



The Blooming Bell

**January, 2011
BCMGA Newsletter**

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5 Work Day 9 am Herb Study Group on Horseradish 8:30 am Grounds Committee Planning meeting 10 am Burger Wed 11 am First Day for New Class	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 MG General Meeting - Woodland, Grassland Landscape Mgmt 11 am	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Work Day 9 am Grounds Committee Meeting 10 am	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am	27	28	29
30	31					

Important upcoming dates: Woodland and Grassland Management Classes-February
 Plant Sale Training, February 23, 9 - 11:30 am
 Spring Plant Sale is March 26

The President's Corner

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Yes, it is that time of year. New resolutions, dreams and hopes about life. It seems that we are constantly starting over....not that starting over is all bad. I am looking forward to a new vegetable garden so I can start over without the mistakes that I made last year. So Happy New Year.....again.

We begin the year with a new class of interns who will graduate in May and become certified master gardeners. As with any class, these will become the leaders of our association and guide us in the future. When you get a chance, take time to welcome them to Master Gardeners and encourage them as they study the chapters on Botany. Also, thank the Master Gardeners who are there every Wednesday to serve as co-coordinators, mentors or have other jobs.

The New Year also brings other things to our mind. We will be selecting a committee to come up with a plan to guide us in the future. We will need to set goals and come up with a plan to strengthen our organization. If you would like to serve on this committee (or know someone you would like to see on the committee) please contact me by e-mail. Also, if you have ideas for projects or other items to be included in our plan please contact me.

We need to start making modification and upgrades for the greenhouse. No doubt each of us has ideas we think should be implemented. If we pool them, we can come up with a feasible plan that will serve us in the future. Likewise we need to start moving on plans for the hardening house. The greenhouse and hardening house were included in our previous "strategic" plan, but have yet to be acted upon.

The first quarter of the year also brings the Home and Garden Show where Master Garden-

ers and Interns can get service hours. We get to meet the public and have the opportunity to discuss their gardens in person. The first quarter also provides opportunities for service hours in preparing for the Spring Plant Sale and Garden Tour.

Happy Gardening....and HAPPY NEW YEAR (again)

- Mel Myers

State Update

-Mary Ann Everett

The State TMGA quarterly meeting was attended by Mel Myers and Mary Ann Everett. Dr. Doug Welch spoke about how much the master gardeners have done over the past year:

telephone inquiries: 32, 557

speaking engagements: 2614

Attendance at these engagements: 153,847

School gardens: 273

Demo Gardens: 212

Websites: 20

The figures from 1990 to 2009 are phenomenal

1990: number of MG: 730 hours: 29,836

2009: number of MG: 6,393 hours: 520,144

He said there would be another round of positions that will be closed, in 2012-2013 a loss of 120 to 150 positions.

There is also a need for a webmaster of the TMGA. If anyone would be interested, please contact Mary Ann.

On a Mission - 2

- Ursula Nanna

If you know me, you know how dedicated I am, as a 9 year Master Gardener, to the philosophies of water conservation and wildlife. My little piece of property has continually selected and re-evaluated plants geared towards these goals. The selective weeding out of plants that don't rise to the occasion is almost complete...probably this spring.

You also know, very well, that I 'preach' about properly selected native plants and limited pushing of the zone envelope. You may not get caught this year or next in pushing the zone envelope, but you will be caught. Sometimes it's a costly mistake to make from which you may have been spared...for now. Humm, a teachable moment...perhaps. But, you have all the tools available to keep you from mistakes like this.

Mother Nature will not be fooled, whether with garden plants or vegetable plants. It is what it is, now, not before, not after.

The next topic is: Proper Preparation Prevents.....and you know the rest. Good, NO, GREAT gardens begin with proper preparation. The plant beauty you see above the ground begins with what happens at the roots. Know the needs of the plants you choose....sun, shade, alkaline, acidic, xeric, or water hungry. Soil tests can't hurt....Prepare the best draining nutrient rich soil you can...so composting can't hurt either. Choose plants with similar requirements and plant them near each other so that xeric plants don't drown and hydrophytes don't dry up. Guess what? This might even save water.

One question to consider is: Just how many ill-chosen plants do you want to pot- up in the fall and drag onto the patio, into the house, cover up and uncover all winter, or shove in with all the junk you've stored in that little greenhouse? So....this is fun!!!! Hummm....a teachable moment....perhaps.



Photos by Ursula Nanna



Help Wanted...

Dear Gardening Friends

- Mary Lew Quesinberry

Happy New Year!

Just to update you- our "Tip of the Week" column appears in the Friday edition of the Temple Daily Telegram and the Saturday edition of the Killeen Daily Herald. It is available on the Master Gardener web site and at the Killeen Daily Herald web site. We have had a commitment to produce 52 articles a year since the fall of 2007. This commitment is another venue to fulfill our mission statement: "to increase the availability of horticultural information to the community".

