



SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 WORKDAY 8:00AM  8:45 Herb Study Group  POTLUCK WEDNESDAY	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 8-10:30 AM WORKDAY  Monthly Mtg 11:00AM	10	11	12
<div> <div>Our Speaker Raymond Marr On "Cheapskate Gardening"</div> <div></div> </div>						
13	14	15	16 WORKDAY  9:00AM Greenhouse Com. Mtg.	17	18	19
20	21	22 Vendor Deliveries for Plant Sale	23 9AM Board of Directors  Vendor Deliveries for Plant Sale	24 Vendor Deliveries for Plant Sale	25 Assemble MG preorders (time TBA)	26 8AM-1PM PLANT SALE
27	28	29	30 WORKDAY			<div> <div>SEMINARS 9AM Fall Vegetable Gardening  10AM Wildflowers of Texas</div> <div></div> </div>

## **Fall Break**

President Mel Myers

Well, it is September and suddenly there is crispness in the air. I believe this morning the temperature dipped to sixty-nine. I look forward to the fall break as much as any student looks forward to spring break in March. Fall is an exciting time for gardeners, especially vegetable gardeners. I went to till my vegetable garden two weeks ago and thought by going early, surely I would get first shot at using the tiller. At 7:00 AM, I was the third person to arrive and work in the garden.

Fall is a great time with lots of activity going on around BCMGA. You can't miss the work taking place in the front of the extension building. School has begun and the Junior Master Gardener program is kicking off. We almost have a full class for the new interns expected to begin in January. Our plant sale is coming up and you can learn more about this in other articles in this newsletter as well as the website. Surely there is a place for everyone to be involved. It may be one of those previously mentioned or others like the Killeen Municipal Gardens.

With cooler temperatures come the season for enjoying our gardens and the relief of being able to work outdoors without subjecting our bodies to cruel heat. Enjoy the season.

## **Greenhouse Projects**

Submitted by Karla Tomaka

Potluck Wednesday will be September 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will have two projects going on at the same time. One will be moving and spreading out the topsoil in the new demonstration beds in front of the Agri-Life Extension Office. If you plan to help with this project, please bring wheelbarrows, shovels, and rakes if you have them available. The second project will be to beautify and reorganize the greenhouse and hardening house area in preparation for the plant sale. Start time will be at 8:00 AM.

As always, we will be looking for those delicious main dishes, sides, and desserts. Please let me know at [kstomaka@aol.com](mailto:kstomaka@aol.com) if you can bring any of those or drinks.

There will be a second workday Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, before the monthly meeting. The project will be to finish moving and spreading a second load of topsoil. Start time will be 8:00 AM and we will finish up around 10:30. Hope to see you there!

## **September Speaker**

Submitted by Mary Ann Everett

Our speaker at the September meeting is Raymond Marr, who will share his expertise on cheapskate gardening. He has lots of secrets to share with us and you will want to be in the know on where to get some good buys for next to nothing.

## **Greenhouse Committee Summary for August 2009**

Submitted by Karla Tomaka

The greenhouse committee met Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. The primary focus of our discussion was preparation for the September 26<sup>th</sup> plant sale and seminars. We are working with three vendors for the fall sale: Gabriel Valley Farms for vegetables and herbs, Wright's Nursery for perennials and trees and Chamblee's for roses. We plan to have the vendors deliver the plants from Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> through Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> and to assemble the Master Gardener preorders on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. I will broadcast the delivery schedule once it is finalized. We will need help offloading for each delivery, assembling the preorders and with customer assistance with vegetables, herbs, perennials, trees and roses on sale day. We would like to have 3 – 4 master gardeners working with each customer assistance group. There will be a sign up sheet at the September monthly meeting for those who would like to work at the plant sale.

There are six beds in the demonstration garden that are still unclaimed. Anyone interested in adopting a bed, contact Don Wyatt at [dwyatt2005@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dwyatt2005@sbcglobal.net). The grounds committee would appreciate all master gardeners help in collecting newspaper to be used as a weed barrier in the new demonstration garden. There are two bins in the hardening house set aside for this purpose. Please drop off your newspapers when you are in the area.

Potluck Wednesday will be September 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will have two projects going on at the same time. One will be excavating soil along the parking lot curb area in front of the Extension Office in order to fill the area in with gravel. If you plan to help with this project, please bring wheelbarrows, shovels, and or/picks if you have them available. The second project will be to beautify and reorganize the greenhouse and hardening house area in preparation for the sale. Start time will be at 8:00 am. There will be a second workday Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, before the monthly meeting. The project will be to finish clearing

out all the dirt in order to prepare for the gravel delivery. Start time will be 8:00 am. and we will finish up around 10:30. Hope to see you there!

### **New Class Committee**

Diane Calderwood, Fran Sheppard, Mary Ann Everett

The New Class Committee is happy to announce that Suzanne Boyer will be our Mentor Coordinator for the 2010 Intern class. Suzanne will be looking for volunteers to mentor our next class in the near future. We also want to thank Bernie Hurta for her previous 2 years as the Mentor Coordinator.

We are looking forward to a great 2010 class. Come join in the fun by mentoring a class next year!

