



JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 WORKDAY Burger Wed 8:45 Herb Study Group 1-5:00 2010 Class	7 WORKDAY	8	9
10	11	12	13 WORKDAY 10:30 Monthly MG Meeting 1-5:00 2010 Class	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 WORKDAY 9:00 Greenhouse Com. Mtg. 1-5:00 2010 Class	21 WORKDAY	22	23
24	25	26	27 WORKDAY 9:30 Board of Directors 1-5:00 2010 Class	28	29	30
31						

Our Speaker is
Harry Peterson of
Waco Pond Society

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Submitted by Mel Myers, President

Yes, it is that time of year again.....to review 2009 and plan for the coming year. We typically prepare for New Year's resolutions, often copying last year's list. We are excited about the prospects of the coming year as well as the challenges we face. Can you believe we had snow flurries on Christmas Eve?

It won't be long before our new class begins. The New Class Committee has done a fantastic job of organizing and preparing for this event. Mentors are in place and ready when class starts on January 6.

Thanks go out to all who participated in the planting in front of the Extension Office. Although it was a bit cool (really cold!) we had a good turn out and finished the planting before noon. We are planning to meet on January 6 to distribute the mulch. The final planting is scheduled after our spring plant sale.

Our thanks also go out to those who did all the preparation for the Christmas Party. The food was great and decorations were well done. The silent auction was received well and the Bell County Master Gardeners Association realized a nice return. Thanks to all who worked hard to make this a success and to those who couldn't pass up a bargain.

Among the lessons I have learned at the community garden are those that are natural, yet I try to beat Mother Nature. Yes, when I plant snow peas and lettuce and we get a freeze that lasts for several hours, these plants will freeze!! And they did. No doubt I will continue to "gamble" and push the envelope, I will often pay the price. It's hard to beat Mother Nature. But it is fun trying!!!

To all of you....**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

Submitted by Karla Tomaka & the Greenhouse Crew

Our first Burger Wednesday for the New Year will be Wednesday, January 6th. Our project will be to put down newspaper and mulch in the newly planted demonstration garden. We will meet at 9:00 in the demonstration garden to begin work. If we don't finish Wednesday, we are planning an additional work day Thursday, January 7th. If you can bring a side item, drinks or dessert, let me know at kstomaka@aol.com.

MGA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Submitted by Ilene Miller

I hope that your holidays were merry and that the new year is off to a good start. Our MGA Christmas Party offered great fellowship, food and an opportunity to shop for bargains at our silent auction. Jan reports that we raised \$1510 this year and I want to thank all of you who helped in any way to make the event a success. So if you contributed a silent auction item, or you bid on items, or you served on the committee and helped with setup, decorations, and cleanup, we thank you. Many of you prepared fabulous desserts or brought ingredients for our super salad bar which was enjoyed by everyone. Diane's music, and the slide show that Linda and Gail put together added much to the evening.

Congratulations to our Green Thumb and Golden Trowel winners this year. Your support and involvement in the Association are appreciated and recognized. The membership honored Kim Pringle, Gary Slanga, Annette Ensing, and Don Wyatt with the Golden Trowel Award. Green Thumb Winners were Ursula Nana, Edie Campbell, Beverly Wickersham and Danelle Burson.

A DELIGHTFUL WAY TO EARN HOURS!

Submitted by Suzanne Boyer

We need people willing to provide refreshments for the new class starting in January. We also have a few slots open for mentors (help class coordinators monitor homework, video checkout, etc.). Call or email Suzanne Boyer for details at 780-2463 or suzboyer@sbcglobal.net.



For a good time **and service hours**, join these class coordinators and mentors on Wednesday afternoons as they help prepare a new crop of Master Gardeners.

WELCOME TO THE MG CLASS OF 2010



Tom Gunter of Temple is retired from trucking and this is his first gardening experience.



Jerry Lewis of Killeen is a retired school principal with 45 years of gardening experience.

