



August 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5 WORKDAY POT LUCK WEDNESDAY 8AM Mulch Demo Beds 8:45AM Herb Study Group	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 WORKDAY 8-10:30AM Under Oaks Cleanup 11:00AM Monthly MG Meeting	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 9AM New Class Com. Plan. Mtg. 9AM Greenhouse Com. Mtg. 10AM Grounds Com. Task Force Mtg.	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 9AM Board of Directors Mtg.	27	28	29
30	31					

Butterfly Gardening
 Presented by
 Mary Ann Everett

HOT SUMMER IN CENTRAL TEXAS

Submitted by President Mel Myers

You don't need to be reminded about the heat. This time of year, it is the number one topic almost everywhere you go. Yes, it is **HOT** and **DRY!** We can expect some relief from the heat but we are not sure about the other.

Since most of us spend a lot of time outdoors, be sure to drink a lot of water. Heat exhaustion and affiliated symptoms can slip up on you so be careful during this time of year. Master Gardeners may spend more time inside during this heat, but we can still plan our fall gardens. Yes, it is time to get moving so we can enjoy the autumn as much as the spring. If you are interested in planting a small vegetable garden (or herbs and flowers) see Don Wyatt to see if he has one of the demonstration plots still available. As mentioned last month, David Fitch and I spent two days in Glen Rose learning all about vegetables.

Also keep in mind that our fall sale is September 26. Be aware that this fall will be full of exciting things for BCMGA. Along with our plant sale we will have a plant swap and several education opportunities. In the meantime, stay cool and be safe.

Texas Gardener Magazine

Submitted by Jan Anderson

When it comes time to renew your subscription, if it is processed through BCMGA, the organization actually makes a few dollars on each renewal. Make your check payable to BCMGA and mail it to Jan Anderson, Treasurer, along with your renewal remittance slip. She will deposit your check into the operating account then write a check to the Texas Gardener Magazine for about \$5 less than your check. Please note that the subscription rate has increased so do not use any old forms that you have been given in the past.

Master Gardener Yearly Dues

Submitted by Jan Anderson

Only half of our current membership roll has paid their dues for 2009-2010. The deadline has been extended to August 31st in order to give you more time to send in your \$25. Please remember that you do not have to be certified in order to stay a member of BCMGA. I hope you decide to stay a member and come to our monthly meetings and stay involved in our activities. New class members that just graduated do not pay dues at this time.

Wednesday Workdays

Submitted by Karla Tomaka & Greenhouse Crew

Potluck Wednesday is approaching fast on Wednesday August 5th. We will be meeting at 8:00 at the vegetable demonstration gardens. Our project will be to spread mulch between the vegetable beds. The mulch will be on hand and ready to go. We will need help with wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes to get the job done - if you have them available, please bring them. If you can bring something to share for our potluck meal, please let me know at kstomaka@aol.com

We are also planning a second workday on the Wednesday of our monthly meeting. We will meet at 8:00 under the oak trees on the west side of the greenhouse. The project will be to clean out anything that doesn't belong under the trees. Bring you clippers!

Hope to see you!

Greenhouse Committee Summary

Submitted by Karla Tomaka

The greenhouse committee met on July 15th. The committee discussed preparing the vegetable demonstration gardens for fall. The beds will be tilled and soaker hoses laid out by August 1st. Nine beds are available from August 1st until approximately January 1st. If you would like to work a bed, contact Don Wyatt. On potluck Wednesday, August 5th, we will finalize preparation by spreading mulch between and behind the beds.

The rose order from Chamblee's was finalized. Orders to all three vendors; Gabriel Valley Farms, Wright's Nursery and Chamblee's are now placed for the fall sale, September 26th. Seminars to be presented at the fall sale are: Fall Vegetable Gardening at 9:00 and Texas Wildflowers at 10:00.

We are planning a second workday for Wednesday, August 12th (our monthly meeting day). We plan to kick off at 8:00 under the trees on the west side of the greenhouse until about 10:30. We will be cleaning up the area under the trees. If you are able to help, bring your gloves and hand clippers! The trees will be trimmed by an arborist in the near future.

The next greenhouse committee meeting will be on Wednesday, August 19th at 9:00 in the classroom. We will be finalizing preparations for the fall sale. All master gardeners are invited.

