



The Blooming Bell

**August 2010
BCMGA Newsletter**

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Work Day 8 am <u>NO</u> Herb Study Group Meeting	5	6	7
8	9	10 Fall Gardening In Central Texas Seminar 7-9 pm	11 Work Day 8 am Work on veggie Beds Monthly MG Meeting David Fitch speaks on Compost Tea 11 am	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Work Day 8 am Add soil to veggie beds Greenhouse Committee Meeting 9 am Grounds Committee Meeting 10 am	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Work Day (tentatively set) Board of Directors Meeting 9 am	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Important upcoming dates:

Garden Tour - September 18th

Plant Sale and seminars: September 23—25

The President's Corner

Time in Transition

- Mel Meyers

Yes, we are in the middle of the “dog days of summer.” Hopefully, this will mean we can look for changes in the weather in another twenty days. (but don't hold your breath) Spring has sprung, and fall is just ahead. I remember a few weeks ago that it was so wet and cool I couldn't till my garden!!!

So what do we do in August? Plan for the autumn season. I remember when I was an intern and kept asking Dr. Bill Welch why my roses put on such a show in November. His answer was that the roses react to trimming and fertilizing in August and September. So this is the time to prepare our plants for the really big show.

BCMGA has a full schedule of plans for this autumn. Starting the middle of September (on September 18) we will have our home garden tour. This will be followed (on September 25) with the plant sale and seminars. The seminars will begin on Thursday night (September 23), continue on Friday and conclude on Saturday morning. We need everyone to sign up to help during this sale. We will have trucks and trailers to be unloaded and plants to be organized for the sale.

On August 10, David Fitch and I will have a seminar (open to the public) on “Fall Gardening in Central Texas.” It will last from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. in the classroom of the extension office. There is no charge for this seminar and Master Gardeners are invited. Please call Pat in the extension office if you plan to attend. The evening will be about vegetables but is applicable for all gardening.

My lesson from the community garden is that there really is a TIME FOR ALL SEASONS. Most of the vegetable plants have been removed and soon I will begin preparing the garden for new plants. I am going to try to use the existing “cherry tomato” plants to see if they will produce. Other than the small tomatoes you can count on the okra and pole beans to continue to produce. I end this article with a quote from Dr. Jerry Parsons of Texas A & M. ***“Now is the time for all good gardeners to arise, take up your hoe and strike a blow for fall vegetable gardening.”***



Winter's Casualties

Submitted by Annette Ensing

Last spring I collected data from you on plants that were lost, damaged or late due to the cold winter. I received 15 responses from all over Bell county except the far north, covering 30 different plants. Where there was more than one response per plant type, there didn't seem to be any variation due to location or age of plant. They ranged from less than a year to over 15 years. Since I started getting emails with "they are coming back," I delayed in getting this report out to you. I will have the complete list added to the new web site later, but here are the most frequent plants lost or coming back late, in order of the number of responses I received, i.e. we had 10 on bulbine, 8 on esperanza:

Bulbine- all died

Esperanza – died or came back late

Duranta - died or came back late

Plumbago – died or came back late

Oleander – died, damaged, came back from ground, to no damage at all

Turk's cap – died or came back late

Anacua – died

Barbados cherry - died or came back late

Trailing lantana – died or damaged

Pride of Barbados – came back late



I think this will help as we purchase new plants or protect our plants during the winter. I also think we need to caution buyers at the plant sales that these plants may need added care..

Upcoming Events...

...in need of volunteers

Fun Hours with Fall Garden Tour

Submitted by Beth Buhl

The Fall 2010 Garden Tour is coming up fast! It will be on September 18 from 9 am to 4 pm. This year's tour combines neighborhood and country gardens, as well as the demonstration gardens at the Extension Office and at the Killeen Municipal Court.



Water Lily in Diane Calderwood's pond.

We will need volunteers to help get these gardens ready for the tour, as well as helpers at each garden on the day of the tour. The gardens are those of Louann Hight, Diane Calderwood, Mary Ann Everret, and Gy Okeson, and Ursula Nanna.

Please contact me by email at bill4beth@embarqmail.com or by phone at 254-986-2658. This is a great way to accumulate your service hours in addition to the fun of working with other Master Gardeners. All those who volunteer on the day of the tour are invited to tour all of the gardens and have lunch together on Monday, Sept 20.

