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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 3				 1	2	
 3	 5	6 Grounds Committee Meeting 9 am Hamburger Wednesday 11 am	7	 8	9	
10	11	12	13 General Meeting 11 am Basic Beekeeping Chris Doggett/MG Steve Gardipee-Williamson County Beekeepers	14	15	16
17	18	19 Fall Veggie Garden Talk with Mel 6:30-8:30 pm	20 Greenhouse Planning Meeting 9 am	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am	28	29	30
31						

Upcoming dates to remember: Whistle Stop Park Cleanup: August 31 and November 30
 National Make a Difference Day/Keep Temple Beautiful: October 25, training September 10
 Flag taken from http://www.freedigitalphotos.net/images/view_photog.php?photogid=1556 nuttakit / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

The President's Corner

Our founding fathers were men of many talents and interests. Not only did they create the foundation of our nation, they also contributed to the wealth of horticultural traditions and knowledge we have in our country. "Founding Gardeners", a book by Andrea Wulf, provides not only a history lesson but information about the gardeners we call our founding fathers.

We all think of Thomas Jefferson when we speak of the Declaration of Independence, but Monticello also comes to mind. A noted horticulturalist in his day, Jefferson not only grew food crops for his plantation, but he also grew ornamentals and trees. He actively traded seeds with gardeners in the Colonies and Europe and grew many experimental plants. He grew over 125 different varieties of fruit trees over his life time, claiming the peach as his favorite.

When George Washington returned to his home after the Revolutionary War he immediately began to transform the landscape and gardens of Mount Vernon. Prior to the war his home was surrounded by forest and the gardens were manicured in the tradition of gardens in Great Britain. Making a political statement, he cleared undergrowth and remodeled the formal gardens. No longer manicured, they had a natural appearance, expressing the freedom and liberty of the new nation.

John Adams and Jefferson toured the gardens of Great Britain while waiting the signing of the Jay Treaty. Tulip poplars from North America were imported to England around 1650. They recognized these and other ornamentals that had been imported from the Colonies. Surprised by what they found, they realized that though people in the Colonies had been anxious to get plants and garden designs from Great Britain, the gardeners of Great Britain had wanted the native ornamentals from the Colonies. Adams owned a modest estate compared to some of his fellow patriots, but he was very involved in grow-

ing new crops and considered the trees on his estate to be "as gold".

James Madison also experimented with plants. He read most gardening books published. On his plantation, Montpelier, he initiated any new gardening method he thought had merit. Madison was the first U.S. politician to make a speech about the destruction of trees and the importance of replacing them. In some circles, he is considered the father of modern ecology.

A group of Master Gardeners showed their patriotism by contributing their gardening talents by working at Whistle Stop Park on June 29th. If you missed the opportunity to help with this worthwhile project, there are two more work days planned this year. Thank

you gardeners for working at Whistle Stop on a warm summer morning. At least one of the next two work days will be during cooler temperatures.

Though it is difficult to even imagine cooler weather, it is time to begin planning and planting a fall garden. A fall vegetable garden program has been planned for July 19th, by our past president, Mel Myers.

This program is open to all Master Gardeners and the general public. Please tell your friends and neighbors about this upcoming event.

"Cultivators of the earth", Jefferson wrote, "are the most vigorous, the most independent, and the most virtuous. So fellow Master Gardeners, on this Independence Day, know that you are among good company.

Happy Fourth of July.....**Laura**



Photo: Winding Walk on the West Lawn by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation

Bountiful Harvest at the Killeen Community Gardens

- Peg Fleet



Clockwise starting above, the tomatoes before they're ripe on June 18th; the potatoes on June 18th, the date of the final harvest. Almost 300 pounds of potatoes and nearly 200 pounds of onions have been grown, harvested, and donated this year to local groups that feed the hungry. The MG at the tiller is Steve Overby. Squash and tomatoes, picked June 25th; MG Jerry Lewis picking zucchini.



MG's Adopt Whistle Stop Park

-Kathy White

Eighteen MG's came together at the Whistle Stop Park in Temple on June 29th to pick up trash and check playground equipment and sitting areas for any needed repairs. The Bell County Master Gardeners have adopted the Whistle Stop Park and Playground and will be checking on it at least three times a year. It is up to us how involved we want to be. It is a neat, attractive park and generally very well kept. It is the most popular park in Temple, so having our name on a sign at the entrance to the playground will be a positive note for us as Master Gardeners.



