



NOVEMBER 2008 ACTIVITIES

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 ELECTION DAY  VOTE	5 WORKDAY BURGER WED WORK PARTY SEE ARTICLE IN NEWSLETTER	6 WORKDAY	7	8
9	10	11 VETERANS DAY 	12 WORKDAY 8:25AM Herb Study Group* 10:30AM Monthly MG Meeting** 1:00PM Mentor Orientation	13 WORKDAY	14	15
16	17	18	19 WORKDAY 9:00AM Board of Directors Mtg 11:00AM Greenhouse Com. Meeting 1:30PM New Class Com Mtg.	20 WORKDAY	21	22 Advanced Propagation Training
23 30	24	25	26 WORKDAY	27 THANKS GIVING 	28	29

*All About Herb Seeds coordinated by Frances Idoux – Bring seeds to share

**American Colonial Gardens Powerpoint presentation produced & presented by BCMGs

President's Corner

Submitted by David Fitch

These are surely tumultuous times that we have experienced over the past several months. We came through a year of bitter and fierce fighting during the Democratic Presidential primary. Then we were taken straight into the national Presidential race. All the while, we are bombarded with political rhetoric. It becomes almost impossible to sort out which is the truth and which is fiction. Possibly the lines are not that exact. Maybe truth and fiction are found in each statement we hear. If only we had a crystal ball. Then, to make matters worse, the very foundation of our economic system is pulled out from under us. Banks, the pillars of our financial system, are found to be misusing their powers to manage our money, casting aside sound business practices in favor of greedy mortgage lending practices and executive compensation packages. Then our elected officials in Washington hurriedly patch together a so called bail-out package that will force all of us to dig even deeper into our pockets to pay for the errors of others. And now we are most likely looking down the barrel of a serious economic recession.

What does all this have to do with the Bell County Master Gardeners Association, you ask? Well, on a much smaller scale, it suggests that we as an organization have to get better at what we do in order to survive and prosper. The status quo will not be good enough to take us forward. People, businesses and organizations that survive the next year will be the ones that adapt to the situation and make the correct and necessary changes. We all know change is difficult. Change means uncertainty.

Fortunately, your Board of Directors has a head start on the process of evaluating what changes are necessary to take us forward. The process was initiated several months ago to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the BCMGA. The financial standing of the organization was solidified in a process to better account for our sources and uses of our funds so that better financial decisions can be made. Individual accountability was enhanced by assigning and defining responsibilities through the organizational structure. A long range planning committee was formed to assist the Board in determining the correct and necessary changes to take us forward. All of this has not been nearly as chaotic as that which we have experienced on the national scene. However, it has been a process that has moved along rather quickly. So quickly in fact, that the information coming out of the processes has not been adequate. Many of the BCMGA members are left with a feeling of being excluded or being left

behind. This is an unintended result and one that has to be corrected. The actions of the Board are sound and insightful but the communication has been lacking.

To that end, I invite every member to attend and participate in each and every monthly member meeting and each Board meeting. Open discussion and questions are welcome in either forum. I think I can speak for each Board member in inviting every BCMGA member to contact a Board member(s) in person, by phone or email with any thoughts or questions. Additionally, I promise to keep all channels of communication open to all members.

I thank all of you for your continued support and cooperation. Together we will emerge from these tough times better than we are today.



Burger Wednesday Work Party

Submitted by Karla Tomaka

On November 5th Burger Wednesday Chef Nolan will prepare something delicious for us (as always). If you can bring a side dish, drinks, or a dessert, please contact me at kstomaka@aol.com. Projects for the day include cleaning and organizing the hardening house; planting 2 new roses; and dividing perennials in the planters outside the greenhouse. If you would like to work with the "digging" group, please bring your favorite shovel, gloves, handy tools, etc.



Preparing Turkeys for Thanksgiving

BCMGA Christmas Party

Submitted by Marge Croninger

The date for our Christmas Party is Thursday, December 11th at 6 p.m. Information for the party, silent auction and the reservations form are all on the main page of the BCMG website and at the end of this newsletter. Reservations must be in to Judy Hermann by December 6th. <http://bell-co.tamu.edu/>



Master Wellness Volunteer Training

Submitted by Sheryl Austin

My co-workers are excited about again offering this opportunity to the general public. Please help us recruit and promote this class of interns across the County. Please read below for specifics.

Master Wellness Volunteer Training: Receive 40 hours of training and give back 40 hours of service to your community. The training focuses on nutrition and dietary guidelines, food safety, food demonstrations, healthy lifestyle choices and children's health. Anyone can participate who is age 16 or above.

