



## JULY 2008 ACTIVITIES

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 WORKDAY  BURGER WED	3 WORKDAY	4  4 <sup>TH</sup> OF JULY	5
6	7	8	9 WORKDAY 8:25AM Herb Study Group* 10:30AM Monthly Meeting**	10 WORKDAY	11	12
13	14	15	16 WORKDAY 11:00AM Greenhouse Committee Meeting	17 WORKDAY	18	19
20	21	22 8:00AM JMG Training for Teachers	23 WORKDAY 8:00AM JMG Training for Teachers	24 WORKDAY 8:00AM JMG Training for Teachers	25 8:00AM JMG Training for Teachers	26
27	28	29	30 WORKDAY	31 WORKDAY		

\*Herb Study Group

- China Bayles' Book of Days
- Nightshade by Susan Albert Wittig
- Herb: Belladonna, Nightshade family (Solanaceae)

\*\*Monthly BCMG Meeting

- Speaker: Judge Barbara Weaver
- Subject: Killeen Municipal Court Community Service Garden
- Social Session starts at 10:30 AM

### **President's Corner**

Our new President, David Fitch, is out of town this issue and we look forward to his column next month.

### **Garden of Honor**

Submitted by Frances Idoux

Two of our own Bell County Master Gardeners, Frances Idoux and Rowena Fengel, worked with Bexar County Master Gardener Sandy Justice to establish an adaptive **Garden of Honor** at the **Center for the Intrepid**, a rehab facility for wounded soldiers, at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. Rowena designed the preliminary plan and Frances worked with Sandy to get permission for the garden from the hospital administration. Terry Lewis, a San Antonio landscape architect, also worked with the group. Initial approval for the project has been received and the completed plan will now be sent to the Secretary of the Army for final approval.

The garden will include raised beds that allow individuals in wheelchairs to plant vegetables and flowers. The plan also includes a rainwater collection system and a small pavilion with storage for tools.

### **4-H Chefs Camp**

Submitted by Kim Pringle

Rowena Fengel, member of the Herb Study Group, was invited to participate in a **4-H Chefs Camp** at Rogers High School on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. There were approximately 32 participants ranging in age from elementary school to adults. Activities included herb identification and tasting, herb butter and herb breadsticks. Stevia and mint were found interesting.

### **Who was Luther Burbank?**

Submitted by Jane Capen

Pop quiz time: Who was Luther Burbank?

- (a) A film maker in the 1930's and 1940's
- (b) The villain in "Superman"
- (c) Developer of the Burbank potato

If you answered (c) you are right. He developed the Burbank potato and over 800 other strains or varieties of plants. (The other two answers came from actual people who shall remain nameless.)

Luther Burbank was born in Lancaster, Massachusetts in March of 1849, number 13 of 15 children. Even as a child he liked plants, and enjoyed working in his mother's garden. His father died when Luther was 21, leaving him a slight inheritance, which he used to buy a small farm on which he could conduct his plant experiments.

One of his first and possibly most important plant development was the blight resistant Burbank potato, which he developed in the 1870's, in an effort to help provide a crop during the Irish potato famine. A later sport of this potato became the Russet potato, the most popular potato in the United States. McDonalds uses over 2 billion pounds a year of them for french fries.

Selling the rights to his potato in 1875 for \$150, Burbank used the money to travel to California and buy a small farm in Santa Rosa, where he continued his plant experiments. Interested in all kinds of plants, Burbank developed new strains of fruits, vegetables, grasses, and flowers. Some of his best known contributions include the Shasta Daisy, the Santa Rosa Plum, and the spineless cactus.

Burbank died in 1926, at the age of 77. At the time of his work there were no plant patents. Plant patent legislation was passed in 1930, and over thirty patents

were awarded to Burbank posthumously.

Luther Burbank's home and garden is a National Historic Landmark located in Santa Rosa, CA. A lovely place, it contains a variety of gardens, including a medicinal garden, an edible landscape demonstration area, as well as many of his introductions in other garden beds. Burbank is buried there near his greenhouse. If you are traveling in the area, it is worth a visit.

Finally, a last bit of trivia--Burbank California is not named for Luther Burbank. It is named for Dave Burbank, a Los Angeles dentist and entrepreneur of the mid 1800's.

### **Herb Study Group**

Submitted by Kim Pringle

The next meeting is July 9, 2008 at 8:25 AM. Terrie and I switched months so the program is China Bayles' Book of Days and Nightshade by Susan Albert Wittig (China Bayles mystery - you can read the first chapter online at [www.abouthyme.com](http://www.abouthyme.com)) and the herb is Belladonna, Nightshade family (Solanaceae).

Also at our July meeting, we will finalize plans for Bell County JMG Teacher Training on July 25. I attended the JMG Teacher training meeting today and there are 23 teachers signed up for the training. We have from 10:45 to 12:00 to do "Fun with Herbs" and Betty Nejtek will do powerpoint "Culinary Herbs" from 12:30 to 1:00. Projects suggested for "Fun with Herbs" include herb identification/tasting, herb bookmarks, caterpillar cafe, herb butter, and Colonial Herb Gardens.

If you cannot attend the July Herb Study meeting and want to participate in the JMG training, please let me know.

### **BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**

Are sponsored by the

**TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION of**

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY**

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