Fall Plant Sale

Submitted by David Fitch, Chairman

Plans are under way for the fall plant sale scheduled for Saturday, September 25th. Actually there are plans to expand the sale this year into a weekend of seminars to accompany the sale. I am scheduling classes Thursday evening, Friday afternoon and evening as well as the traditional class schedule Saturday morning. The classes will pertain to planting roses in the fall, planting perennials in the fall, herb selection and culinary uses, fall vegetable gardening and soil amending, composting and rain-water harvesting. We are also going to offer a children's program on Saturday to introduce the little folks to the world of plants.

As for plants, we will be offering a very large selection of roses, trees, perennials, vegetables and herbs. We will need a fairly large number of volunteers for the sale. Customers historically have indicated to us that Master Gardeners being present at the sale adds significantly to the value of the sale. This year we will have a campaign to get more members involved in assisting customers with their questions about the plants.

We've not settled on a name for the event this year. The Fall Plant Sale does not do justice to the expanded educational features. Given that we are expanding the educational aspects this year we want to better position the total package in our marketing. We are open to and welcome member suggestions. As a suggestion, each of you can submit your thoughts to me as to how we should complete the following theme title, "Welcome to the Bell County Master Gardeners Fall Plant _____." Have some fun and give it your best shot, but hurry. We need to get the promotional materials developed very soon. The best selection will get a free tree at the time of the sale.

See you at the sale!

Another little plea for help

Submitted by Mary Ann Everett

If you are interested in being a superintendent for the Bell County Youth Fair, which occurs each February, Linda Fuchs is looking for one who will be over Creative Arts, which included decorated wreaths, handmade wreaths, holiday wreaths, decorated baskets/boxes, handmade baskets/boxes, painted/decorated/stenciled garments, personal accessories, recycled crafts, jewelry, macramé jewelry, scrapbooking. If anyone is interested, please contact anyone at the Texas AgriLife Office.

Announcements...

Annual MG Dues

Submitted by Jan Anderson

It is time to pay your annual dues. ***The deadline has been extended to August 31!*** The amount is \$25, payable to BCMGA. You can give your check or cash to Jan Anderson at the next monthly meeting or mail to her at:

3114 River Place Drive
Belton, Texas 76513

Remember that you do not have to be certified in order to stay a member of BCMGA. I hope you decide to stay a member and come to our monthly meetings and stay involved in our activities.

PLEASE NOTE: Dues for Junior Master Gardener teachers are covered by the JMG Program. Also, 2010 class members do not pay dues this year as their dues were included in the class fee.



Herb Group Taking Break in August

The Herb Group meeting has been cancelled for August. The next meeting will be September 1st at 9:00 a.m., social time is 8:45 a.m. The topic in September will be Lemon and Lime herbs. Please bring along any sprigs of these herbs that you have with information as to how they grow and how you use them. Lemon and lime herb waters will be sampled. If anyone wishes to bring along any samples of dishes or other projects using these herbs or recipes of dishes made with these herbs, please do. Any questions about this meeting, please contact Terrie Hahn at moom-pie45@hotmail.com.

Future meetings with dates to come will include making bricks for the garden and herbal tinctures. Anyone wishing to facilitate a meeting during 2010-2011, please contact Kim Pringle with your idea at kimberpringle@earthlink.net.

Kim wants everyone to be aware of the herbs in the demo beds and near the greenhouse and to feel free to cut herbs to take home anytime.

Texas Gardener Magazine Renewals

Submitted by Jan Anderson, Treasurer

When it comes time to renew your subscription, if it is processed through BCMGA, the organization actually makes a few dollars on each renewal. Make your check payable to BCMGA and mail it along with your renewal remittance slip to:

Jan Anderson

3114 River Place Drive

Belton, TX 76513

I will deposit your check into the operating account, then write a check to the Texas Gardener Magazine for about \$5 less than your check. Please note that the subscription rate is \$24.95 for one year, \$42.95 for two years and \$53.95 for three years, so do not use any old forms with different figures, as these are the current rates.