Photos by Gail Christian

Presenting the 2011 Graduating MG Class



Above: the Graduating Class of 2011. Pictured to the right is the Graduation Committee: Mary Ann Everett, Suzanne Boyer, Fran Sheppard, Bernie Hurta, Mary Lew Quesinberry and Diane Calderwood. (Not pictured are Darla Menking and Jerry Lewis.)



Photos by Darla Menking.

And Introducing the New Board of Directors



The 2011 - 2012 Board members pictured from left are Grounds and Maintenance Director, Pat Maskunas; Outreach Director, Don Gold; Garden Tour Director, Beth Buhl; New Class Director, Fran Sheppard; JMG Director, Pearl Fellingham; Recording Secretary, Jeanette Karr; Treasurer, Don Wyatt; President, Laura Murphy; 1st Vice President, Bernie Hurta; Greenhouse Director, David Fitch and 2nd Vice President, Jerry Lewis. (Not pictured is Ellen Majestic, Corresponding Secretary.)



Pictured to the left is Dirk Aaron with the MG T-shirt quilt given to him as a departing gift.

Photos by Darla Menking

Highlights of Two More Yards 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. This month we'll look at Ileen Miller's and Johnny Chu's gardens. Next month, we'll highlight Margaret Leigh's garden, the Killeen Community Garden and the Extension Center Garden.

Photos by Gail Christian and Beth Buhl



Johnny Chu's Yard in Temple.



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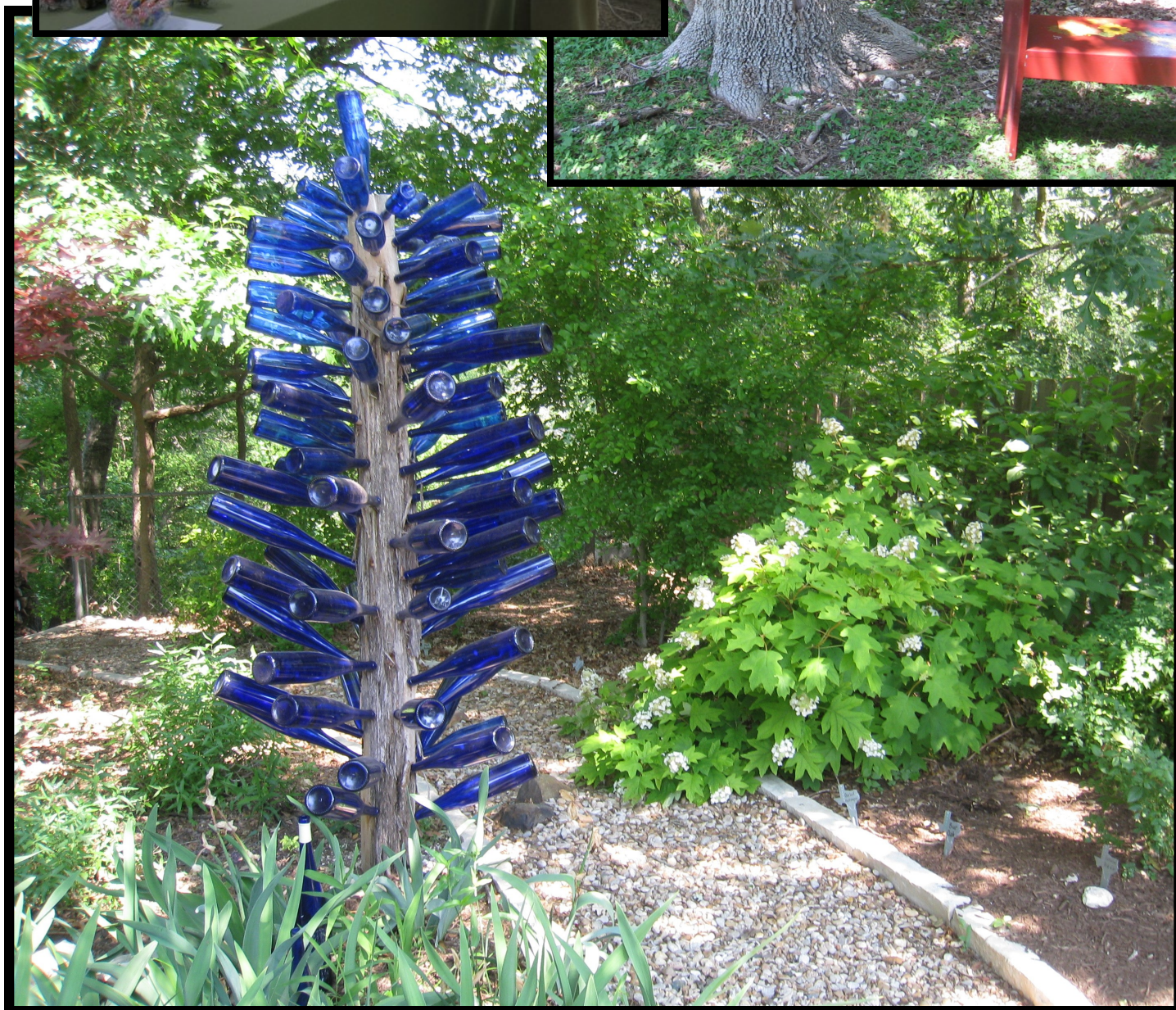
Johnny Chu's Yard...continued