Herb Study Group

Submitted by Kim Pringle

The Herb Study Group will meet on Wednesday, August 5 - social time 8:45 to 9:00 with meeting to begin at 9:00. The topic is "The Joys of Summer". Everyone is invited to share good things about summer - maybe a new garden book for summer reading, a "cool" herb recipe, a favorite swimming hole, garden planning for the fall, a recent trip/family reunion or creatures visiting your garden. Also we will be planning for presentation to Killeen Lions Club on September 10. Hope you can come.

New Class Committee Meeting

Submitted by Diane Calderwood

A planning meeting for the class of 2010 has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 19th at 9:00 a.m. at the Extension Office. We would like to invite all those who were involved in the class last year including speakers, propagation team members, mentors, etc. to attend this first planning meeting. We would also invite anyone else in the organization who is interested in the new class to attend. Your input is important to our planning for the 2010 class.

The meeting will be split into 2 segments for those who don't need or want to attend the entire meeting. The first part of the meeting will be a discussion of the greenhouse/propagation activities. The latter part of the meeting will concern the schedule of classes and speakers for the following year.

Please join us in planning for our next great class!

Master Gardener Class of 2010

Submitted by The New Class Committee

We are currently taking applications for the 2010 Class. Applications can be downloaded from our website or picked up at the Extension Office.

Please tell your friends and neighbors about the class and our wonderful organization! We hope to have another successful year.

A Question for Master Gardeners

Submitted by Terrie Hahn

Werner put garlic in a while back and we harvested it. About half were nice big heads with several large cloves. The rest were simply round, about the size of a golf ball - no cloves. The texture and taste and smell were not the same as regular garlic. What would cause this? Has this happened to anyone else?

Avocado , Mango and Jicama Salad With Sweet Red Chile Dressing

Submitted by Terrie Hahn

Salad

Fresh salad greens of choice, washed, stemmed and chilled
2 ripe avocados, peeled, sliced and dipped into diluted lemon juice
2 large ripe mangoes, peeled and sliced
1 small jicama, peeled and pithy portion removed, and cut into thin wedges
Sweet Chile Dressing (recipe below)
¼ cup toasted nuts like pumpkin, pine, or almonds
Toss together on a large platter

Sweet Chile Dressing

3 large dried, mild California or New Mexico Chiles
¾ cup of water or orange juice
¼ to ½ cup vegetable oil
½ cup of white wine vinegar or rice wine vinegar
4 tablespoons of honey
1 tablespoon of fresh chopped ginger
½ teaspoon of salt
1 large clove of garlic, peeled and cut into slivers
¼ cup each of spearmint and basil leaves chopped

Remove stems and seeds from chilies. Rinse and cut into strips. Place in a small saucepan, with water or orange juice, bring to boil, remove and cool at least 10 minutes.

Place chile mixture and remaining ingredients into a food processor and puree until smooth. Add more honey or salt if it's too sharp.

Serve on fruit or veggie salads. And use as a marinade on seafood, chicken or pork.

Yield : Slightly over 2 cups
This is even better the next day!

Fruit Trivia

Submitted by Jane Capen

For many of us, it is too hot to be outside gardening, except perhaps in the early morning. So here are a few odd fruit facts to help you pass the time under the air conditioning or by the pool.

APPLES: The U.S. grows about 4,427,000 metric tons per year, about 7.5% of the world's production. (China grows about 40% of the apples in the world.) More than half of the apples grown in the US are grown in the state of Washington.

Zinnias: the Perfect Flower for Your First Garden

Submitted by Jann Dworsky

BANANAS: A banana is not really a fruit, it is more like the largest herb in the world, and bananas are the berries of the herb. Banana "trees" are herbaceous plants, and do not contain actual woody tissue.

BLUEBERRIES: Blueberries are native to North America and have more antioxidants than most other fruits and vegetables.

CHERRIES: A marble game called Cherry Pit is mentioned twice in the writings of Shakespeare, and round cherry pits may have once been used as marbles in bygone times. The National Cherry Festival is held in Traverse City, Michigan in July every year

KIWI: Kiwis were once known as Chinese gooseberries, but in the 1950s New Zealand exporters rechristened them kiwi because they thought it would make them more marketable (which it probably did).

PEACHES: Peaches came originally from China, where they symbolize longevity.

The two main categories of peaches are freestone and clingstone. Freestone (which means the pit separates easily from the flesh) are most common in our produce sections, while clingstone (meaning the pit sticks to the flesh) is generally what we buy in cans. There is also a hybrid called a semi-freestone.