Barbara “Barb” Frey of Belton has gardened in Bell County, both floral and vegetable, for 15 years



Ray Machovsky of Temple is a retired train dispatcher with 20 years of gardening experience.



Marianne Miller of Nolanville has been vegetable gardening for two years in Bell County.

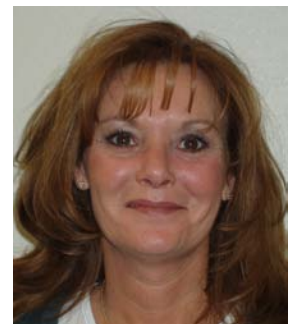


Katherine “Kay” Betz of Temple has been vegetable and floral gardening for 20 years.

Gary Stone of Temple is an associate manager at Cracker Barrel and has been gardening for 5 years.



Lori Brady has 20 years of floral and vegetable gardening and wants to learn everything she can to be a better gardener.



Stephen “Stevo” Gardipee of Belton is a retired helicopter pilot with 30 years of vegetable gardening experience.



Steven “Steve” Overby of Killeen is a retired letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service with 30 years of floral and vegetable gardening experience.

Karen Eacrett of Copperas Cove is a retired teacher with 25 years of floral and vegetable gardening and has two bee hives.



Cynthia Linzy of Temple has been floral gardening for 4 years and also enjoys writing and photography.



Don Gold of Temple has been vegetable gardening for 22 years and also enjoys writing, photography and graphic arts. Don is the class reporter.

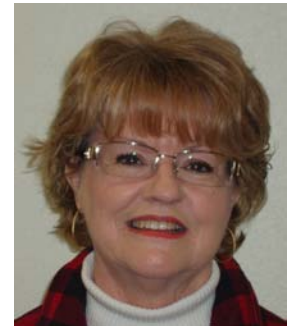


Zelda "Zel" Reighard of Belton is new to this area and worked on an herb farm for a short period before moving here.

Darla Menking of Killeen writes a column in the Killeen Daily Herald Home & Garden section titled "Outside Insights"



Bette Gilmore of Killeen is a retired Instructional Specialist for Killeen ISD and has been gardening for 25 years.



Mary Ann Hill of Killeen is a retired budget analyst, loves administrative work, and has been a gardener for 5 years.



Pearl Fellingham of Belton is a graphic artist and vegetable gardener.

Melanie Benson of Belton works at Darnall Army Community Hospital and is interested in organic gardening, composting, and rainwater harvesting.



Barbara Salys of Belton is a retired nurse & wants to create a low maintenance paradise to enjoy each day.



EARTH-KIND ROSES

Submitted by Don Wyatt & the Greenhouse Crew

The BCMGA Spring Plant sale will be on Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 8:00am-3:00pm. We will purchase our Earth-Kind Roses from Chamblee's Rose Nursery as in the past.

Many of you have been asking if it is possible to purchase any of their other roses. You can purchase: David Austin, Dr. Griffith Buck or their own root stock. I will be taking orders until January 15, 2010, if you are interested. Roses will be delivered with our sale order the week of March 22. These roses need to be picked up and paid for prior to the sale. Send orders to me by mail, phone or e-mail:

Don Wyatt

153 Autumn Circle

Belton Texas 76513

254-780-2664 or dwyatt2005@sbcglobal.net

Bell County Youth Fair Volunteer Opportunities

Submitted by Linda Fuchs, Co. Ext. Agent-FCS

Anyone wishing to help with any of the following tasks should contact Pat Pomykal at (254) 933-5305 and we will be happy to sign them up for as many hours and jobs as they would like to help us with. Thank you so much for your help!

January, 2010 - Label envelopes

When data entries are completed, label lists will be generated. Volunteers are needed to place labels on envelopes. This can even be done in the convenience of your own home. If you would like, you can pick up the envelopes, labels and instructions from the office and return them completed back to the Bell County Extension Office.