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Ileen Miller's Yard

To the right, tree hit by lightning, below Beverly Chenoweth sells beaded garden critters.



Ileen Miller's Yard...continued

Sidney Van Loh gives
talk on garden pests.



Herb Study Group Semi-Dissolved After 5 Years

*Editor's Note: The Herb Study Group had their last official meeting on June 1st. It was also the Celebration of **five years** together. Though the Group will no longer meet on a regular basis, Kim will continue to keep in touch with Outreach Program requests. You don't have to be a previous member to help. REMEMBER, HELPING WITH OUTREACH PROGRAMS ARE COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS! Here is Kim's latest email regarding the Five Year Celebration.*

Gosh, what a surprise and so very thoughtful. Your encouraging words really touched me more than you know. It was a pleasure to co-ordinate the group as the "self-appointed" leader. It has been an amazing journey. Thank you so much for the cards, delicious treats, succulents, living wall and farm fresh eggs. It doesn't get much better than this and now the pressure is on to propagate the lovely succulents to share with you.

I plan to continue with public outreach as there seems to be so much interest in herbs these days. If anyone is likewise interested, please let me know and I will call on you to help give the presentations or assist as the requests are made.

We have been invited to do the following:

1. November 2, 2011, Wednesday - Temple Newcomers Club, Wildflower Country Club at 11:00 for lunch. Presenting "American Colonial Gardens" with costumes. Suzanne and Dee have volunteered.

2. December 1, 2011, Thursday - Temple Garden Club, City Federation Clubhouse at 9:30. Presenting "Growing and Cooking with Herbs". Their Club hostesses will make refreshments using herbs.

Finally, a couple of people have expressed interest in doing a spin-off of the herb study. I hope this works out.

Happy gardening,

Kim Pringle



Pictured are long time members of the Herb Study Group: Carol Runyan, Suzanne Boyer, Susan Firth, Kim Pringle, Nancy Blansett, Frances Idoux, Dee Coffeen, Beverly Wickersham and sitting, Terrie Hahn, Mary Lou Edmondson and Joyce Richardson.

Announcements

Fall Gardening Seminar

Take advantage of Mel Myers expertise on Fall Vegetable Gardening. His seminar is on July 19th from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. It is open to all MG's and to the general public and is free of charge. He will have handouts on Vegetable Gardening to take home.

Old Boots Needed

- Mary Ann Everett

We are in search of old boots!

They can be children or adult boots. We used boots from McClennan County as centerpieces for Dirk's party. They lend themselves well as table decorations, and the flowers can be changed. We plan to paint them and keep them for use for BCMGA and Extension. Bring them to the MG office. Anyone willing to help us paint, please contact either Fran Sheppard jtsheppard@embarqmail.com or Mary Ann Everett pma4514@sbcglobal.net

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 txmg.org/bell and click on MG Internal Contact and there will be a box that you can enter your changed info and it will go to Shelly once you hit Submit.

Annual MG Dues

- Don Wyatt

It is time to pay your annual dues. The amount is \$25, payable to BCMGA. Please pay by July 31st. You can give your check or cash to the new Treasurer, Don Wyatt or mail to him at: 153 Autumn Circle, Belton, Texas 76513

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Dues for Junior Master Gardener teachers are covered by the JMG Program. Also, 2011 class members do not pay dues this year as your dues were included in your tuition.

