



JULY

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 Plan JMG Teacher Training	2	3	4  Independence Day
5	6	7	8 8:45AM Herb Study Group 10:30AM BCMGA Meeting	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 9:00AM Board of Directors Meeting	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 8:30AM-3:00 PM JMG Teacher Training	30	31	

President's Corner

Submitted by Mel Myers

Well, they are almost upon us. I am talking about the **DOG DAYS OF SUMMER**. The Farmer's Almanac places the "dog days" as the 40 days between July 3 and August 11. And yes it is **HOT!!!** And it will be for several weeks.

So what do we do? Well, we must water, but in addition to watering we can plan a fall garden. I think that vegetable gardening is one phase of our hobby we haven't talked about enough. I am sure that will change because David Fitch and I will be going to Glen Rose for the specialist training in vegetable gardening.

The board of directors met this morning for our first meeting of the new year. We welcomed the new members and thanked those who have served BCMGA as an officer or director. We want to emphasize that board meetings are open to the membership and you are all welcome to attend. The meetings are at 9:00 A.M. on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The dates may change for Thanksgiving and Christmas for the convenience of our members.

Last month the Landscape Task Force adopted the plan presented to us and it was approved by the board of directors today. In the future when you drive down Main Street, you will see more than a Bermuda grass lawn. Dirk and his group have carried the plan through channels (Bell County and Tx DOT) in record time and got approval with minor changes. The plan will have all Earthkind shrubs and flowers. We will be ordering plants to be delivered with plants in our fall sale on September 26, so don't think this will be developing overnight. Our thanks to Dirk for finding the funding for so much of this project, although BCMGA will be contributing not only labor but additional funds. The area to be developed is that portion of the front grassy area from the concrete drainage structure on the north to the entrance drive on the south. Keep in mind that Tx DOT has an easement on this property which is approximately parallel to Main Street and along a line ending at the westernmost post of the sign. The area north of the drainage structure and around the hardening house will be a future project.

The board also elected Sidney Vanloh to fill the vacancy that occurred when I was elected president. He will be the liaison on the board for the garden tours. I urge all to give Sidney your full support as he organizes the garden tour committee.

No Potluck Wednesday July 1st

Submitted by Karla Tomaka

There will be no potluck Wednesday on July 1st. The next potluck Wednesday will be on August 5th. Our project will be to prepare the beds in the vegetable demonstration garden for fall planting and to spread new mulch on the pathways between the beds. Hopefully, temperatures will be a tiny bit cooler by then. Enjoy the July 4th weekend.



Summer JMG Teacher Training

Submitted by Ilene Miller

We have 17 teachers plus mentors signed up for the Junior Master Gardener training July 29th. About one-third are K-3 grades, one-third are 3-5th grades, and one third are middle school teachers. So we have a challenge of teaching to a range of ages.

We have been able to order some herbs from Pat Jones to give the teachers for their school gardens: Rosemary, Greek oregano, chives, thyme, sage and mint. If any of you have herbs or cuttings to share, that would be great. Each teacher will only get one or two of the herbs listed above. So a bigger variety to start in school gardens would be a great addition.

We are trying to make the 25-minute sessions very "hands on", with lots of ideas about available resources and activities to do in the classroom: herb identification, ways to use herbs in crafts or cooking, etc. For our nutritious lunch, we are looking at soups and salads, recipes the teachers might use in the classroom to include what they are growing in the garden. We have a little money to cover food costs of items that aren't donated for the lunch. Edie Campbell is coordinating lunch, so if you have a great herb dish to share, such as herb bread or herb tea, contact her.

We appreciate your ideas and help in planning for this training. There were more than 800 registered area children in JMG groups last year and many more who never registered. So our work with these teachers definitely makes a big difference.

Fall Plant Sale Pre-Orders

Submitted by Deb Martin

Get ready!!

BCMGA next plant sale is Sept 26th. BCMGA members may pre-order plants at a discount ahead of the sale by using the pre-order forms on the members only page of our website (no login required).

All forms have been uploaded. The landscape/tree form (Wright's) and the veggie/herb form (Gabriel Valley) have a submission deadline of July 1st. The rose form (Chamblee's) has a submission deadline of July 15th.

Forms filled out and submitted by the deadline to Karla Tomaka will receive a 10% discount. No discount for late forms as accurate ordering of stock from the nurseries must be made to accommodate the plant sale correctly.

Forms have been designed by Don Wyatt to calculate your total owed for you. Keep a copy of the form for your records as the payment will be collected when you receive your plants at the plant sale. Be sure your name is on all forms when submitted.

All questions about this project go to Karla & Don.

BCMGA looks forward to another successful plant sale. See you there!



Herb Study Group Minutes for June

Submitted by Kim Pringle

At the June meeting, we discussed taking a break in July and August; however, there have been new developments. Rowena Fengel volunteered to facilitate the August meeting. Also, we have been invited to do "something" for the one-day JMG Teacher Training on July 29 between 8:30 AM and 3:00 PM (Ilene Miller is working on the schedule). For those interested, please plan to meet on July 1 for JMG Teacher planning unless you are notified otherwise. And remember, we now meet from 8:45 to 9:00 AM for social time and 9:00 for meeting/study.

