



The Blooming Bell

August, 2011

BCMGA Newsletter

Inside this edition:

August Calendar

The President's Corner

An Update and an Invitation

Spring Garden Tour continued

Announcements

What's Happening in Your Yard?



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 Work Day 8-10 am Grounds Committee Meeting 9 am Seafood Splash Wednesday 11 am | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Work Day 8-10 am General Meeting 11 am Jheri Lynn Smith speaking on Gardens of Spain | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Work Day 8-10 am Greenhouse Planning 9 am | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Work Day 8-10 am Board of Directors Meeting 9 am | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Work Day 8-10 am | | | |

Upcoming dates to remember: Plant/Seed Swap, General Meeting September 14
 Fall Plant Sale, October 1, 7 am - 1 pm. Training, September 30
 Whistle Stop Park Cleanup: August 31 and November 30
 National Make a Difference Day/Keep Temple Beautiful: October 25, training September 10

The President's Corner

We frequently hear reference to the Dog Days of Summer. Though dates for the beginning of dog days vary, all agree that they arrive in July. Sirius the "dog star" appears brightest in the sky this time of year. In our hemisphere it appears during the day and we miss seeing this very bright star. The Romans thought the heat from Sirius plus the heat from the Sun caused the increased heat of summer, hence the "dog days".

Gardeners in Texas are usually planning and planting a fall vegetable garden during the months of July and August. Though we are enduring a dryer and warmer than normal summer, we look forward to cooler temperatures and a fall garden. August 2, a fall vegetable gardening seminar will be presented by vegetable specialist, Mel Myers. This year we all will benefit from the information he will provide.

The fall plant sale is scheduled for October 1st. New varieties of plants, and colorful demonstration areas with rose propagation, bee keeping, composting, rain water harvesting, plus several other topics, will be of interest to Master Gardeners and the general public. Volunteer your time and enjoy this event. Rain watering harvesting and water conversation are topics of the hour.

One of our own, Candace Mullen wrote a wonderful three part series on water conservation. If you missed this in the Temple or Killeen paper, it is now available on our website. Thanks to Candace for this timely series.

Besides planning and preparing for the plant sale, the landscape committee and other volunteers have been working many mornings this summer on the grounds. The term "sweat equity" seems appropriate here, thanks to all of those who have been working during the hot weather. Please consider donating some of your time to assist them in preparing the grounds for the upcoming plant sale. August 3rd, the committee plans a work day, a meeting and a seafood lunch.

Though many of us have little blooming in our

gardens this month, the program for the August monthly meeting should provide a boost in our garden moral. Jheri Lynn Smith will be presenting a program entitled "Gardens in Spain". Plan to attend, visit with your gardening pals and enjoy a delightful program.

Mark your calendar for the September monthly meeting. The greenhouse committee has been meeting for some time and discussing the uses, pros/cons of our greenhouse and needs of our organization. They will be presenting the plans for the greenhouse and recommendations as to the future of the area within the fence. It is an important program and one you do not want to miss.

It seems that the term "stay cool" previously meant to remain calm or adjust your attitude, currently it means to guard your physical health. So, Master Gardeners, take care in the heat. Wear a hat, stay hydrated, take a break, and stay cool.....**Laura**

IMPORTANT REMINDER.....

BCMGA Dues MUST be received no later than Aug. 5. There are still 46 members who have not paid their dues yet. Please be sure to take care of this and turn in all your hours **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, AUG 5th.**

Also, please let your friends and neighbors know that we are still taking applications for the Master Gardener **New Class 2012.** Deadline for applications is Nov. 15th. Interested participants can contact the County Extension Office.

The Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden An Update and An Invitation

- Beverly Wickersham

The Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden, located behind the Killeen Civic and Conference Center, was organized in October 2008. The Garden provides an opportunity for the Municipal Court Judge, the Teen Court, and the Bell County Master Gardener Association to offer positive life-changing community service and educational opportunities for the young people of Killeen.