### **Thinking Ahead--MG Christmas Party--Help Needed**

Submitted by Jane Capen

The MG Christmas Party for 2009 will be Dec. 10 at the Expo Center. Ilene Miller is in charge and needs about six more people to be on the committee to help with decorations, set up, silent auction, etc. Please contact Ilene if you can help. (mmiller007@hotmail.com, 778-4369)

Now is also a good time to start thinking about items you might donate for this year's silent auction. If you have a nice item or if you can prevail on a business to give something (remind them it is tax deductible) please do. If we all contribute we will have a great event.

### **Fall Plant Swap**

Submitted by Louann Hight

A fall plant swap will be held at the hardening house at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, October 14th, prior to the monthly business meeting. If you have potted perennials, potted houseplants, bulbs, tubers, or seeds you would like to trade with other Master Gardeners, this will be a great time to do so! Items to be traded should be delivered by 9:30 AM to the hardening house on 10/14. If possible, tag each item with its common name. If you are interested in helping with the plant swap, please contact Louann Hight.



Carol Holcombe's husband, Ed, passed away August 16th. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

### **Herb Study Group Notes**

Submitted by Kim Pringle

At our August meeting we briefly discussed the JMG Enhancement training - we are hopeful the teachers will use the coupons by calling us for herbs or perhaps the American Colonial Garden Powerpoint presentation.

We each shared information at the meeting. Joyce brought a book "Flowers of the Holy Land", Nancy a recipe for deer repellent, Frances brought an article on mints, Carol brought a beautiful book "Flowers and Herbs of Early America" by Colonial Williamsburg and Kim brought a concrete water basin with leaf impression and a murder mystery by Ann Ripley "Death in the Orchid Garden" (she also wrote "Death at the Spring Plant Sale").

Suzanne Boyer, Linda Young and Gail are doing a presentation from Killeen Lions Club on September 10.

The September meeting will be hosted by Joyce Richardson at her new home in Salado. We will be learning to "Build a raised bed using HERBS". Snacks and drinks for our enjoyment will follow.

Beverly Wickersham will be facilitating the October meeting. Stay cool.



### **Vegetable Trivia**

Submitted by Jane Capen

Having researched fruit trivia last month, it seemed wrong to ignore vegetables. So, in the spirit of fairness here are some odd and interesting facts about veggies.

A survey by the National Gardening Association lists the following as the top ten vegetables grown in home gardens:

- Tomatoes
- Cucumbers
- Sweet Peppers
- Beans
- Carrots
- Summer Squash
- Onions
- Hot Peppers
- Lettuce
- Peas

While not on the list of most popular home grown, the most popular vegetable in the US is the potato.

Beans are one of the earliest known staples of the human diet. Archeologists have found evidence of beans used for food that goes back about 7000 years in Mexico and Central America.

Watermelon, a member of the cucurbitaceae family, is botanically a vegetable. It is the state vegetable of Oklahoma.

Peanuts are part of the pea family, and not true nuts. Peanut oil is used in the making of nitroglycerin.

Dark green vegetables usually contain more vitamins than lighter green vegetables.

Lachanophobia is the fear of vegetables.

Corn is a member of the grass family, which also includes wheat, oats, barley, and rice.

Commercial bell peppers were first produced in the southern US in 1925.

Carrots originated in the area of Afghanistan.

According to the Guinness Book of Records the longest carrot ever recorded was 19 feet and 1.96 inches, in 2007. The heaviest was 18.985 pounds in 1998.

There is a World Carrot Museum in the UK, however, it is a virtual museum, curated by John Stolarczyk, containing everything and more you ever wanted to know about carrots. <http://www.carrotmuseum.co.uk/>

Onions, with their layers of circles were a symbol of eternity to the Egyptians who worshipped them and buried them with the Pharaohs. Onions have also been used as weather predictors, as in this old rhyme:  
Onion skins very thin  
Mild winter coming in;  
Onion skins thick and tough  
Coming winter cold and rough.

### **Sweet Peas for Sweet Pea** Submitted by Jann Dworsky

Our grand-neighbors have three daughters and a son. After a child is a few months old the father picks out a special nick-name. Buddy, Puddin-Pop, and LadyBug are some of the names he has chosen for his children.

The first daughter received the name Sweet Pea and we all enjoyed calling her by this nickname. After three or four years we started wondering what the flower, sweet pea, looked like and none of us knew. We had never seen them growing.

It did not take much looking to find sweet peas seeds for sale at a local garden center. The package said plant the sweet peas, or lathyrus, in the fall, in well worked soil, when it is still warm. After about 20 days a few pitiful little seeds sprouted and grew one whole inch! More watering did not help them to grow all winter long. They stayed green and short. Oh boy! this was not working out as planned. It is hard to remember to water a plant only one inch tall all winter.

About the end of January they suddenly started to grow! By the beginning of March they had climbed the wire cage around them and were 4 feet tall. Buds started to form everywhere. In a few weeks there were soft, beautiful clumps of sweet pea blooms in lavender, lilac, maroon, white, red, rose, pink, blue and violet!! The smell was clean, sweet, and unforgettable.



The next time our grand- neighbor Sweet Pea came over, I was able to show her the lovely flower that was her namesake. She wore some in her hair.

This was my first experience with sweet peas, but in sharing small bouquets to others I have heard all the stories of others who have raised these delightful old fashioned plants. You can buy them at most garden centers or from online seed catalogs. Plant these in your garden for a delightfully "sweet" experience!

## BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

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