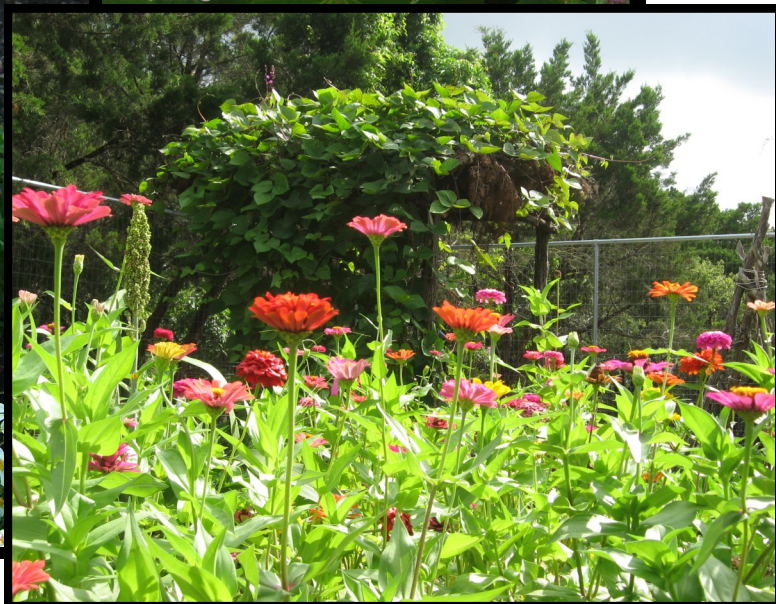
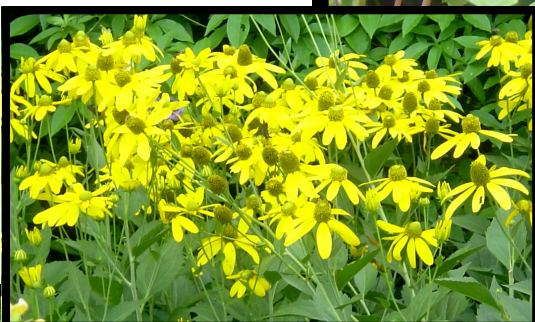


*Silver Herb Garden
in the Demonstra-
tion Beds*

What's blooming in your garden?

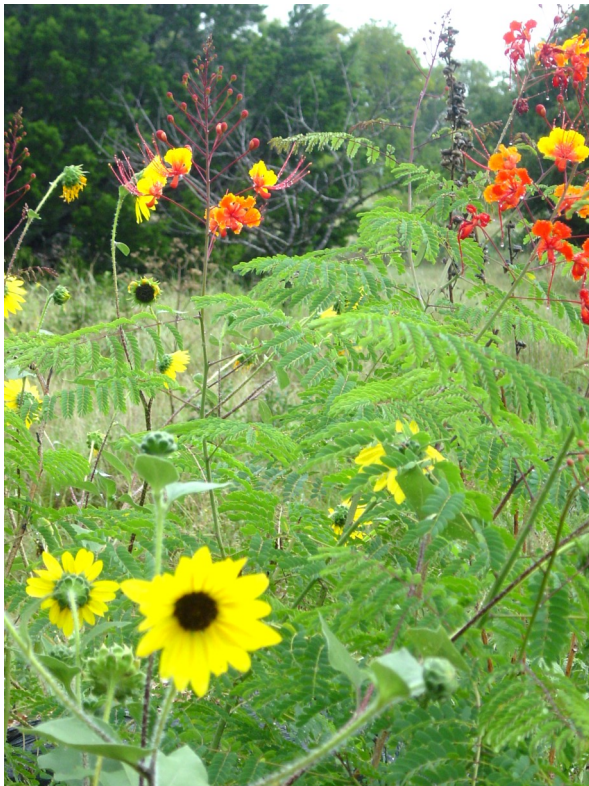
MG's flowers blooming in the August heat are (from right, clockwise) Bernie Hurta's Blue Mist, Zinnias and Lindheimer Morning Glory; Diane Calderwood's Moy Grande Perennial Hibiscus; Bat Face Cuphea; Jann Dworsky's Zinnias with Hyacinth Bean in background; Bernie's Blackfoot Daisies and Laura Bush Petunias; Terrie Hahn's Rudbekia's; Jann's Canna.

Keep on sending your pictures of ***What's Blooming in Your Garden*** to Terrie Hahn for future editions.



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Wild sunflowers and Pride of Barbados

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