





# BLOOMING doodles

## MAY

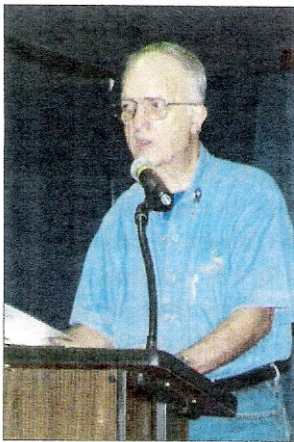
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 National Teacher Day 	6 WORKDAY Burger Day  9AM Perennial Selection Group Mtg  1PM 2009 Class	7 WORKDAY	8	9   Election Day
10   Mother's Day	11	12	13 WORKDAY  8:25AM Herb Study Group  9AM Greenhouse Com. Mtg.  1PM 2009 Class	14 WORKDAY	15	16
17	18 Luncheon Reservations \$12 Fran Sheppard 698-3532 or <a href="mailto:jts8099@embarqmail.com">jts8099@embarqmail.com</a> NLT 5/8/2009	19	20 WORKDAY  11:30AM 2009 Class Graduation Luncheon & General Mtg Expo Center	21 WORKDAY	22	23
24	25  Memorial Day Observed	26	27 WORKDAY  9:30AM Board of Directors Mtg	28 WORKDAY	29	30
31						

## !!!AWARDS!!!

### Volunteer Recognition

Submitted by Joan Hinshaw

Bell County AgriLife Extension hosted its annual Volunteer Recognition Event Thursday evening, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Expo Center with a delicious barbecued chicken dinner for its many volunteers. There were awards for volunteers in 4-H, Extension Education Clubs, Pecan Growers, Youth Fair, Cooperative Extension Program – Prairie View A&M University, Leadership Advisory Board and, of course, Master Gardeners. Dirk Aaron presented awards to two of our outstanding MGs: Karla Tomaka and Gy Okeson.



Dr. Gy Okeson has been a member of the Bell County Master Gardeners Assn. for the past six years. He has focused his efforts as a volunteer in the areas of environmental conciseness, thus he has specialized in backyard composting and rainwater harvesting. He is an active member of the Master Gardener Speakers Bureau.

Gy's legacy in the organization is his recent tenure as Board President. His outstanding leadership and communication skills created a positive atmosphere for the 160 member strong organization. He put the fun back into volunteering.

Karla Tomaka has been a key member of the Bell County Master Gardeners Association for more than five years and has provided more than 3,000 hours of service to the organization. She has been a key leader of the



greenhouse and outdoor learning center located at the Extension Office. She has organized more than 8 plant sales and education seminars for the general public. Her servitude leadership and kind personal approach has put the greenhouse committee on a continued course for success in Bell County,

Congratulations to Karla and Gy for a job well done!

## !!!MORE AWARDS!!!

### 2009 Texas Master Gardener State Conference

Submitted by Annette Ensing

Seven MGs from Bell County attended the Texas Master Gardener State Conference held on April 24-26, in Marshall, TX. We took classes and tours, listened to entertaining speakers and learned a lot, particularly about new invasive pests threatening Texas plants and trees.

Among other goodies, we each took home an Earthkind rose in a hand-crafted pot. We also brought home a large ceramic vase to put in the silent auction at the Christmas Party.

Mary Ann Everett served on the awards committee and represented Bell County at the annual meeting. Ilene Miller accepted the following awards for Bell County:

**Graphic Presentation** - Second Place for American Colonial Gardens PowerPoint Presentation

**Multi Media** - Third Place for BCMGA Tip of the Week Newspaper Articles

**Association** - Third Place for Master Gardener Association of the Year for Medium County

We hope more of our members will attend the conference next year, to be held in Dallas.



## **April Greenhouse Committee Meeting Summary**

Submitted by Karla Tomaka

During the April 15<sup>th</sup> Greenhouse Committee Meeting, the profitability of the spring vegetable and perennial sales was discussed. The vegetable sale yielded a profit of \$2,789.00 and the perennial sale yielded \$4,003.00. It is safe to say the two sales were very successful. The advertising bills are still outstanding, which will minimally alter the final profit figures.

Our fall sale will be a combined vegetable, herb, rose and perennial sale and will be held on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. We also discussed the possibility of having a limited number of small trees included in the sale. This decision will be made after a review of vendor availability and pricing. When the order list and vendors are finalized, we plan to have preorder sheets available for Master Gardeners. The preorders will also be prepaid. This will allow everyone to get the plants they want and us to still offer a wide selection to the public. The fall seminars were discussed. We would like to include a wildflower seminar in the fall sale seminar schedule. If anyone would like to develop this seminar, please contact Karla Tomaka or Don Wyatt. If we can develop a wildflower seminar, wildflower seed balls could possibly be sold at the fall sale. The perennial selection group for the fall sale will meet Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00AM in the classroom.

