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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Work Day 8 am Herb Study Group 5 Year Celebra- tion! 8:45 am Plant Sale Com- mittee Meeting 9 am BBQ Wednesday 11 am	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Work Day 8 am General Meeting 11 am	9	10	11
12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16 Work Day 8 am	17	18
19	20	21	22 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am	23 Work Day 8 am Grounds Com- mittee Meeting 10 am	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

The President's Corner

June is a month of beginnings for many people. Weddings are the beginning of lives shared; graduation the beginning of adult lives for many young people and June begins the vacation school children anxiously await. Dirk begins a new career. Mel and Diane finally have time to begin other projects and pursuits. For Master Gardeners June is the beginning of our new year. This year for me, I begin my term as your President. Thanks again to you Master Gardeners and Mel for the kind words and encouragement.

Though most vegetable gardeners have picked the first tomato of the season, it is this month that the real bounty begins. We have had an unusually dry spring; the moisture we have received in the last few weeks has nourished gardens and hopefully increased the harvest.

May has been an active month for Master Gardeners.

With a garden tour, numerous JMG events, and graduation of a new class, everyone has been busy. The Garden Tour stretched from one side of Bell County to the other. There were a few hardy souls that visited all the tour locations. Though the Saturday before Mother's Day was not an ideal date, thanks to Beth Buhl and her committee the tour was a success.

Junior Master Gardener volunteers have worked with hundreds of children this month. Thank you JMG volunteers for touching the lives of so many Bell county residents. Graduation was a nice affair with well done arrangements by the graduation committee. And last but not least, plans and plant orders are already underway for the fall

plant sale. Our membership is made up of dedicated, involved and busy people. We begin the New Year with major events behind us and major events ahead.

Hopefully our summer won't set new heat records and periodic showers will bring us more moisture. I close with lines from a poem written by Andrew Marvell.

The Garden

No white nor red was ever seen

So amorous as this lovely green.

Meanwhile the mind, from pleasure less,

Withdraws into its happiness;

Annihilating all that's made

To a green Thought in a green shade-

Hope you find that green shade during our warm weather!

-Laura Murphy

Bell County MG's Receive 2010 State MG Awards

-Gary Slanga

As a member of the awards committee I would like to thank all the MG's who worked to create the events that were used as material and subjects for this years state conference. Without all the work you do, we would have nothing to submit. Also a big "thank you" to the other members of the awards committee, Mary Ann Everett, Linda Young, and Louann Hight for their help in identifying the projects for this years entries.

We submitted seven areas for awards and came away with three awards and one honorable mention. Although all were not winners, I want to acknowledge all the hard work that went into every one of the submissions. First, thanks to Karen Colwick and Sandi Pliska for their work on the poster entry for fall vegeta-

ble gardening. It was very well done and can be used for our fall plant sale. Next a thanks also to Johnny Buck for his JMG entry, we need to recognize all JMG efforts as much as we can. And last to Annette Ensing for her epic work on moisture retention of propagation potting medium. An area of propagation



Before the work

we tend to overlook.

Now for the winners. Congratulations to **Ursula Nanna** and all the MG's on a third place win for their hard work on the **EarthKind demonstration landscape**. Some pictures are included at the end of this article. Also congratulations to **Terrie Hahn** for this wonderful publication. The **December issue of BB** received a third place award. Check out the archives

if you missed it. And kudos to all the Bell County Master Gardeners who help our association with third place win in the **Association category**. Finally thanks to **Mary Lew Quesinberry** for all her hard work and congratulation for receiving an "Honorable Mention" as **State Master Gardener of the Year**.



The work begins

Earthkind Demo Beds Win State Award...continued



And take a look at the final project on the next page!

State Award to the Bell County MG Earthkind Demonstration Bed!



Landscaping Class Takes Field Trip

-Mary Lew Quesinberry

The Temple College landscaping class went on a field trip to Far South Nursery in Austin. The little boy is the nursery owner's son. His dad was giving a propagation demonstration and the little boy was helping Karen. It was precious. Karen is a retired elementary school music teacher.

Karen Colwick, Class of 2011, gets planting advice from little boy... "remember the roots go down".



Garden Tour 2011

The Gardens on the Spring Garden Tour were located far and wide from Salado to Killeen to Belton to Temple. We'll be spotlighting Laura Murphy's and Jheri Lynn Smith's this month. Over the next two months, we will spotlight the rest of the gardens. Photos of the Garden Tour were taken by Beth Buhl and Gail Christian.

Laura Murphy's Gardens in Salado.

Laura's Garden highlighted Johnny Buck's talk on Dry Stacking. Her yard included vegetable gardens and a water collection system.



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Garden Tour ...continued

Johnny Buck
gives talk on
Dry Stacking.