The Master Gardeners who currently volunteer at the "Court Garden" would welcome visitors to the Garden, especially on Saturday mornings (9:00 until 12:00) when the student workers are present. Despite the heat, the cold, the wind, and the sometimes very hard tasks, these young people have been willing gardeners and a delight to work with. With their help we have constructed seven raised beds for numerous blooming plants and herbs, as well as square-foot beds and trellised beds demonstrating a variety of gardening techniques. The large succulent bed designed by Ursula Nanna is a favorite garden spot, requiring no additional watering and little maintenance. The "farm" area is devoted to producing several hundred pounds of vegetables each growing season that are delivered to food kitchens and food care centers in the Killeen/Harker Heights area. The fruit and pecan tree orchard



is flourishing. We are eager to add this bounty to the deliveries.



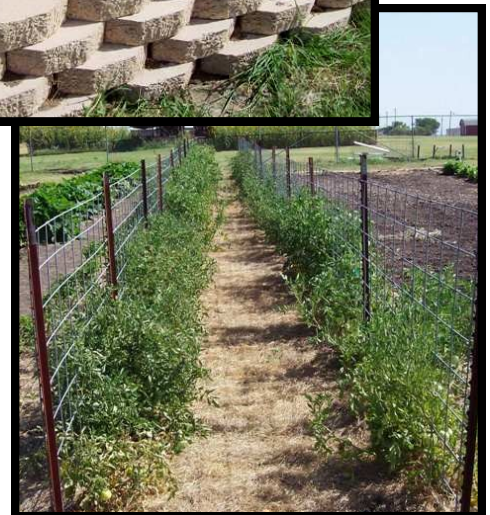
The Master Gardener volunteers sign up for watering and harvesting duties during the week in addition to the Saturday work morning. We quickly earn volunteer hours by working at something we truly enjoy. Passing on gardening skills to the students is an added important benefit. We invite Bell County Master Gardeners who are interested in this worthwhile program to consider joining the group.

Continued on next page...

An Update and an Invitation...continued

A List of Court Garden Volunteers:

Melanie Benson, Janelle Burson, Kathleen Brown, Edie Campbell, Lawrence Cox, Peg Fleet, Bette Gilmore, Bob Gordon, Dale Hughling, Gale Hughling, Angie Hunt, Jerry Lewis, Pat Maskunus, Larry Moehnke, Ursula Nanna, Steve Overby, Joyce Richardson, Jheri Lynn Smith, Charles Spenser, Beverly Wickersham



Highlights of Three More Gardens on the Spring Garden Tour 2011

The Gardens on the Spring Garden Tour were located far and wide from Salado to Killeen to Belton to Temple. We spotlighted Laura Murphy's and Jheri Lynn Smith's in June. And in July, we showed you Ileen Miller's and Johnny Chu's gardens. This month, we'll highlight Margaret Leigh's garden, the Killeen Community Garden and the Extension Center Garden.



Photos by Beth Buhl and Terrie Hahn

Margaret Leigh's Garden



Continued on next page...

Margaret Leigh's Garden...continued



AgrillLife Extension Center



continued on next page...

**AgriLife Extension
Center...continued**



**At the Killeen Municipal Court
Community Gardens**



Announcements

Seafood Splash Wednesday

- Pat Maskunas

Come for Seafood Splash on Aug. 3rd "Burger" Wednesday. Menu is peel and eat shrimp, batter fried shrimp, seafood gumbo, seafood pasta, and any side dishes attending members want to bring. It is a workday, and as has been traditional: If you want to eat you need to work! Please join us for a good day's work and a delicious lunch and social hour. We will work from 8 to 10AM, have a short grounds/plant sale meeting and eat at 11 am after we have cooled down. Looking forward to seeing you there.

National Make a Difference Day

-Mary Ann Everett

Keep Temple Beautiful has partnered with a variety of businesses and organizations to beautify a fast-developing and heavily traveled boulevard in South Temple. This project will include professional landscaping on six median end caps along Canyon Creek Drive between 5th Street and 31st Street. The planting will take place on Saturday, Oct. 25th, and will be completed in one day with many local volunteers during an old-fashioned 'barn-raising' type event.

