulturist Reid Lewis. Reid is teaching a Continuing Education course on native landscaping at Temple College. The course is six weeks, twice a week and will include a field trip afterwards to a Wholesale Nursery in Austin.

*Photo by Mary Lew Quesinberry*



# Announcements

## BCMG 2011 Class Field Trip

- Sue Judd

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 20, 2011 and plan to go with the new class on our upcoming spring field trip. This year we will be traveling to Peckerwood Gardens in Hempstead and The Antique Rose Emporium in Brenham. The bus will depart the Bell County Extension office at 8:00 a.m. and will return at approximately 5:30p.m. You will need to bring a sack lunch and a blanket to sit on.

The cost for the trip is \$35.00 which includes your bus reservation and driver tip. Class members and Master Gardeners may also reserve one seat for a guest. The reservations are on a first come first

serve basis and are non-refundable, but are transferable. To make a reservation, or for more information please contact SUE JUDD AT 760-3213 OR SUZPRESNC@YAHOO.COM. You can mail your reservation payment, payable to the BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, to Sue Judd at 2312 Stratford Dr., Temple, TX 76502. The deadline for reservations is April 14, 2010.

Photo of Peckerwood Gardens by John McCormick

### PECKERWOOD GARDENS

Beautiful gardens that have more than 3,000 rare and unusual plants from the US, Mexico and Asia. Professor John Fairey, who owns the gardens will be our guide. The gardens are closed to

the public this day, so we will have this wonderful place to ourselves. See [www.peckerwoodgarden.org](http://www.peckerwoodgarden.org)

### THE ANTIQUE ROSE EMPORIUM

Beautiful nursery which is well known for Earth-kind, Pioneer and old Roses. It's located in Brenham, Texas.



Prairie Fleabane at the Wildflower Center below, Suzanne Boyer's Purple Garden to the right.





## ***Announcements*...continued**

### **May Monthly Meeting and New Class Graduation**

#### **submitted by the New Class Committee**

Graduation for the Class of 2011 and the May monthly meeting and installation of officers will be held on Wednesday, May 18th at the Expo Center. The luncheon will be catered by Expo Catering and the menu will be "A Taste of Mexico" to include chicken/beef enchiladas, tacos, spanish rice, refried beans, salsa fresca, cheese & sour cream. Desserts will be provided by the outstanding cooks from BCMGA.

The cost of the luncheon will be \$12. There is no cost to the new class students as this was included in your class fees. New class members and association members are welcome to bring a guest.

Please make your reservation by Friday, May 13th with Fran Sheppard, 254-698-3532, [jts8099@embarqmail.com](mailto:jts8099@embarqmail.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

### **From the Nominating Committee**

The 2011 Slate of Officers were approved by the membership at the monthly meeting March 9th. No nominations were submitted from the floor.

The slate of officers will be voted on at the April 13th monthly meeting and installed at the May meeting during the 2011 Graduation at the Expo.

#### **2011 Slate of Officers**

<b>President</b>	<b>Laura Murphy '10</b>
<b>1st VP</b>	<b>Bernie Hurta '07</b>
<b>2nd VP</b>	<b>Jerry Lewis '10</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Don Wyatt '07</b>
<b>Director JMG</b>	<b>Pearl Fellingham '10</b>
<b>Director Outreach</b>	<b>Don Gold '10</b>
<b>Director New Class</b>	<b>Fran Sheppard '07</b>

#### **Nominating committee**

Mary Lew Quesinberry  
Jann Dworsky  
Jane Capen

## ***For Your Information***

El Camino Real MN Chapter's **"2nd Annual Milam County Nature Festival,"** from 9am - 3pm, Saturday, April 9 at Wilson-Ledbetter Park in Cameron.

**Wildflower Center In Austin** has their big Spring Plant Sale on April 8 and 9. Go Native U educational classes have opened up for registration. Go to [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org) for more info.

On March 12, the **Austin American Statesman** published a very interesting article by Asher Price on Invasives. **"While Some Remove Invasive Plants, Others Sell Them"** delved into why we are still seeing so many ligustrum plants for sale in our area. The Nursery Industry plays politics to keep them around! This article is worth a read. Go to [www.statesman.com/go/multimedia](http://www.statesman.com/go/multimedia) and search "invasive plants."

## Louise Crowell's Yummy Coleslaw Recipe

Finely shred cabbage; slice thin green onions. To this, add dressing and chill 2-3 hours or overnight. Lasts several days.

### DRESSING RECIPE:

1/2 CUP OLIVE OIL

1/2 CUP APPLE CIDER VINEGAR

1 PACKAGE SPLENDA

1 t CELERY SEED

1 t MUSTARD SEED

MIX WELL AND POUR OVER SLAW MIXTURE the cabbage and onions were from the garden. Use whatever amount of veggies you desire. ENJOY!