Sunday, February 7, 2010 - 1:00 p.m. - Set up. Need trucks and helpers. Meet at Extension Office.

Monday, February 8, 2010 - 1:30 - 6:00 p.m. Help with Check in - General Assembly Hall, Bell Co. Expo. Possibly serve as a judge - 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday, February 9, 2010 - 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Set up Displays

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00; 12:00 - 3:00, 3:00 - 6:00 - Host

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - Sell Baked Goods at the Country Store

February 11, 2010 - 9:00am.- 12:00;12 noon-3:00- Host; 3:00 - 6:30 - Assist with take down, check out, and moving back to the office.

Herb Study Group

Submitted by Kim Pringle & Terrie Hahn

1. The Herb Forum at Festival Hill in Round Top is March 19-20. Kim Pringle has pre-registered accommodations: 3 rooms with 3 guests per room. Cost is \$65 and includes continental breakfast. It is not necessary to spend the night before the Herb Forum but we really had a good time shopping in Round Top, touring the gardens and enjoying a picnic on Friday. I would be happy to make the reservation for you so if you want to spend the night, please send or give me a check by January 15. If you want to make the check payable to Kim Pringle, I will put the reservation on my credit card.

2. The Herb Study will meet on Wed., January 6, 2010 in the classroom - 8:45 to 9:00 for social time with the meeting to begin at 9:00 am. We will study dill, the 2010 Herb of the Year, and other members of the carrot family. Please do some research about dill prior to the meeting, including growing conditions, history and recipes.

3. The monthly meeting topics for the remainder of the year are as follows:

February 3, 2010 - Linda Young facilitator, Topic: Oils and Vinegars

March 3, 2010 - Frances Idoux facilitator, Topic: TBA

April 7, 2010 - Terrie Hahn facilitator, Topic: Terrie's friend Robbin will do presentation on salads and dressings.

May 5, 2010 - Open

June 2, 2010 - Open

Please contact Kim Pringle if you would like to plan one of the open meetings.

4. We are beginning a new year and I would like for us to set some goals.

Personally, I would like to see us do at least 10 presentations for the public/schools in 2010. We did 9 presentations in 2009:

2/12 Killeen Garden Club

2/20 Temple Floral Arts

3/18 Temple VA Women's Club

4/28 Sun City Horticulture Club

7/29 JMG Teacher Training

9/10 Killeen Lions Club

11/13 Travis Middle School

11/17 Sun City Garden Club

11/18 Milam County MGs

Perhaps 4 of these presentations could be a 30-minute version of "American Colonial Gardens" PowerPoint in the schools (we need to put the aprons, bonnets and collars to work). A big thank you to everyone who participated in the 2009 presentations both at the podium and behind the scenes!! It was a privilege to work with you.

I would also like to experiment growing and tasting some "lesser known" salad herbs like cress, lambs quarters, orach, purslane and sorrel. Boggy Creek Farms in Austin uses some of these in their salad mix. Please let Kim know if you have other goals or ideas for 2010.

The December Herb Group meeting's agenda changed at the last minute. Our speaker was not able to come because of her work schedule, so we improvised.

Kim read a card from the Milam County Master Gardeners thanking her and Nancy for presenting our "Cooking with Herbs" PowerPoint to about 40 MGs. Kim, Nancy, Susan and Terrie also presented the program to the Sun City Garden Club. About 50 people attended. We were surprised with a \$50.00 check from the Sun City Garden Club and a \$25.00 check from the Milam County Master Gardeners for presenting this program.

We discussed how stevia deters insects in the vegetable garden. And Beverly brought up a theory on why smelly plants deter deer - the plant hides the smell of predators and, therefore, deer stay away.