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.

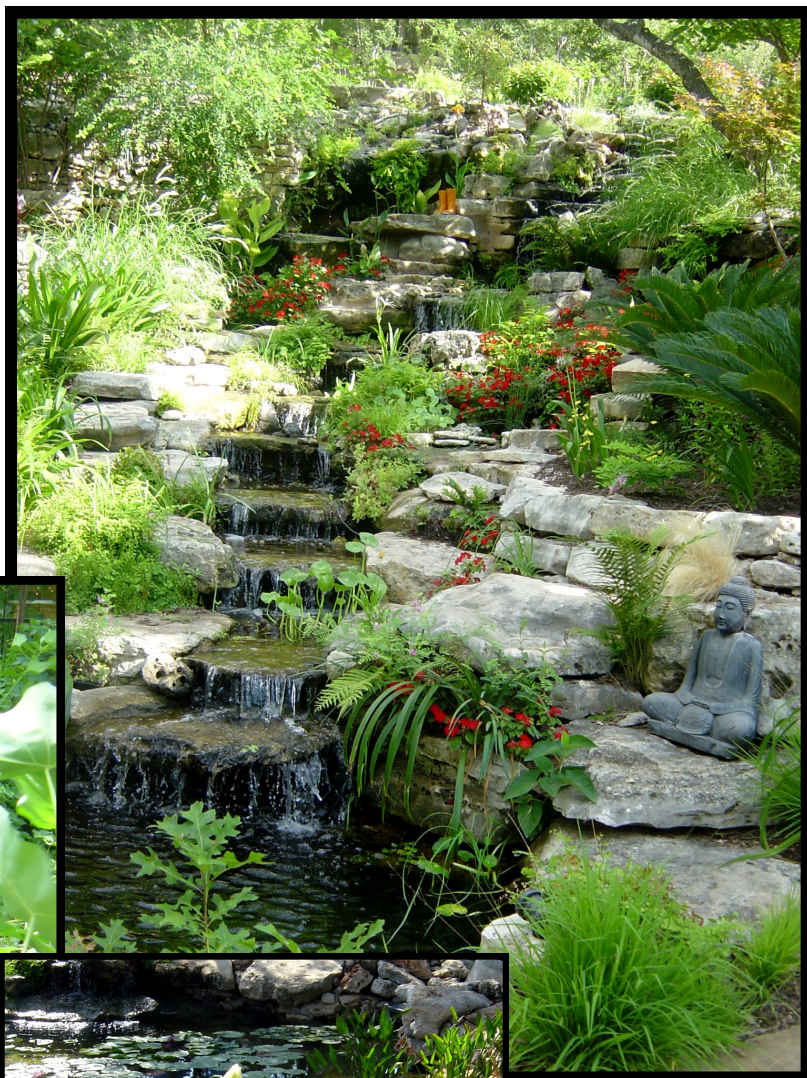
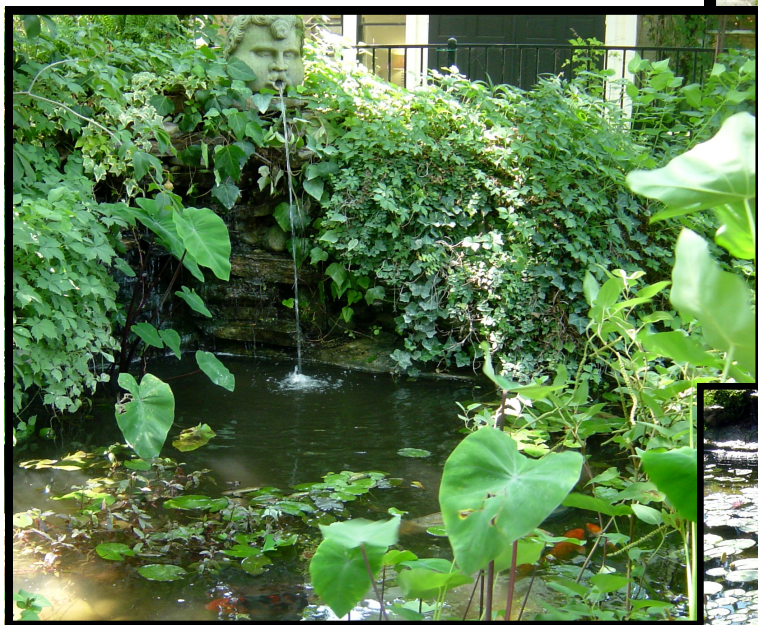
This project is very similar to the Whistle Stop Playground in Temple, that entailed many volunteers who came together and built this wonderful playground.