## What's Happening in Your Garden?

This afternoon my neighbor showed me this bird nest in the vacant lot next to our house. She has a trailer and camper stored on the lot and discovered it behind the camper. I don't know if new ones are built each year. I will have to watch the area to see if the birds come back to it or build a new one. It was very low to the ground, only a couple feet up. It's about 3 inches wide. Is this a Black Capped Vireo nest? Does anyone out there

recognize it? It

is so small and blends in with

the bark of the shrubs. It would be neat to find one with baby birds. My neighbor has sharp eyes to spot it. - Gail Christian



## Baskets Galore!

- Mary Lew Quesinberry

Master Gardeners Beth Anderson, Karen Colwick, Fran Shepard, Mary Ann Everett, Ilene Miller, and Myra Crenshaw create table decorations for the AgriLife Extension Educators fundraising event.



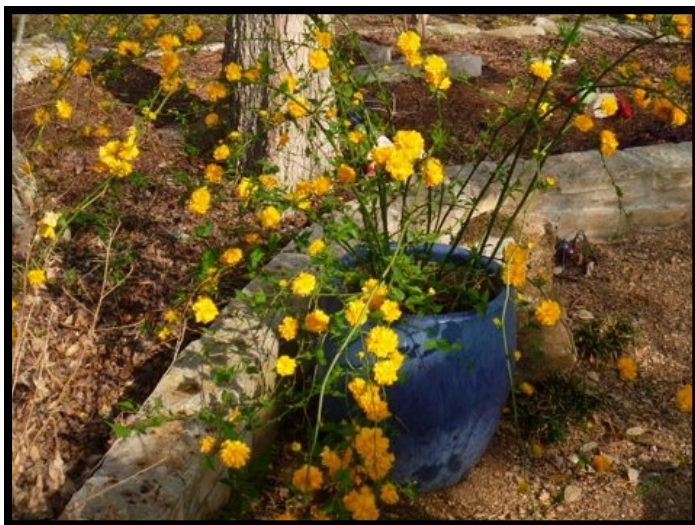


# What's Happening in Your Garden?

What's blooming in the Quesinberry garden is *Kerria Japonica* (Japanese Rose).

This delightful plant spent its entire winter

outside in this this location. The stems remain green all year. In March yellow blooms appear followed by leaves. *Kerria Japonica* continues to bloom lightly most of the year. It can be used in a pot or planted in dappled shade in the yard. When planted in the landscape it will form a beautiful graceful thicket. - **Mary Lew Quesinberry**

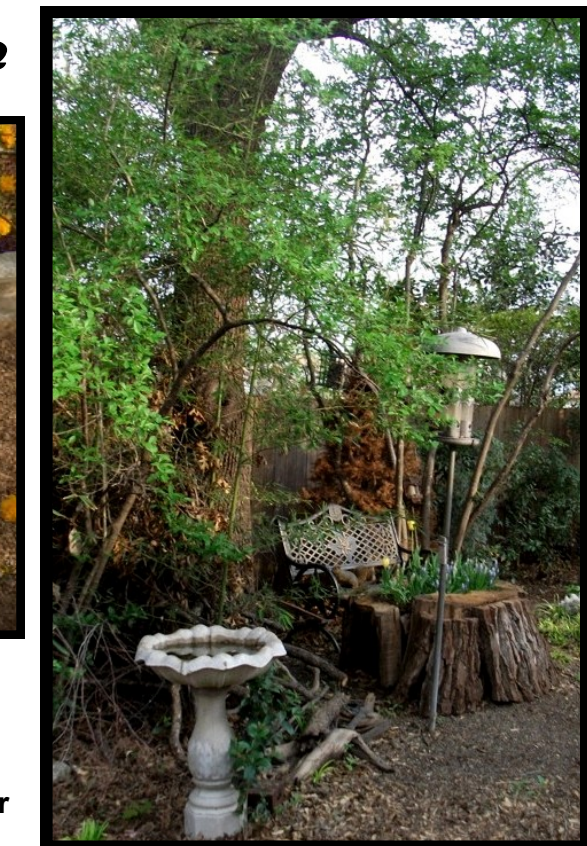


**Last year when**

**Temple Parks Maintenance felled 2 huge 100+ year old Cottonwoods** in Jackson Park due to internal water rot, we saved one section of the 4 foot wide trunk. It was broken into 2 semi-circles, but we pieced them together in our back yard next to our bird estuary, filled it with medium, and planted it. - **Cynthia Linzy Gold**

**The hummingbirds are back.** I have a Black-Chinned Hummingbird that has been coming for the last few weeks. Also, two of my children are Aggies' Alumni, and they brought me Maroon Bluebonnet seeds every year. I gave up trying to grow them from seed, so I bought the plant. Fortunately, the deer haven't eaten it yet. The Maroon bluebonnet took 20 years to develop (Wildseed

Farms in conjunction with Dr. Jerry Parsons from A&M). The original plant was found in the wild near San Antonio, Texas. - **Myrna Crenshaw**



A close up of the stump is on the front cover. Photos of stump by Don Gold.