We discussed the spring plant sale and the list of plants we'll order. We're getting 21 flats from local grower, Dog Ridge. The list from Dog Ridge includes: Basil, Chamomile, Chives, Catnip, Dill, Fennel, Lemon Balm, Mexican Mint Marigold, Mints, Parsley, Rosemary, Rue, Sage, Salad Burnet and Thyme.

We're ordering 13 flats from Gabriel Valley; we'll get different varieties of Basil, Mint and Oregano, Lavender, Lemon Verbena, Mexican Oregano, Pineapple Sage, Winter Savory, Scented Geraniums and Stevia.

The Christmas goodies that were brought were very yummy, including the Almond Fudge Drop Cookies



**YUM
!**

Almond Fudge Drop Cookies/Black Cats

¼ C butter, softened
¾ C sugar
1 egg
2 squares unsweetened chocolate, melted and cooled
½ C sour cream
1 t almond extract
¾ t soda
½ t salt
1 1/4C flour

Cream butter and sugar. Add egg, chocolate, sour cream and extract. Then mix in the dry ingredients. Bake at 325 degrees for 12-15 minutes. Cool and Frost.

Chocolate Almond Frosting

1 T butter
1 sq unsweetened chocolate
1 C powdered sugar
1 t almond extract
1-2T milk

Melt butter and chocolate. Add powdered sugar, extract and milk. Beat until creamy.

(also known as Black Cats) brought by Carol Runyan!
The recipe follows.



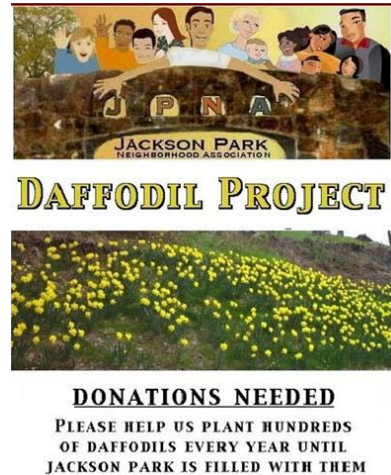
Daffodil Project in Jackson Park, Temple, Texas Submitted by Don Gold, 2010 Class Reporter

Jackson Park in Temple, Texas, is one of the city's oldest municipal greenways, dating back to near the start of the last century. Over the years, the park has seen many amenities come and go, most recently with the additions of a modern playground for children and a park-encircling walkway dedicated to the late Robert D. Worley.

In the Fall of 2008, four resident families of the area surrounding the park met to form the Jackson Park Neighborhood Association (JPNA). Spearheaded by Mary Jane and Vincent Mundy, Cynthia Linzy and Donald Gold, Mike Ringstaff, Earl Nottingham and Art Coley, the group's primary concern was to form a crime watch program, which was ultimately accomplished through coordination with the Temple Police Department. The Association held their first general meeting in February, 2009, at the Women's Federation Clubhouse which adjoins Jackson Park. Twenty-five families joined the dues-free JPNA, most of which agreed to join the city's Adopt-A-Park Program. Once launched, the group began meeting monthly in the park for cleanup, light maintenance, and beautification efforts. Since then, membership has grown to over forty families.

Last summer, Cynthia Linzy and Donald Gold, who are avid bulb planters and members of the 2010 Bell County Master Gardener's Class, proposed that the neighborhood association plant several hundred daffodil bulbs in the park each winter. Daffodils are perennials, self-spreading, and generally maintenance free. They envisioned a time in the future when there would be large expanses of daffodils across the park announcing the coming of Spring with their late March to early April blooming season. JPNA endorsed the project, and enough funds were raised to purchase

Last month, the group planted the bulbs in a large semi-circle facing Main Street around the city's Jackson Park sign. Future plans are to plant several hundred daffodils each winter at other locations around the facility.



BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
Are sponsored by the
TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION of
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Editor: Joan Hinshaw

Please submit articles for the ***Blooming Bell*** to Joan at irene_joan@hotmail.com.



two hundred bulbs for the initial planting.