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

FYI

Diane Calderwood, Werner Hahn and Terrie Hahn attended the Austin Pond Society's Pond Tour on June 12. They toured 8 yards with one or more ponds in each on the Southwest side of Austin. Most had great gardens to go with those ponds. Werner and Terrie also toured 3 on June 11 in the Georgetown/Leander area. Here are some photos of these ponds. The tour is every June. Go to www.austinpondsociety.org for information on next year's tour.



This is a huge lotus plant in a Leander pond.

What's Happening in Your Yard?

-Darla Menking

I have been trying to rid my yard of turf grass and have always wanted to have a "dry creek bed feature." I (and my hubby) have started on the digging and trenching, but realize now that 100+ degree days are making it slow going!



What's Happening in Your Yard?

Annette Ensing

Salvia meiorana (below) is the shrub that was admired at Bamberger ranch; problem is that I've never been able to get a cutting to take. The bloom is just about ending. A lone TX bluebell plant showed up in my yard 3 years ago and has multiplied into this wonderful stand (left and this issue's cover page). It will only grow for me in these crusher fines gravel between the wall blocks, with minimal water overflowing from potted plants above. Putting it in rich moist soil is certain death. I can get it to seed (finer than pepper), but my seeds grow very slowly and usually perish before I can plant them. *All of these photos were*

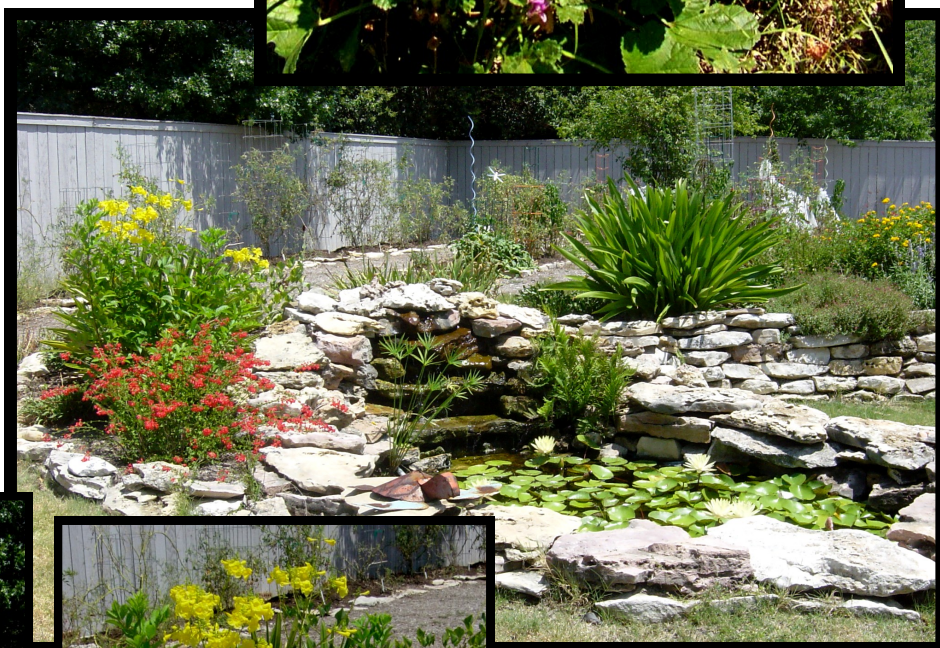
taken by Annette in her yard.



What's in Your Yard...continued

Clockwise from the top right, Peg Fleet's French Hollyhock in the middle of June. Diane Calderwood's pond, Blackberry Lily, Firecracker Plant in front of Esperanza, Dallas Red Lantana in front of Pride of Barbados, Big Red Salvia in front of Moy Grande Salvia.

Photos by Peg
Fleet and
Terrie Hahn



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

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Front cover photo is of Blue Bells in Annette Ensing's
yard.

Banner photo is of some of Johnny Chu's orchids.