The Killeen Municipal Garden project was discussed. This is a flagship project for the BCMGA in conjunction with the City of Killeen Court System. Master Gardeners volunteer their time in constructing beds and supervising juveniles in planting and harvesting vegetables. According to the Memorandum of Understanding between the BCMGA and the Killeen Courts, BCMGA volunteers are to be reimbursed for purchases made to support the Killeen Municipal Garden unless the BCMGA makes a specific donation.

The next Greenhouse Committee meeting will be Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 in the classroom. All Master Gardeners are welcome to attend. There will be a signup sheet for the Greenhouse Committee and other committees within the BCMGA at the Class of 2009 graduation ceremony May 20<sup>th</sup>.



## **Board of Directors Election**

Submitted by Mary Lew Quisenberry

The results of the BCMGA Board of Directors election April 8, 2009 are:

President Mel Myers  
First VP Mary Ann Everett  
Second VP Rutha Leffel  
Treasurer Jan Anderson  
Director(JMG) Kathy white  
Director(GardenTour/Prof. Grounds) Lou Ann Hight  
Director(New Class) Janelle Burson

Board members currently in mid-term are:

Don Wyatt  
Ursula Nanna  
Mel Myers\*  
Annette Ensing  
Beverly Wickersham

\*A replacement for Mel Myers' director position will be appointed at the 1st meeting of the new board in June.

## **Herb Study Group**

Submitted by Kim Pringle

At our April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, Beverly Wickersham presented a beautiful and informative Powerpoint presentation on "Medicinal Wild Plants of the Prairie". She brought several plants from her garden to show us and talked about 27 plants we can find in Central Texas. I would highly recommend this program as one of the BCMGA public outreach programs (also an excellent program for school age children).

Upcoming events:

1. June 12-14 -- Blanco Lavender Festival
2. July 31 -- BCMGA JMG Teacher Training

Two things to think about:

1. Do we want to continue the Herb Study? If so, what day of the month and time do we want to meet? What program format?
2. The Greenhouse Committee is beginning to plan for the Fall Plant sale. Growers are currently placing seed orders. In case you haven't noticed, we are some of our best customers! Please let me or the greenhouse committee know if you have any plant recommendations for fall planting. I would like to order several varieties of calendula. Next meeting: May 13, 2009 - Spring Social/Plant Exchange. We will talk about hop. Also Brenda Smith may talk to us briefly about fairy gardens.

## May Monthly Meeting & Class Graduation

Submitted by Deb Martin

The 2009 Master Gardener Class Graduation Luncheon & May General Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 20th at 11:30 am at the Expo Center, 2nd floor banquet room.

Reservations can be made no later than May 8th to Fran Sheppard, Phone: 698-3532, email: [jts8099@embarqmail.com](mailto:jts8099@embarqmail.com).

Cost is \$12 per person for a catered BBQ lunch (students do not pay, but their guests require paid reservation). A reservation made implies a commitment for payment by cash or check to Fran for the luncheon cost.

## Class of 09 Article - Howdy Again Everyone!

Submitted by Robin Pohl

It seems like the stuff we get to learn is never-ending. This month we had the privilege of learning about plant pathology. Subjects with the name "ology" in it are frequently over my head, but I went home thinking that I wanted to be a plant pathologist in my next life. Nothing depresses me more than a plant that starts to make gasping disease motions but I'm feeling better now that I know basic First Aid. Then we took our show on the road and headed to the Natural Gardener for a field trip. It was so informative and so completely evil because I wanted to take every plant home. We loaded that bus down, and rolled on up to Gabriel Valley Farms for a wholesale nursery experience. I was so inspired to come home and plant some seeds. Most recently we learned about trees and shrubs. My horizons have been forever broadened because I was introduced to so many attractive trees.

The word of the month was "Yard Tour". We were completely involved getting everything ready. I am especially grateful for all the help I got in getting my yard ready and identifying my plants. Without the wonderful support of my classmates, I would have not come close to finishing. We had a good time on the big day even though it rained on our parade. The canoe was moored by the front steps but no one wanted to don their slicker and take the boat tour down the Driveway River. I came to a full realization that day what a positive effect we as master gardeners have on the community. If I inspired just one child who visited my yard to become interested in horticulture, then every last second of preparation was worth it.

We are getting really excited about graduation and being official. We are almost there.

## BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Are sponsored by the

## TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION of TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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