



The Blooming Bell

**November, 2010
BCMGA Newsletter**

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Work Day 9 am Herb Study Group 8:45 am Chili Wednesday	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 MG General Meeting 11 am Arthur Johnson will speak about Miller Springs Flora and Fauna	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am Grounds Committee Meeting 10 am	18	19	20 Trip to Ellison's Nursery in Brenham
21	22	23	24	25 Turkey Day	26	37
28	29	30				

Important upcoming dates: Christmas Party, December 9 at 6:30 pm
Michael Martin Murphey at the Cowboy Christmas Ball, Dec. 11 at 7 pm

No Burger Wednesday in December or January! Change of date for Board of Directors-the Board will meet November 17 and December 15th

The President's Corner

Fall Has Arrived!!!

I think that we in Central Texas live for the fall months. I know we often think we have only two seasons, but we sure enjoy the cooler weather that October brings us. My wife and I had the pleasure of going to New York State for a "peek" at the turning of the leaves. Our timing was perfect and we certainly enjoyed the sights. While we were there, we took in Niagara Falls.

September was a busy month for Bell County Master Gardeners. Our fall tour was a great success as well as the fall plant sale. The seminars were well attended.....well except for the one on Friday night when we tried to compete with Friday night football. Thanks to all who worked on these projects. Without your help it just would not have happened. The plant sale for 2011 has been set to occur on March 26 and October 8.

The board meetings for November and December have been re-scheduled to accommodate the holidays. It will be held on November 17 and December 15. As usual, the membership is welcome to all board meetings. Keep in mind that we do not have a regular meeting in December since we have a Christmas party. I'm sure you will read more about this elsewhere in this month's newsletter.

We are saddened to say good bye to Mary Pearl and wish her well in Houston. She has been a great help to BCMGA and Dirk and the staff at the extension office. We also look forward to working with Shelly Chapman.

With the holidays just around the corner, we know the new class will soon be starting. We will have orientation in early December with classes starting in early January. Thanks to Diane Calderwood and her committee for all the work they have put in to make this class a success.

We were advised at the board meeting this morning about a



potential problem we may have. It appears that some Master Gardeners have not been getting their e-mail. Please check the members listing on our website to see if your e-mail address is correct. If not, e-mail the correct information to jherilyn@sbcglobal.net or contact Jheri Lynn Smith at 254-718-4519.

Happy Gardening!!

-Mel Myers



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING !!!

Submitted by Ursula Nanna

During the past year, 2 desert gardens have been planned and installed in Master Gardener Outreach projects. The theme is water conservation utilizing xeric plants with water-wise native plants. Both have been designed by Ursula Nanna and implemented expertly by Bell County



the spring and fall, usually once every month, and rarely in the winter.

The second garden is a Desert garden with a variety of very tastefully chosen pots laid out above ground. The goal in this garden is also water conservation as far as the plant material is carefully chosen. The pots are filled with river rock to make sure they stay in place. Then the Xeriscape soil formula was used to fill the pots and the plants were then placed and the pots topped off with the remainder of Xeric soil.

Everything was thoroughly watered and will need watering only 1 time per month and much less

...continued on next page.

Master Gardeners. Both gardens are also vastly different in style and design demonstrating that xeric desert gardens can be very appealing and aren't just a cactus and some stone. They can actually be very lush.

The first garden is located at the Killeen Municipal Court Garden. The whole crew designed the border layout and there was a class on how to install metal edging, as many had not yet used that medium. Ursula designed the plant placement, the garden layout, and with the help and direction of the Master Gardeners, the Community Court youth filled the bed with soil, bermed it, and installed the plants where they were previously placed for them. They finished with cedar mulch and a thorough watering. That Desert Garden requires water 2 times a month in summer and only as needed in



...What's Been Happening!

...continued

during the winter. This garden was designed by Ursula when she was Grounds Committee chairperson, and is now under the supervision of Pat Maskunas and her Grounds Committee. Pat, Ursula, and Karla Tomaka purchased the pots and the plants and implemented plant placement. Our very own Johnny Buck has done another wonderful layout of the lime stone, highlighting the Desert Gardens beautifully.

Please visit both locations and see how wonderful the Desert gardens are. Ursula has been bitten by the Cactus and Succulent bug, primarily because of Fran Idoux's gardens and Ursula now has 5 Desert gardens on her property. Future articles will follow.

