



MARCH

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 9:00 WORKDAY Burger Wed. 8:45 Herb Study Group 9:00 1-5:00 2010 Class	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 WORKDAY 10:30 Monthly MG Mtg. 1-5:00 2010 Class	11	12	13
14 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS	15	16	17 WORKDAY 9:00 Greenhouse Com. Mtg. 1-5:00 2010 Class	18	19	20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING
21	22	23	24 WORKDAY 9:00 Board of Directors Mtg. 1-5:00 2010 Class	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 WORKDAY 1-5:00 2010 Class			

Clint Walker of
Walker Honey Farm
"Bees and Honey"

GET READY.....SET...GO!!!

Submitted by President Mel Myers

These words (or similar ones) have been ringing in our ears for the better part of two weeks and we have seen so much on television about the Winter Olympics. It has been great entertainment to see the youth of today competing with so much talent. Unfortunately, we have also witnessed a few failures and sad moments as we have seen several who injured themselves in accidents.

In gardening February is our starter. We are getting ready to start digging in the garden. Last Sunday the temperature climbed to 73 degrees and felt so goooooood!! We realize in the weeks ahead there will be times of success and times of failure. Let's hope the weather will be good to us and allow an abundance of success.

But, just when we think the weather will settle down and start warming up, look out!! It starts to snow. We have not seen such snow in quite a while. It was quite a treat to get to see it snow all day.

On February 18, we had our first class about vegetable gardening that was open to the public. The response was terrific. We had forty people to attend. The question and answer period was great. At the conclusion a survey was conducted and we now have more information for future classes. Bell County residents are anxious to learn about herbs, raised beds, container gardening, rainwater harvesting and several other subjects.

By the time you are reading this, the annual Home and Garden Show will be over. Each February we look forward to having a booth and sharing our gardening experience with so many.

March brings our spring plant sale. We need everyone's help in making this a successful sale. In preparation for the sale we need plants unloaded and set in place. On Saturday we need help showing the plants, answering questions, helping customers to load plants and any other functions that are necessary.

My lesson from the community garden this month was a bitter one. After the greenhouse meeting I told Don Wyatt that I might till my garden that afternoon. He told me that he had tried tilling the day before but it was too wet. I knew others at the community garden had tilled and it was dry enough. Well, my plot **was** too wet.

I spent five minutes behind the tiller and three hours cleaning the mud off of it. Every book you can read about vegetable gardening will tell you not to work the soil when it is wet. I think I learned this lesson very well!!

Happy Gardening!!!

Burger Wednesday Workday

Submitted by Karla Tomaka & Greenhouse Crew

It's Burger Wednesday time again. Burger Wednesday is this coming Wednesday, March 3rd. Our projects will be to clean up the handicapped bed in the demonstration garden and load a bunch of pallets, etc. that are in the greenhouse area onto a trailer to be disposed of. We will meet at 9:00 at both of these areas. Please bring pruners and gloves.

If you can bring a side dish, dessert or drinks, please contact me at kstomaka@aol.com

Hope to see you Wednesday!

March Speaker

Submitted by Mary Ann Everett

Our March speaker will be Clint Walker, of Walker Honey Farm, sharing his expertise on bees and honey. His honorarium is plants from our gardens. Would you please pot something you would like to share with him from your yard, along with a plant identification. He was given some white eupatorium, which is a great bee and butterfly plant. He said he always enjoys talking to Master Gardeners as he gets such great plants. Let's not disappoint him!



April Field Trip to Fort Hood

Submitted by Mary Ann Everett

There will be a sign up sheet for the April field trip to Fort Hood at the monthly meeting. There will be some hiking involved with this field trip, and we will need to car pool. More information will be coming.

HELP! MENTORS NEEDED

Submitted by Suzanne Boyer

I need the following mentors for the remainder of the new intern classes:

March 24 - Traditional mentor from noon to 5:00

April 28 - Refreshments - coordinate with second mentor to bring food 12:30 - 5:00

May 5 - Refreshments - see above

Please let me know if you can help.

Phone: (254)780-2463

Email: suzboyer@sbcglobal.net.

NEW CLASS FIELD TRIP

Submitted by Suzi Judd & the New Class Committee

Mark your calendars and plan to go with the new class on our upcoming spring field trip! This year's trip is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2010 and tickets for a seat on the bus will be \$20.00. In the morning, we will be traveling to The Natural Gardener, Austin's premiere organic garden center to tour their fabulous demonstration gardens. John Dromgoole, owner of The Natural Gardener will be speaking to our group about organic gardening practices and answering our questions.

In the afternoon, we will be visiting Zilker Botanical Garden. There we can visit the Cactus and Succulent Garden, Herb and Fragrance Garden, Japanese Garden, Butterfly Garden and more wonderful gardens.

We will be leaving the extension office at 8:30 AM and returning around 5:30. Checks can be made payable to BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION and can be mailed to:

Sue Judd

2312 Stratford Dr.

Temple, TX 76502

Email Address Change

We have changed our email address from wickrsh@clearwire.net to bwickersham1@gmail.com effective immediately.

Ben and Beverly Wickersham



BABY SHOWER

And You'RE Invited!