RASPBERRIES: Raspberries used to be called hindberries because hinds, or stags, were fond of them.

STRAWBERRIES: Strawberries, which are members of the rose family, were cultivated in ancient Rome. They are not really a fruit or a berry but the enlarged receptacle of the plant's flower. Strawberry seeds are on the outer skin, instead of in the inner berry, and there are about 200 seeds per berry.

References:

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Zinnias are a perfect choice for your first flower garden. They love the hot Bell County weather and do best when planted April through late August, or right now.

Zinnias come in every glorious crayon color, plus peppermint, tequila lime and many others. They also come in several sizes, so pick the one to suit your space. Thumbelina zinnias are only 6 inches tall, others are 24 or 36 inches tall, but butterflies love them all! My Aunt Callie always grew zinnias and they made a wonderful welcome to neighbors. I have planted them more than any other flower over the last 40 years.

At this time of year zinnias take only a few days to come up. Pick a spot that is in full sun for at least 6 hours of the day. You will have a beautiful splash of color even if you only have a 2 foot by 2 foot garden. Spade it to a depth of about 6 or 8 inches. Pull out any grass and weeds, then work the soil with your hoe and rake until the soil looks like a good chocolate cake mix. Make a slight depression or little tank with your dirt, so the water will soak into the ground. Take your zinnia seeds and place them a few at a time on top of the dirt. Sprinkle a little of the softest dirt on them, less than one quarter of an inch. Pat the top of the ground to firm in the seed. Sprinkle twice a day to water, but gently so the seeds are not uncovered.

In a few days, with the Central Texas heat, your zinnias will be sprouted. Cut the flowers and put them in a vase in the house and they will last nearly a week. Friends will love to receive a bouquet. Keep the faded flowers cut off the plants for long and continuous blooming. Water the zinnias by laying a hose at their feet and soaking them.

Zinnia seeds can be purchased at local garden centers or on line through seed catalogs. Zinnias are eager to be beautiful "eye candy" and will make your first flower garden a big success.

Advanced Training Classes for Master Gardeners

Submitted by Annette Ensing

Last fall, one of the key goals we set for ourselves in the Strategic Action Plan was "Establish Advanced Training for BCMGA Certified MGs". At our June monthly meeting, we passed around a survey to determine the type of classes people were interested in. Earthkind was the # 1 choice and Propagation

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was #4. (we'll get to #2 and #3 in the next offerings). Dirk has kindly reserved the classroom for us on specific Thursdays, pending approval by the Extension office, so we won't have conflicts with meetings or greenhouse activity.

We are pleased to announce a 10 week Propagation class beginning on Thursday, September 10, from 9-11 AM. This class will be similar to the one we taught to the intern class last spring, but will be enhanced with briefing/slide presentations, handouts, and class discussion time. We will explore different methods and compare results. A full class schedule and curriculum is posted on the BCMG web site. The class will be taught by Propagation Specialists and our BCMG certified propagation mentors. We are limiting the class to 15. While we will give preference in filling the class to individuals who wish to become certified and become mentors or be in the Speakers Bureau, it is open to those who just want to increase their knowledge of propagation. We will follow the classes with a one day session for those interested in becoming BCMG certified. There will be a \$20 fee to help defray the cost of supplies.

The #1 choice, an eight week Earthkind class, will begin on Thursday, October 1, from 1:30-3:30 PM. This class is organized around the seven Earthkind principles. It will incorporate the 12 web-based MG Earthkind sessions, and will offer much more in-depth material on each topic through lecture material and some hands-on demonstrations. This class will be taught by BCMG specialists and also by outside speakers. We will have handouts of the material available. Following each session, we will have on-line computers set up so that you can take the simple quiz on the topic for MG certification in that area. The last class session is an optional tour of the Bamberger Ranch near Johnson City (cost \$15.) This class will have no size limit and no fee – come one, come all! Our goal is to get as many BCMG individuals certified as possible, and to start bringing this material into classes for the public in the near future. A full class schedule is posted on the BCMG web site.

Applications for the classes are on the web site. The registration deadline for the Propagation class is Monday, August 31, and September 15 for the Earthkind class. Hope to see you there!

Contributors: Jan Anderson, Diane Calderwood, Jane Capen, Jann Dworsky, Annette Ensing, Terrie Hahn, Mel Myers, Kim Pringle, Karla Tomaka.

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