It is time to send in articles for 2011. We need articles about xeriscaping, herbs, roses, vegetable gardening, container gardening, plant propagation, houseplants and composting. Write an article about your favorite plant, a gardening subject that interests you or a tip you use. It could be an article on garden art, gardening structures, a special gardening memory or wildlife in the garden (problems with deer, squirrels, and armadillos).

Send your 300-word article written in Arial font (and a photo, if possible) to: (candylane@taptrain.com). If your article needs more than 300 words to be complete, Candy can break it down into several columns to be published on consecutive weeks. If you have questions contact our editor, Candy Mullen, at 254 698-2304.

Plant Sale Training

- Pat Maskunas

We have decided we will hold a training class for all members who want to sell or work the question and answer desk. We also need plastic trays to put plants on in the hardening house. We will have those helpful books Gail Christian has put together the past few years to use during training. Training day will be Feb. 23 from 9 to 11:30 am. This allows

new class members and mentors to get some lunch before class starts.

Announcements

New Course Introduction

- Mary Ann Everett

January's General Program will be an intro for the "Woodland & Grassland Landscape Management" Course to be offered to the Bell County Master Gardeners starting in February. Speakers will be Annette Ensing, Sidney Vanloh, Gary Slanga, Mary Ann Everett.



Photo by Mary Lew Quesinberry.

Fun and Awards at the Christmas Party!



As always, Ilene Miller and her Christmas party crew did a fabulous job of putting together a festive party!



Diane Calderwood and Margaret Leigh played the piano while partygoers perused the varied selection of items at the Silent Auction. The Silent Auction brought in \$1416.00 this year thanks to the MG's and businesses who donated items and all who bid on them! MG's brought many yummy salads and desserts to add to the catered entrée. Certificates, Five Year and Ten Year pins were given as were Green Thumb and Golden Trowel awards.

Clockwise from top, Master Gardeners attending the Christmas Party, Gary Slanga received his Golden Trowel from last year, Diane Calderwood receiving her Golden Trowel, Ilene Miller and Jane Capen take the final count at the Silent Auction.



Continued on next page.

Christmas Party continued...

Thirty-nine MG's received Service Award Certificates for 50-99 hours. Those receiving certificates for 100-199 hours: Jan Anderson, Edie Campbell, Jann Dworsky, David Fitch, Louann Hight, Bernadette Hurta, Jeanette Karr, Gyman Okeson, Mary Lew Quisberry, Carol Runyan, Fran Sheppard, Kathy White and Beverly Wickersham. Receiving certificates for 200-299 hours were: Diane Calderwood, Gail Christian, Bob Gordon, Pat Maskunas, Gary Slanga, Karla Tomaka and Sidney Vanloh. Certificates for 400-499 hours went to: Janell Burson, Annette Ensing and Linda Young. Don Wyatt received a certificate for 500-599 hours and those putting in 700 plus hours went to Johnny Buck, Mary Ann Everett and Ursula Nanna.

Golden Trowel Awards

Diane Calderwood- For serving as the new class coordinator for three years. She has been extremely effective in organizing each class and ensuring that it came together in a smooth and timely manner. Diane has been a very effective leader and relates well with the incoming interns. In addition, Diane has opened her garden for several garden tours.

dens during our annual garden tours.

Beverly Wickersham- For her continuing efforts in establishing the Killeen Municipal gardens. She has worked tirelessly and effectively as a role model with



the impressionable youngsters that help in the gardens. She has served on the Board of Directors for two years and has contributed numerous articles for the Killeen Daily Harold.



Mary Lew Quesinberry- For being the driving force in helping to establish a Master Gardener presence in the local papers. Through her efforts the local newspapers have allowed us to publish gardening information helpful to all readers interested in the subject. Mary Lew has been personally responsible for writing

several of the articles that have appeared in the press. She has also allowed the public into her gar-

Green Thumb Awards



Jeanette Karr- For her work with the new interns by acting as a mentor for the past two years. She has

[Continued on next page...](#)

Christmas Party continued...

received high praise from the students she has mentored for her knowledge and eagerness to help. Jeanette is an Oak Wilt specialist and also trained in advanced propagation. She is currently serving as the Recording Secretary on the Board of Directors.

Bernard McDevitt- for his efforts to completely renovate the raised beds around the Greenhouse. B.A. spent nu-



merous hours replanting, pruning and caring for the beds which he had in peak condition for the spring plant sale. He continued to upgrade the beds throughout the summer. The beds continue to present a positive impression on the public and all who see them. Bernard has been an active participant in the Earth-Kind demonstration garden and any other project that required back-breaking hard labor necessary to bring them to successful completion.