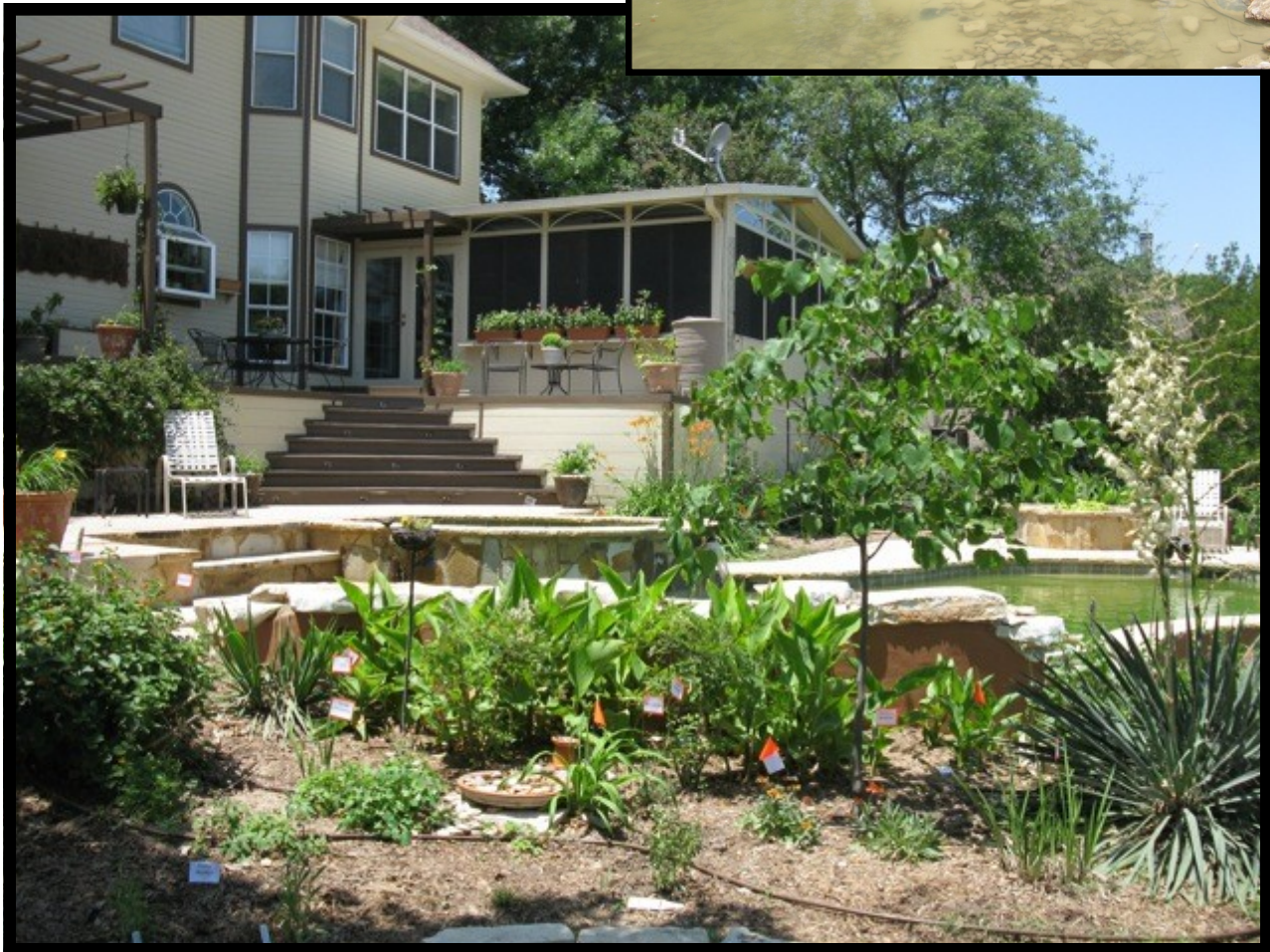
Jheri Lynn Smith's Gardens in Belton

Jheri Lynn's gardens were relatively new and included a square foot vegetable garden, xeriscape gardening, water features, aviary, compost bins and hardscaping. It had a great view of Lake Belton. We're looking forward to seeing it's progression at the next Garden Tour.



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Garden Tour ...continued



It's Official! We're Official!

-Santanna Bay

The 2011 Bell County Master Gardener Interns have made it! This year's class graduated on May 18, 2011 surrounded by family, friends, and fellow master gardeners. On behalf of the class, I would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to everyone who had a helping hand in making the class such an amazing experience for all the interns. We made many life-long friends along the way, and we are all excited to become a part of such a recognized Master Gardener chapter.



Continued on next page.

It's Official...continued



Graduation Photos by Mary Lew Quesinberry.

If you can't eat it don't plant it

-Rick E. Schroeder, Class of 2011

There are dozens of native Texas edible plants and some of these are probably in your back yard. Since developing an interest in Texas native edible plants I have discovered tasty tidbits all around the neighborhood. Examples are acorns, wild garlic, wild onions and the flowers and fruit of the Turk's Cap. There are dozens of others waiting for your palate.