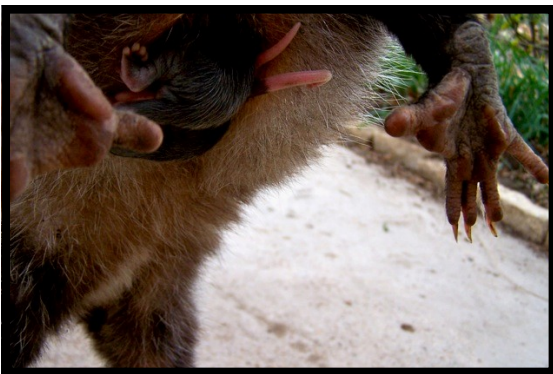
# What's Happening in Your Garden?



**While I was working in the yard,** I saw both dogs go into the greenhouse - which they never do if I'm not with them. Intrigued, I went in after they left and found the reason for their investigation. This opossum! Put the dogs in the house, call to Animal Control and get the camera. Now I know what turned over the Dill that I had started from seeds. No more blaming the dogs.

Upon their arrival, I was able to show Animal Control the shelf it went under. We both saw a spot on her back that looked like an injury, moistened and messed up hair. Dog bite? She thought she might be a bit lethargic. I asked what she planned to do and she said "Put her down", at least till she picked her up...

Before Animal Control arrived, I got some water and pushed it closer while I went for the camera.

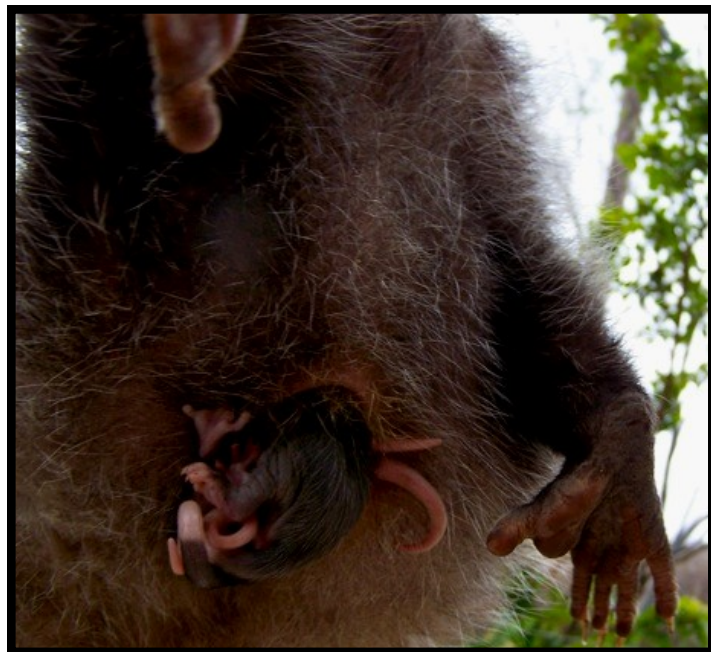


You might be able to see the area on her back that looked as if the dogs had gotten to her - moistened and messed up.

But upon picking her up by her tail, we could both see babies. Opossums are marsupials and the babies are in the mothers pouch. Instead, Animal Control has

taken her somewhere outside of town to a very deserted section of Kegley Road. This is a case of where the babies saved the life of the mother opossum.

Just had to show you the pictures cause I don't think this is an angle that you'll ever see again. - **Crystal Fisher**



**This is what happens when you leave out your fish emulsion.** We had just gotten an organic fertilizer containing fish emulsion, seaweed, etc. and forgot to put it away. It was sitting unopened next to a





## Officers and Directors 2010- 2011

<b>President</b>	<b>Mel Myers</b>
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<b>Kathy White</b>	<b>Janelle Burson</b>

### AgriLife Agent

Dirk Aaron

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Mel Myers  
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Don Wyatt  
Don Gold  
Cynthia Linzy Gold  
Gary Slanga  
Gary Stone  
Myrna Crenshaw  
Crystal Fisher  
Mary Lew Quesinberry  
Gail Christian  
Sue Judd  
Kim Pringle  
Louise Crowell  
Diane Calderwood

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John McCormick of Peckerwood Gardens  
Myrna Crenshaw  
Don Gold  
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Crystal Fisher  
Suzanne Boyer  
Terrie Hahn

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Werner Hahn

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A publication of the Bell County Master Gardener Association sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension of Texas A & M University

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Banner  
Photo from  
Wildflower  
Center in  
an area  
they  
irrigate.  
This photo  
of Mallow  
is also  
from the  
Wildflower  
Center -  
Terrie  
Hahn