Candace Mullen- For her service as editor of the "Tip of the Week" newspaper project which servers

hundreds of readers in the local community. This is a behind the scenes position which rarely receives recognition. She is responsible for organizing and packaging all the information to submit to the Agrilife office for publication. In addition, Candy also contributes articles for publication. Even though she must travel frequently due to her husband's profession, she faithfully maintains the flow of information that Master Gardeners publish.

Ursula Nanna-For being the driving force in getting the Earth-Kind demonstration garden up and running. She spent several hundred hours organizing and prioritizing the accumulation of material, and labor necessary to efficiently launch this major project. She is a tireless volunteer in the Killeen Municipal Gardens, serves on several committees and contributes newspaper articles for publication. Ursula is a rainwater harvesting specialist and includes her gardens and home rainwater harvesting project in the annual garden tours.

[Pictured above are Dirk and Cindy Aaron.](#)

Introducing the 2011 Master Gardener Class



Brenda Albro of Temple is a retired accounts payable clerk. Some of her interests include entomology, soils, nutrition, vegetable, herb and flower gardening as well as landscape design. She has a few years of gardening experience and would like to expand her knowledge of Texas plants and become as good at gardening as her

grandparents.

James Anderson of Holland is a semi-retired real estate broker. James has 50 years of gardening experience. Some of his interests include entomology, pathology, soils, vegetable, herb and flower gardening, landscape design and fruit and nut production. James recently purchased a house in Bell county on 12.7 acres and would like to put 10 acres into fruit and pecan trees and a large garden.



Beth Anderson of Harker Heights has 20 years of gardening experience. Her interests are primarily in flower gardening, both annuals and perennials. Beth would also be interested in devoting volunteer hours to the Junior Master Gardener project as well as the floral demonstration gardens and various greenhouse projects.



Judi Atkins of Belton is a retired legal assistant. Some of her interests include entomology, pathology, soils, nutrition as well as herb and flower gardening. Judi was a former master gardener in Howard County. Some potential volunteer projects that pique her interests are the floral demonstration gardens, greenhouse landscaping and plant propagation and the Master Gardener website.



Tanna Bay of Gatesville manages the nursery at Coryell Feed & Supply. Tanna has 13 years of gardening experience. She also owns and operates a 30 acre pecan orchard with hopes of someday owning a tree farm. She enjoys photography as well as organizational work such as editing and class preparation.



Kathleen Brown of Harker Heights is a retired physical therapist. Kathleen has 20 years of gardening experience. Her interests include soils, nutrition, herb, perennial, and xeriscape gardening as well as landscape design. Some of Kathleen's volunteer interests involve working with children, the JMG program and plant sales.

Peggy Carter of Belton is a registered O.B. nurse at Scott & White Hospital. Peggy has 20 years of gardening experience. She enjoys both floral and vegetable gardening and is especially interested in herbal medicine and flowers used for emotional health and aromatherapy. She is hoping to improve her knowledge in all areas of gardening. Some of Peggy's volunteer interests include writing articles, taking pictures, the JMG program and working with children, public relations, plant sales, working on the demonstration gardens and greenhouse projects.

John Connor of Temple is retired and owned his own company that specialized in buying, running and rebuilding businesses on the verge of bankruptcy. John has a B.S. in agronomy from Texas Tech University and an M.S. from Texas Tech and Texas A&M in plant physiology. John has 30 years of gardening experience in both floral and vegetable gardening and is interested in all things gardening. Some of his volunteer interests involve the Junior Master Gardener program, working with children, demonstration gardens and greenhouse projects.

Peg Fleet of Kempner is a retired librarian. Peg has 6 years of gardening experience. She is also a member of the Texas Organic Farmer's and Grower's Association. Besides organic gardening Peg has interests in plant propagation and native plants. Peg has also taken classes at Central Texas College in organic gardening, native plants and landscape design.



Karen Colwick of Belton is a retired elementary music teacher. Karen has 50 years of gardening experience and enjoys both floral and vegetable gardening. Some of her other interests include xeriscape gardening, landscape design and fruit and nut production. Karen has served on an environmental committee and also volunteered her time and effort in planting trees at Lakewood Elementary School.



Myra Crenshaw of Temple is a retired secondary school teacher. Myra's gardening experience is limited to her backyard and would like to increase her knowledge in vegetable and flower gardening as well as landscape design. Volunteer interests include organizational activities such as writing and editing as well as greenhouse projects, plant sales and floral demonstration gardens.

Sophia Gomez of Nolanville is a retired banker. Sophia has 50 years of gardening experience. She enjoys floral gardening and would like to learn more about soils, nutrition, flower gardening and landscape design. Volunteer projects that interest Sophia include greenhouse projects, plant sales and floral demonstration gardens.