We can talk about other herb topics and enjoy the air conditioning! My friend, Pat Camp, recently taught me how to make a water basin with an elephant ear impression. I will bring it to the meeting to determine if it is a project we might want to do.

We have two herb presentations scheduled for late summer and fall (please let me know if you are interested in helping):

1. September 10th, Thursday at 12:30 pm. Killeen Lions Club Senior gardening group. Meet at the Lions Club building on Schlueter Loop (between W S Young and Trimmier. Contact is Dorine Ginac at 554-3872 dginac@hotrr.com. The room is reserved for two hours but the program doesn't have to be that long. Suzanne Boyer and Rowena Fengel have volunteered.

2. November 18th, Wednesday from 10 to noon, Milam County Master Gardeners - focus of herb program to be decided. Contact person is my friend Pat Runcie. Program at Debbie Lynd's house, next door to Pat Camp).

The 2009-2010 herb study is shaping up nicely - we can discuss it more on July 1. I look forward to seeing you next week. As always, comments and suggestions are welcome.



Toxic Plants Pose Pet Threat

Submitted by Deb Martin

I read an article tonight titled "Toxic Plants Pose Pet Threat". It has some very valuable information for anyone with pets. It includes an interactive slide show giving the ten most common toxic plants. Related material includes pet first aid, how to transport an injured pet to the vet, and how to make a pet first aid kit.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/31130769/ns/health-pet_health/

Charter Member – Still Around

Submitted by Julie Curtis-Win

As a Charter Member of the Bell County Master Gardener Association, I gained a great deal of knowledge on gardening but this was not what I walked away with. Taking the course with my father, John Curtis and getting to know him as a person, not a father, not a physician but someone that shared the same passion for planting and growing, planning and sharing was one of the most awesome experiences of my life.

This was actually the first time as an adult that we could do anything together. He had retired and I was a stay-at-home mom. Working closely with the few other members of that first course and making plans for the future courses and the long term direction of the BCMG was a daily discussion for us.

Of course there were the volunteer hours that we enjoyed as well. Since my father was a pediatrician, it was natural for him to want to help at the elementary schools that had originally asked for gardens at their schools. This went on for about six years -- which led me to take another course. While gardening at the schools, I became aware of the adopt-a-school program from Fort Hood. Soldiers would come and help with the gardens and get to know the kids and learn lifelong skills for their future homes. I learned what it was like to be a soldier.

The war started. The soldiers continued to help with the schools, but one day I received a call from one of the commanders that they were leaving. I said, "I understand and will be there". Not knowing what to expect, the principal of one of the schools, another master gardener and I went to the predeployment where the soldiers say goodbye to their families. We did not go empty handed. We had 6,000 cookies that the community baked to hand out. One of the soldiers asked us how much the cookies were. Now really who would charge a soldier for cookies when he is going to be on a plane in about an hour and not come home for 18 months?

This changed my life. Now you wonder, what has this to do with gardening? Well, since then I have a small garden at Fort Hood. For six weeks a soldier came to visit me. He didn't talk to me or anyone else. I asked him one day to help me plant a few things. A week later, I asked him to water while I was away on a trip. He said, "What are they?" I cried. We went outside and I told him what he had planted and he shared with me that he used to help his grandmother in the garden as a child. The conversation went from

gardening with his grandmother to picking up body parts in Iraq. We both cried. After that day, he tended his garden while recuperating from his injuries. Since then, we have had many soldiers come and add their plant or vision. Some days the plants get all moved around, sometimes they don't do so well. Other times, the yellow and purple blooms from a rape victim come out and we remember, the yellow to return home and the purple for all those Iraq's that finally got to vote.

Since all this has happened, I was in a car accident and have learned to garden in horse troughs and wheelchair. It never ceases to amaze me how much gardening continues to be a special part of my life and if you love it that much you will find a way to do it.

Gardening has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. Share it with your kids, your neighbors, a stranger. You just never know where it might lead you.



Nannie Annie and the Jack Beans

Submitted by Jann Dworsky

My mother would always tell me a story from the 1930's about her mother, Annie Lou, carrying a big

bucket of water across the road to her mailbox every evening. Annie Lou had planted Jack Bean vines and didn't want the hot summer sun to wilt the vines. The bucket was heavy but she wanted her mailbox to look welcoming and cheerful. The Jack Beans were just the plant to achieve that look and to attract butterflies and hummingbirds as well. Many years later my Mama would show me these vines and tell me this story about my grandmother.

One day about 10 years ago I was drooling my way through a luscious garden catalog and there they were....beautiful Jack Beans for sale. I could not get them ordered fast enough. I planted the black and white beans and had beautiful vines, blooms and beans all summer and until frost.

The vines grow about 10 feet tall and have dark green veined leaves and purple stems. They make a quick screen to block unwanted views. The blooms are light purple and hang long and in gracefully drooping swags. The blooms are followed by striking electric purple beans, delightful to see, and last for weeks. They are delicious when eaten small and tender. Jack Beans are known as hyacinth beans, Egyptian pea vine, lablab purpureus, and are also synonymous with dolichos lablab. Often any store that sells seeds will have them available or consult your online seed catalog.

My grandmother did not have the advantage of plumbing inside or outside the house, or a garden hose to make taking care of her flowers easy. Yet, she had beautiful welcoming Jack Beans.

BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Are sponsored by the

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