Dates: Jan. 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 19

Time: 9:30 AM- 3:30 PM

Fee: \$50 (cost of materials)

Deadline: Nov. 24th

Contact: Linda Fuchs or Sheryl Austin

Sheryl Austin

Cooperative Extension Program

Prairie View A&M University

1605 N. Main

Belton, TX 76513

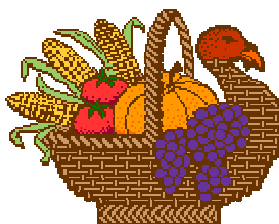
(254) 933-5305

(254) 933-5312 fax

slcrawford@ag.tamu.edu

Click below to access the site

<http://grovesite.com/page.asp?o=mg&s=bell&p=194372>



New Class Mentors

Submitted by Bernie Hurta

It's time to sign-up to be a mentor for the 2009 Master Gardening class. There will be a sign-up sheet at the November Association Meeting on November 12th. After the meeting, please plan to stay for the mentor orientation at 1 pm. There probably won't be time to go to lunch between meetings, so plan to bring a brown bag lunch. The orientation will probably take less than an hour. We had lots of wonderful help from the mentors last year and look forward to another wonderful year. If you have any questions, please contact Bernadette (Bernie) Hurta.

Mentor Orientation 1 pm November 12th

New Class Committee Mtg 1:30 pm November 19th



Website Update

Submitted by Deb Martin

1. As the question has been raised, please accept this clarification regarding the website members only area containing the Member List.

The visible list records those members with an email address and to whom all broadcast emails are sent. Those members who do not have email are not and cannot be listed on the list view. It's how Grovesite is set up.

The pdf file at the top of the page contains the latest and most complete list of BCMGA members including those without email. Each update has a date attached so you know how current the file is. All members should download this pdf file and either keep it on your computer or print it out as this represents your BCMGA phone book.

Those members without email will be given a hard copy. PLEASE CONTACT DEB OR MARGE TO GET YOUR PRINTED LIST OR ASK ANOTHER BCMGA MEMBER TO PRINT IT FOR YOU. Any member who has a question may email Deb Martin or Marge Croninger and we will do our best to assist you.

As we have "gone paperless", the member directory will be kept up to date in this format. Any changes in your email, address, or phone number should be reported to Deb or Marge so it is updated on the forms which

allows you to continue to get the Association communications to the correct email address.

2. Please check the home page of the website regularly for informational items posted there. Recently posted material include reservations for the Christmas Party, Reservations for BCMGA Advanced Training, and a new page has been added titled "Educational Articles-General Interest" that contains information we have been asked to include based on consumer inquiries. This is a place you may direct consumers who have question about these frequently asked subjects. For example, so far Dirk has posted two articles on gardening with deer.

Thank you for your confidence in and use of our website. With your input, the site will reflect the needs and usage of the entire membership. This is your website. Let's make it what you want it to be.

Question: What do you get when you cross a turkey with an octopus?

Answer: Enough drumsticks for Thanksgiving

Advanced Propagation Training

Submitted by Deb Martin & Marge Croninger

Advanced training in propagation will be held on November 22nd all day. Registration deadline is November 1st. The registration form & information regarding our first advanced training has been uploaded to the home page.



Heirloom Tomato Stories

Submitted by Jane Capen

If you were at the October meeting, you heard Homegrown Magazine's Judy Barrett speaking on Antique and Heirloom Plants. One tomato had the interesting moniker of Mortgage Lifter. This piqued my curiosity. Digging around a bit, I found that it is also known as Radiator Charlie's Mortgage Lifter. One thing led to another, and I found a few other old and interesting stories of heirloom tomatoes.

For those of you who missed it, "Radiator Charlie" was Marshall Cletis Byles, a mechanic in West Virginia who began cross breeding his best tomato plants during the Depression, ultimately producing a large, flavorful

tomato. He sold the plants for one dollar each, and within a few years had made enough money to pay off his \$5000 mortgage. (You can hear an interview recorded with Radiator Charlie at <http://www.loe.org/shows/segments.htm?programID=06-P13-00027&segmentID=6>) But Mortgage Lifter is not the only tomato with an interesting history. Here are a few more.

Cherokee Purple--Seeds of this deep dark red tomato were sent to Craig LeHoullier by JD Green of Tennessee. Green had been given them by a neighbor whose family had purportedly been given seeds by some Cherokee Indians and had been growing this tomato for more than 100 years.

Polish Giant-- Said to have been smuggled into the United States from Poland in 1939, concealed beneath the stamp on a letter.

Marianna's Peace-- Marianna was the child of Czechoslovakian farmers who was captured by Russian soldiers during WW II. On the journey to Siberia, Marianna escaped and crossed into Bavaria. Marianna lost contact with her family for 10 years, reuniting at last in 1955 aided by the Red Cross. Before he died, her father gave her a parcel of seeds. Two years later, she married and moved, with the seeds, to Washington state, where she grew the tomatoes and shared their seeds.

Goose Creek--Landscape Jimmy Williams of Hayground Organic Gardening in California is a descendant of Gullah slaves. His great-great grandmother, a slave from the Caribbean, smuggled some tomato seeds in her skirt when she was brought to Goose Creek, near Charleston, SC. She planted the seeds the following spring, and descendants of those first plants have been handed down ever since.