Carla Harmon of Belton is a retired horticulture teacher and interior plantscaping trainer. Carla has 25 years gardening experience in both floral and vegetable gardening. Carla also received a B.S. in horticulture from Sam Houston State University. She also has some photography background. Her volunteer interests include greenhouse projects, demonstration gardens and public speaking.



Johnny Herring of Temple is a retired electrician. Johnny has 40 years of gardening experience primarily in vegetable gardening. Johnny would be interested to learn more about soils, vegetables, herbs and fruit and nut trees. His volunteer interests include the vegetable demonstration gardens, plant sales, greenhouse plant maintenance and greenhouse plant propagation.

Angie Hunt of Killeen has had 15 years of gardening experience primarily in floral gardening. Angie would like to gain knowledge in landscape design and hopes to pursue a career in landscap- ing. Her volunteer inter- ests include organiza- tional projects, computer work for the website, writ- ing and editing, public relations as well as some greenhouse projects.



Bill Johnston of Belton is a physician at Scott & White. Bill has had over 5 years of gardening experi- ence, both in floral and vegetable gardening. His gardening interests include entomology, pathology, soils, nutrition, vegetables, herbs, flowers and xeris- cape gardening as well as landscape design and nut production. Some of his volunteer interests include plant sales and greenhouse projects.



Lynn Johnston of Belton is a part time pro- fessor of exercise sci- ence at UMHB. Lynn has had 4 years of floral gardening experience. She is also a member of the Nan Brown Garden Club. Some of her other interests include ento- mology, pathology, soils, vegetables and herbs, xeriscape, floral and landscape design.



Larry Moehnke of Harker Heights is a retired teacher, principal and su- perintendent and currently works as an educational consultant. Larry has had over 50 years of gardening experience growing up on a farm with vegetable and floral gardens. His interests include everything garden- ing. Some of his volunteer interests include JMG pro- gram, working with children and greenhouse projects.




Annie Pekin Hudgens of Salado is retired from the dentistry profession. Annie has 20 years of gardening experience in both floral and vegetable gardening. She did extensive gardening in San Diego as well as in the Portugal Azores. She would like to learn more about herbs, flower gardening and landscape design.




Sandi Pliska of Temple is retired from the nursing profession. Sandi has many years of gardening experience, both in floral and vegetable gardening. She also is a member of the Nan Brown Garden Club. Her interests include everything gardening. Her volunteer interests include community beautification and presentation development.



Rick Schroeder of Temple is semi retired. Rick was in the military, education and small business. Rich has had almost 3 years of gardening experience, primarily vegetables. He is particularly interested in learning and teaching about Texas edible plants. Rick loves the outdoors and would be interested in the vegetable demonstration gardens, greenhouse projects and plant sales.



Ken Sinclear of Temple is a retired federal personnel officer. Ken has had over 50 years of gardening experience, both floral and vegetable. He is interested in learning more about entomology, soils, herb and flower gardening. Some of his volunteer interests include the JMG program, working with children, plant sales and various greenhouse projects.



Jheri Lynn Smith of Belton is director and upper elementary teacher of the Montessori School. Jheri Lynn has had 15 years of gardening experience. She has earned a B.S. in WFSC and an M.S. in education. Jheri Lynn has also completed Junior Master Gardner certification. She is also interested in learning more about vegetables, herbs, floral and landscape design.



Angie Tjaden of Killeen is a registered nurse working at Metorplex Hospital. Angie has been gardening all her life, both vegetable and floral gardening. She is very interested in learning about all the gardening topics. Angie also enjoys working with children. Some of her volunteer interests include being a resource person for a classroom garden at one of the schools, helping prepare horticultural presentations, community beautification, working in the vegetable demonstration gardens and several greenhouse projects.

MG Garden Art

Even when many plants have died back there is always **Art in the Garden** including (clockwise) Mary Lew Quesinberry's coyote and red mushroom, Jerry Lewis' metal frog, Ursula Nanna's flamingo and frog, and two more of Jerry Lewis' frogs.



Photos by Mary Lew Quesinberry, Ursula Nanna and Jerry Lewis.



Garden Art Continued...

Metal Art in MG gardens include (Clockwise): Werner and Terrie Hahn's copper wind catcher, Mary Lew Quesinberry's vulture, two photos of Diane Calderwood's flowers, Mary Lew's copper wind catcher and her owls.



Photos by Mary Lew Quesinberry and Terrie Hahn.



Tell Me What's New?

If anyone has an article they'd like to write pertaining to gardening, etc., or information to pass along, please send it to me at the address below. Do you have any GARDEN ART? Send me your pictures! Thank you.

- Terrie Hahn

Officers and Directors 2010- 2011

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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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