Photos by Gail Christian



Grass Head Success!

Here is a photo of my granddaughter, Amber and the grass head she made at the children's booth at the plant sale.

-Sue Judd



MG Website Completes Move

Our old MG GroveSite website is closing at the end of October. You must now go to the new website at www.txmg.org/bell for information about what's going on in the Bell County Master Gardener Program.

-Deb Martin

Garden Tour 2010...



Ursula Nanna's gardens. (Photos by Laura Murphy)

Diane Calderwood's pond.

(Photo by Beth Buhl)



...garden tour!

Top photo is of the Community Garden in Killeen and the center two are from Louann Hight's garden. The bottom photo is Gy and Violet Okeson's rain water harvesting.



For Your Information

With winter coming, you may be interested in checking out winter hardiness for your cactus and succulents at the following site:

www.austincss.com

Two other sites of interest are the MG's Newsletter for McLennan County, ***The Latest Dirt*** at

<http://www.mclennanmastergardeners.org>

And the Travis County MG's Newsletter, ***The Compost Bin*** at:

<http://www.tcmastergardeners.org>



Photos by Beth Buhl

Let's Swap Plants

Thank you to everyone who participated in the October 2010 Plant Swap. We had three tables full of plants, houseplants, seeds, and iris rhizomes. Plants included Four O'Clocks, Coral Vine, Butterfly Weed, Crape Myrtle, Pride of Barbados, Bird of Paradise, Cannas, and many, many more. Thank you again for making it a success!

-Bernie Hurta



Photos by Gail Christian



Herb Group Update

The October Herb Study Group meeting dealt with Sage, both growing conditions and culinary uses. Two of Lucinda Hutson's recipes were tested out: Nancy Blansett made Italian Ingenue Cheese Ball and Frances Idoux made Buttermilk Sage Rolls.

The November 3rd meeting is "Herbal gifts from and for the Garden." Please bring along any ideas for gifts, decorations or recipes involving herbs. Mary Ann Hill will coordinate making marker stones. Refer to Kim's "Notes" email for a list of supplies to bring.

The Herb Christmas Tea is December 8, 2010 (please note date change from December 1) at the home of Frances Idoux, 4603 Lago Vista Dr., Belton, TX. More details to follow.

Nancy Blansett and Kim Pringle did a 30 minute presentation on American Colonial Gardens for the Temple Floral Arts.



Upcoming Events...

MG Christmas Party is Coming Up!

Mark your calendars for the 2010 Master Gardener Christmas Party.

It will be Thursday, December 9, at the Expo center. Registration to begin at 6 pm, dinner at 6:30. Dinner will be catered and is \$12 per person. Chicken Florentine and Pecan Glazed Pork Loin are the entrees.

Also we are asking people to sign up to bring salads and desserts.

Once again, we will have a silent auction, and we are hoping everyone will donate at least one item.

**Checks can be mailed to Sue Judd at
2312 Stratford Dr., Temple, 76502.
Registration deadline is December 1st.**

-Jane Capen, Sue Judd

20th Annual Poinsettia Celebration

Submitted by Mary Ann Everett

The field trip to Ellison's Nursery will be on Saturday, November 20. We will meet at the Extension Office at 8:30 a.m. We will travel to Brenham for the 20th Annual Poinsettia Celebration. We could eat in downtown Brenham at Must Be Heaven. If interested, please let me know by email at pma4514@sbcglobal.net.



Git Your Cowboy Boots on!

Submitted by Diane Calderwood

The 2nd annual Cowboy Christmas Ball is scheduled for Saturday, December 11 at 7:00 pm. Michael Martin Murphey will be performing again this year. Tickets are \$60 and proceeds go to the Bell County Youth Fair Scholarship Fund.

Anyone who is interested in joining a Master Gardener table, please contact Diane Calderwood, dcalder@hot.rr.com, 771-1218.

Photo of Michael Martin Murphey from www.groups.google.com
MMM Webmaster: Susan Davis

Tell Me What's New?

I'd like to do a spread of "Who's in Your Garden" in December. If anyone has any pictures to share of **children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, pets, etc** in your garden, please send them to me at the address on the bottom of this page. Or if anyone has an article they'd like to write pertaining to gardening, or information to pass along, please send it. Thank you.

- Terrie Hahn

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