Clint Eastwood's Rowdy Red--Gary Ibsen, the owner of Carmel TomatoFest has been growing heirloom tomatoes for many years, many unnamed varieties. The seeds for this tomato were given to him by Archie Millet, a retired tomato breeder from the University of California at Davis, who told him to name it as he wished, and to share it. Ibsen chose to name it in honor of Clint Eastwood, choosing the Rowdy Red part of the appellation from Eastwood's character Rowdy Yates, from the vintage tv show Rawhide, in appreciation for all Eastwood has done for the Carmel community and TomatoFest.

References:

<http://www.heirloomtomatoplants.com>
www.Wikipedia.com

Fall Garden Tours

Submitted by Mary Lew Quesinberry

If you need inspiration for a beautiful fall garden, travel to Salado and drive by the Betty Lowe garden. This lush garden starts at the curb and continues to the property line at the golf course in back. Betty's garden is rich in color, combining oranges and purples, purples and pinks, yellows and reds and has lots of texture as well.

Pete Stebbin is a neighbor of the Lowe's and has a beautiful display of Texas artifacts and grasses.

The Salado United Methodist Church has a charming old fashion cottage garden surrounding the 150-year old historic chapel. This garden is tended by the church garden guild and features plants you would find in your grandmother's garden.

While you are in Salado visit Green Bridge Park. The iron truss bridge dates back to 1889 and has Troll and Billy Goat Gruff sculpture by Salado artist Troy Kelley. This garden is located on Main Street and is planted with native trees and perennials.



Betty Lowe Garden

BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Are sponsored by the

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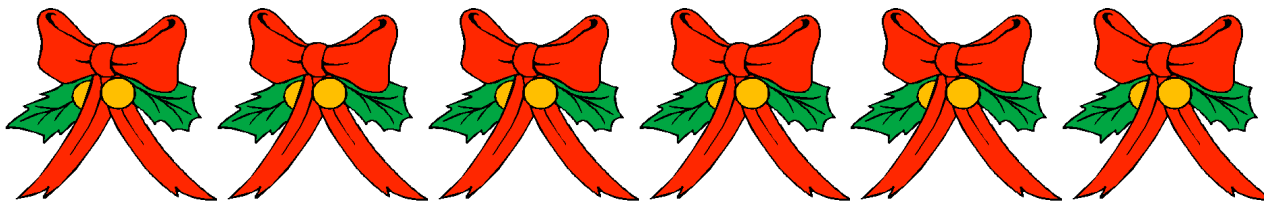
1605 N. Main St.
Belton, Texas 76513
(254) 933-5305

Contributors: David Fitch, Frances Idoux, Marge Croninger, Sheryl Austin, Bernie Hurta, Mary Lew Quesinberry, Deborah Martin, Jane Capen, Kim Pringle, Karla Tomaka

Editor: Joan Hinshaw

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





2008 BCMGA Christmas Dinner and Silent Auction

Please plan to attend the BCMGA Christmas Dinner, where we will enjoy each other's good company, recognize members for their service hours and raise money through the annual Silent Auction. The winners of this year's Golden Trowel and Green Thumb awards will be announced.

This year, the dinner will be Thursday, December 11, at 6 p.m. (come early to preview the silent auction items) at the Expo Center in the Special Events room. Cost for the dinner is \$12 per person, and the deadline for reservations is December 3rd. Dinner will be catered by Classic Catering. The menu is:

***Chicken Cordon Bleu
or
Pecan Crusted Pork Loin***

Apple and Squash Bake, Green Beans with Walnut Dressing, rolls, coffee or tea.

Our traditional Fabulous Dessert Bar will be provided by several of our members. Please make your reservations today by completing the reservation form below:

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BCMGA Christmas Dinner

Menu Selection and Registration --Circle one entrée

Name _____ Chicken or Pork

Guest _____ Chicken or Pork

Guest _____ Chicken or Pork

of persons attending _____ (@\$12 per person). Total amount enclosed _____

Please return completed form with check made payable to BCMGA by December 3rd to Judy Herrmann, 941 Rattlesnake Road, Harker Heights, TX 76548

BCMGA Silent Auction



(what will you win?)

The BCMGA Christmas Dinner and Silent Auction will be held Thursday, Dec. 11 at 6 p.m. We want this to be our best silent auction ever and we want to encourage everyone to contribute at least one item for the auction. All items are welcome, they are not restricted to a garden theme. We will be collecting items for the auction at the **November** meeting. If you cannot bring it then, please bring it to the Extension office or to one of the Christmas Party committee members by December 10. (Committee members are: Ilene Miller, Laverne Adams, Joelle Bedwell, Jane Capen, Beverly Chenoweth, Louise Crowell, Maretta Deiterman, Mary Ann Everett, Rowena Fengel, Laura Jung, Jean Kitchens, Gail Branner and Pat Maskunas.) Donated items are tax deductible. Use the attached tax form as a record of your contribution. If you obtain a donation from a business, then please give the business a completed form for their records also. Extra forms will be available at the November meeting or from the Extension office.



Bell County Master Gardeners Association
Is an non profit 501c-3 organization,
dedicated to Educational Outreach

Item: _____

Donation Purchased Value: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Thank you so much for your donation to our non-profit organization in support of our Educational out reach to the citizens of Bell County.

For more information see our website: Bell-tx.tamu.edu