Keep Temple Beautiful has asked for the help of Bell County Master Gardeners for this event. They want to use our expertise in being crew chiefs, where we would be directing crews who will be planting along these end caps. They are enlisting the help of other volunteer groups in the communities to actually do the plantings.

We would work in teams of two for each end cap. The plants have already been selected and there are detailed drawings for each end cap, and we would be assigned a crew of workers. On the event day, the plants will be moved from the staging area to the center of the specified medians. The crews will install plant material, mulch and steel edging.

This project is very similar to the Whistle Stop Playground in Temple, that entailed many volunteers who

came together and built this wonderful playground.

On Wednesday, Sept. 10, Tanya Gray, Executive Director of Keep Temple Beautiful will give a short presentation on this event at our monthly meeting. Please give this some thought. We need 12 master gardeners to help with this event.

If you have any questions, please email me at pma4514@sbcglobal.net

Fall Plant Sale

- Pat Maskunas

The Fall Plant Sale is October 1st from 7 am to 1 pm. We will set up at 6:30 am. Training is September 30 after plants are unloaded and arranged.

Every Wednesday will be a work day from now to the plant sale. We need to remove weeds from the landscape and replace newspaper under the beds. Please come for as long as you can. We work 8 - 10 AM. We need many hands to get this done. Those who contribute their time will be able to shop early at the plant sale. Thanks to all the loyal helpers for their dedication.

Do We Have Your Info Right?

Gail Christian and Shelly Chapman have been scouring the MG spreadsheets to find the most accurate list of MG membership. Please check the website for your information to see if it's correct. If you have a change of email address, phone number, etc., please contact Shelly. You can go to the website at www.txmg.org/bell and click on MG Internal Contact. There will be a box that you can enter your changed info and it will go to Shelly once you hit Submit.

For Your Information

Make sure to check out our website under educational resources. There are dozens of very interesting articles by Master Gardeners that have been put into the local newspapers over the past few years. Go to www.txmg.org/bell

What's Happening in Your Yard?



- Myra Crenshaw

The heat is really doing a job on everything. However, my Bougainvilleas are loving the heat if I keep them watered. Since I have a deer issue, the Lavender, Skull Cap, Texas Betony, and Vinca seem to be surviving. Sometimes the deer eat the Vinca, and others they leave alone. *Liquid fence* seems to help.

- Mary Lew Quesinberry

This Dwarf Pomegranate bush in our yard is blooming, making fruit and doesn't seem to be bothered by the heat.



- Werner and Terrie Hahn

A young fox in one of our Oak Trees about 15 feet up. Two of them had been investigating a hole further down in the tree.

Send in your photos from **your yard** or from your **summer vacations** for next month's Bell. If you only have hard copies of pictures, we can scan them and give them back to you.

-Terrie Hahn,
moompie45@hotmail.com
321 Logan Ranch Rd, Georgetown
78628

Officers and Directors 2011- 2012

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| President | Laura Murphy |
| First Vice President | Bernie Hurta |
| Second Vice President | Jerry Lewis |
| Recording Secretary | Jeanette Karr |
| Corresponding Secretary | Ellen Majestic |
| Treasurer | Don Wyatt |

Directors

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Garden Tour | Beth Buhl |
| JMG | Pearl Fellingham |
| New Class | Fran Sheppard |
| Outreach | Don Gold |
| Grounds & Maintenance | Pat Maskunas |
| Greenhouse | David Fitch |

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

1605 N. Main St.
Belton, Texas 76513
(254) 933-5305



Contributing Writers:

Laura Murphy
Beverly Wickersham
Pat Maskunas
Mary Ann Everett
Mary Lew Quesinberry
Myra Crenshaw

Contributing Photographers:

Beverly Wickersham
Beth Buhl
Mary Lew Quesinberry
Myra Crenshaw
Terrie Hahn

Editors:

Terrie Hahn

Werner Hahn

Please submit articles and photos for the Blooming Bell to Terrie Hahn at:

moompie45@hotmail.com



Cover Photo by Mary Lew Quesinberry: Lots of blooms for the Hummingbirds on the "Bubba" Desert Willow in the Quesinberry yard.



Banner photo on page two by Myra Crenshaw of her Bougainvilleas.