For
Mary Pearl
and new baby boy!

Thursday, March 11th
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Come & Go



Home of Diane Calderwood
2908 Sleepy Hollow, Temple

Hosted By:
Fran Sheppard
Diane Calderwood
Mary Ann Everett
Cindy Aaron

Please RSVP by Friday, March 5th
Diane Calderwood, 254-771-1218;
dcalder@hot.rr.com

Directions to Diane's House:

From Belton:

Take 6th Ave./Hwy 93, East towards Temple. Turn left (North) at 31st Street (at stoplight). Go one mile. Turn left on Sleepy Hollow (just after Timber Ridge housing addition.) Go to the end of the cul-de-sac.

From Temple: Go South on 31st street. Turn right on Sleepy Hollow (just before Timber Ridge housing addition). Go to the end of the cul-de-sac.

Herb Study Group

Submitted by Kim Pringle

Linda Young gave an informative presentation on making herbal oil and vinegars. Members had lots of good questions and discussion about experiences in making oils and vinegars. Linda made a PowerPoint presentation for each topic, made copies of the slides for each of us and brought samples to smell and taste. Linda is seeking permission to use the PowerPoints in public presentations.

Frances Idoux brought rosemary bread. Frances is working on "the book" with section autobiography of herbs (creative writing). As an example, she wrote a piece on mint. It was suggested that each of us pick our favorite herb(s) and write the autobiography. She is gathering growing information and recipes. Perhaps we can talk Frances into being the book photographer with pictures from our own gardens. At this point, this is just a fun project for our group to organize the information we have acquired. We plan to use notebooks so we can insert more pages.

Update on Colonial Garden presentation to Leon Heights Elementary 5th grade history classes. Teachers may contact us at a later time. We need more time and direction from teachers to tailor a meaningful presentation to fit within the class period (should we focus more on the history and types of gardens or specific herbs and their uses?).

We will do two presentations for the Home and Garden Show on February 27 (1:00PM and 3:00PM): "Growing and Cooking with Herbs". We are adding a few new slides to "Cooking with Herbs" to include some basic growing information. Nancy and Kim have volunteered to present (Linda is a back-up). Joyce has volunteered to distribute handouts and answer questions. We could use several more volunteers so please call me. You will have free admission to the Home and Garden Show to browse before or after. As I recall, it can be quite cool in the space that is reserved for us, so please dress appropriately.

As you know, Don requested that we prune the demo herb beds (specifically rosemary and lavender) so they could install new wood frames. Unfortunately, we did not do so and the workers did it for us. Please express appreciation to Don and "the guys". They will also be adding soil to raise the beds so we will have to do some work transplanting.

There are 15 people spending the night and attending the Herb Forum at Festival Hill on March 19-20. You

can always drive down for the day. Speakers and topics are now on the Festival Hill website.

NEXT MEETING: March 3, 2010 at 8:45 AM. Frances had volunteered to do the March meeting on types of basil. Unfortunately, she was called out of town. Nancy volunteered to plan the meeting and the topic will be announced at a later time. Terrie reminded us to bring baskets to make up for the plant sale (we will do 10 baskets that would make nice gifts for Easter). If you have extra decorating items like raffia or ribbon, please bring also. We will likely assemble the baskets on March 25th or 26th when herbs are delivered to the greenhouse.

April 7, 2010: Salads and dressings facilitated by Terrie Hahn.

May 5, 2010: Varieties of Basil facilitated by Frances Idoux.

June 2, 2010: Open date.

Introducing Tomato growing 101

Submitted by Martin Anderson for Patrick Lillard

The best garden is a well planned garden, so while you wait for spring, get ready for the best tomato harvest by taking the new online course 'Tomato 101'.

This course teaches all aspects of growing tomatoes in a home garden, at your own pace and in your own home.

The course covers:

- Garden and soil preparation
- Plant selection and training
- Fertilization
- Irrigation
- Weed, disease and insect control
- General care

A short quiz at the end of each section lets you review what you learned before moving on, and at the completion of the course generates a certificate for you.

So get out from the rain, take a seat by your computer and dream about those summer tomatoes while you go through Tomato 101.

Available at:

<http://www-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/>

Creating a free use account is required to participate.

BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Are sponsored by the

TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION of TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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



Intern Class Shows Up In Force for Bell County Youth Fair

Submitted by Don Gold, 2010 Class Reporter

A major portion of the Bell County Master Gardeners Class of 2010 volunteered at this year's Youth Fair, Livestock Show and Rodeo at the Expo Center earlier this month. For most, it was their first attendance at the annual event. Dozens of service hours were earned by the interns, and their work with setup, preparation, and implementation proved invaluable to the effort. The work entailed delivery and setup, categorizing of stations and materials for the hundreds of entries, judging, and assistance to youth entrants and their parents during the event. A part of the 4H program, youngsters entered their efforts in everything from baking, canning and preservation, arts and crafts, to photography. The junior division drew youth ages 8 to 13, and the senior classification 14 to 17. All entries received a ribbon, with the top 10 in each category winning placement recognition and all others receiving an award of merit. The class interns experienced and learned a lot, and spread good will and appreciation from the community for the county Master Gardeners Program.