However, I have just begun the search and am not knowledgeable enough to give you a list but I can give you some great resources on edible plants. The books with COLOR pictures are:

Kallas, John, "Edible Wild Plants," Gibbs and Smith, 2010

Thayer, Samuel, "The Forager's Harvest," Forager's Harvest, 2009

The two best books without color pictures are:

Tull, Diana, "Edible and Useful Plants of Texas and the Southwest," University of Texas, 1987. (An encyclopedia like text.)

Runyon, Linda, "The Essential Wild Food Survival Guide," 2007

Linda also has a newsletter that contains great ideas for recipes. www.Ofthefield.com or LindaOfTheField.com. You will find her newsletter fascinating.

And if you want to travel the world:

Dept. of the Army, "The Illustrated Guide to Edible Wild Plants," Lyons Press 2003. The 2003 version has some great color pictures as well.

So when your palate is your priority....if you can't eat it don't plant it.

Herbs Galore

-Terrie Hahn



Above, Diane Calderwood with Mary Lew Quesinberry (Honorable Mention Award winner for State MG's and photographer extraordinaire) at the final MG class of the semester-the Herb Class. Above right, Betty Nejtek teaches the class with helpers Suzanne Boyer, Terrie Hahn and Werner Hahn, pictured on right teaching propagation of herbs. Pearls and aprons are required to teach Growing and Cooking with Herbs, just like Julia Childs.



Below are former MG, Nancy Blanchett and MG Kim Pringle teaching Colonial Herbs to the Sun City Horticulture Club.



Announcements

Thank you!

-Mary Ann Everett

I have received two thank you letters for our work in the community and thought the newsletter was the best place to share with our BCMGA membership. Here they are:

Words cannot express our gratitude to the Bell County Master Gardeners for the decorated plant baskets you furnished for our Sixth Annual Style Show. The beautiful baskets were given as door prizes at the end of the Style Show.

Thanks to your organization for all you do for this community. We feel privileged to serve as volunteers on some of the same programs such as the Bell County Youth Fair. Your kindness is sincerely appreciated.

Vernice Black
Decorations Chairman
Bell Extension Education Association

Dear Fabulous Master Gardeners,

Special people make special schools! Thank you so much for sharing your knowledge with our PreK and Kindergarten students at Trimmier Elementary School's Science Spectacular! The 'hair' is growing. We really appreciate you all taking the time to spend the day with us.

With Gratitude

Donna Blackburn

Annual MG Dues

It is time to pay your annual dues. The deadline has been extended to July 31. The amount is \$25, payable to BCMGA. You can give your check or cash to Treasurer, Don Wyatt at the next monthly meeting 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 their dues were included in the class fee.

Texas Master Gardener Association Meeting Report

April 27, 2011

Mary Ann Everett

Minutes and Treasurer's report were voted on and okayed. As of February 19, there was a balance of \$30,092.80.

Awards: Mary and Paul Meredith reported that 38 associations had sent entries. In order for us to submit an award application, our association has to pay dues to the state, which we always have. There were 121 qualifying award submissions, entered into one of nine categories, judged by out-of-state judges. These judges were throughout United States. *(As an aside I think our association did really well, when you figure how many were competing for awards. Thanks to Gary Slanga and his committee for submitting those entries.)*

An item that came up for discussion was that some members have been using TMGA rosters for personal agendas. The Executive Committee will reinforce what rosters are intended to be used for. TMGA issues are not personal issues.

They will also reinforce that the website and newsletter are not to be used for personal issues. There also followed a lengthy discussion on the cuts within the Extension. Doug Welch and Jayla Fry also held sessions on this item.

What's Happening in Your Yard?

Surprise on the Quesinberry front porch!



Crystal Fisher has a rain lily that has produced double blooms repeatedly. She's saving the seeds to grow to see if that trait is passed on to the next generation of bulbs. Is this a common thing? Or is it something pretty special?



James' Aunt Baby's Blueberry Cream Cheese Pan Pie

- James Anderson, Class of 2011

Bananas	2 8 oz. pkg cream cheese
2/3 C Sugar	2 t vanilla extract
1/4 C light cream	1 can Blueberry pie filling
2 C sour cream	1/2 C confectioner's sugar

1. Layer the bottom of pie pan with sliced bananas.
2. Beat together cream cheese, sugar, vanilla and cream until mixture is very light and no sugar granules remain.
3. Spread mixture over the bananas. Top with blueberry pie filling.
4. Combine sour cream and confectioner's sugar. Spread over the blueberry filling. Chill thoroughly before serving.

Show everyone What's Happening In Your Yard by submitting pictures and/or articles to me at moompie45@hotmail.com



Terrie and Werner Hahn's patch of Clammy Weeds-with a hot, dry spring like this, bright green weeds with pretty white flowers, even if they really stink, is better than nothing!

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

Beth Buhl Pearl Fellingham

David Fitch Don Gold

Pat Maskunas Fran Sheppard

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

moompie45@hotmail.com

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

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The front cover photo is from Laura Murphy. She found this little fawn resting 15 feet away from her vegetable garden gate.

The banner photo is of a Plumbago in Terrie and Werner Hahn's yard.