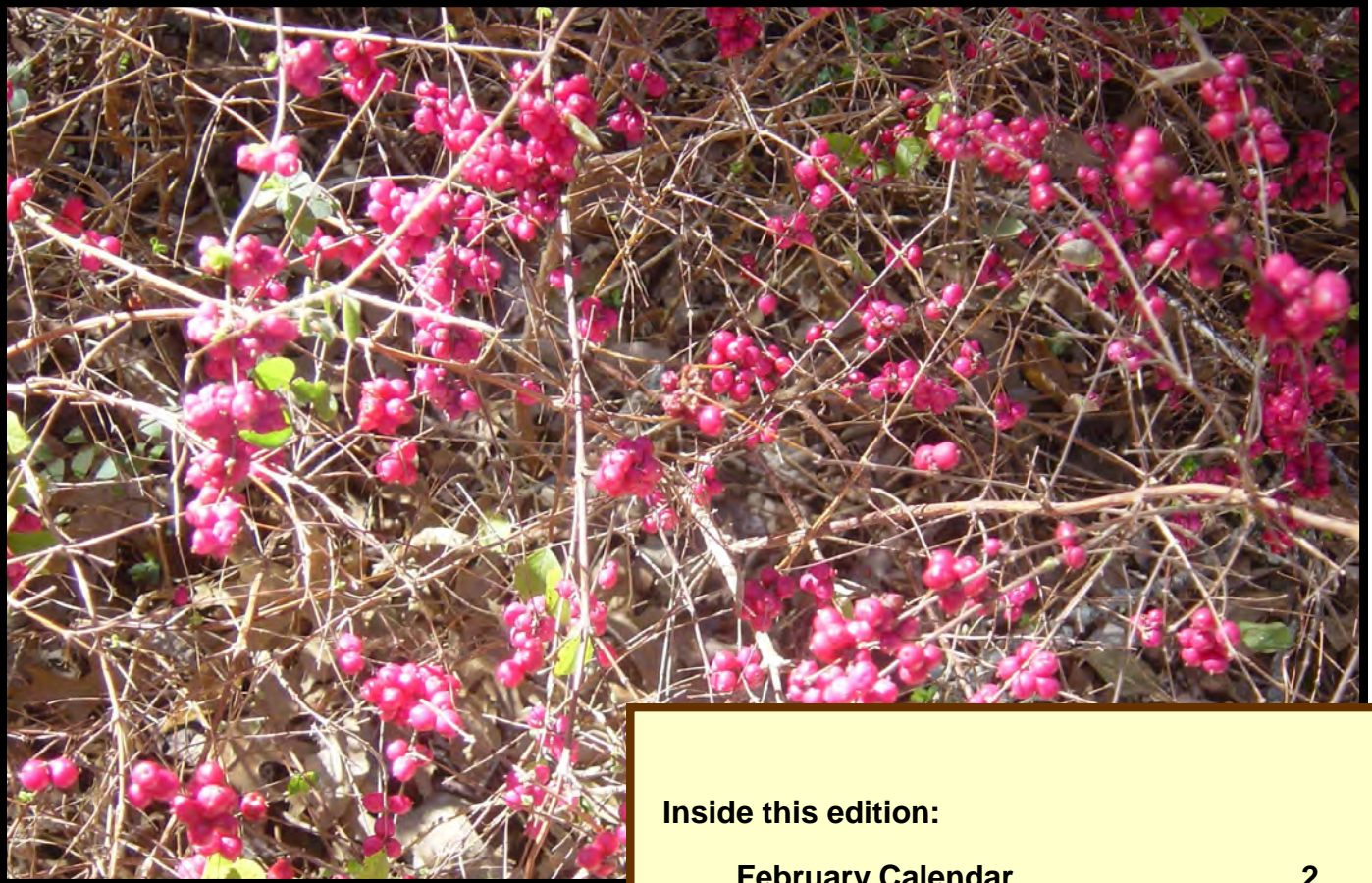


The Blooming Bell

February 2013



**Bell County
Master Gardener
Association**



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February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Bell County Youth Fair, Feb 3rd-9th	4	5	6 Work Day 9 am Pasta/Spaghetti Wednesday 11 am	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Work Day 9 am General Meeting: African Violets 11 am	14 	15	16
17	18	19	20 Work Day 9 am	21	22 Home and Garden Show	23 Home and Gar- den Show
24 Home and Garden Show	25	26  Dedication of MG Building 11:30 am	27 Work Day 9 am Board of Directors Meeting 9 am	28		

Upcoming Dates: Spring Plant Sale, March 23
Plant Swap, April 10

The President's Corner

If you have visited the Extension office in the last week or two, you know that the Master Gardener building is well underway. With that in mind, the dedication of our new building is to take place on February 26th, at 11:30am. Ilene Miller has graciously agreed to chair the planning committee for the dedication. Please contact Ilene to assist with this event.

The building and grounds committee is now accepting plans for the landscaping inside the fence and around the new building. Brenda and Sophie look forward to your ideas and suggestions. Please participate with suggestions or a simple drawing. They will provide you with guidelines and a simple plot plan to assist with your drawing.

Upcoming dates to add to your calendar include the Bell County Youth Fair (Feb. 3-9), the Home and Garden Show(Feb. 22-24), a series of spring seminars to be presented at Fort Hood, the Spring Plant Sale on March 23rd, and a Spring Garden Tour. These events along with other presentations and mentoring the new class provide us with a variety of opportunities for volunteer hours this spring.

Just as the January monthly meeting prepared us to care for our trees, the February monthly meeting will provide us with information caring for a favorite indoor plant. African violets will be the topic of the program in February. Come with your questions and learn the secrets of raising beautiful violets.

It is now time to make your nominations for new officers. The offices of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Outreach and Youth Programs are to be filled. New terms of office begin June 1st. Please send your nominations to Louann Hight. Bylaws prohibit current officers from serving on the board for longer than two consecutive years. We have many capable members; please nominate whom you wish to see as an officer.

See you at the February meeting. Plan now to attend the dedication of your new Master Gardener Building.....Laura



Photo from www.bumblebeeblog.com

New Building On the Way

- Gail Christian



Top photos by Gail Christian, bottom photo by Terrie Hahn



Dedication of the New Building

Tuesday, February 26, at 11:30 a.m.

Bell County Master Gardeners would like to invite our membership to a celebration. We will be having a Dedication to the New Building on February 26, Tuesday at 11:30.

Please put this date on your calendar as the board has planned a festive occasion for our enjoyment.

*At the conclusion of the dedication,
lunch will be served in the meeting room.*

*In order to plan effectively for the luncheon we are asking you to
RSVP if you will be able to attend.*

**Please RSVP to janndworsky@hotmail.com or 254-760-0581
by February 19, one week before the Dedication
if you will be able to come.**

We are looking forward to a great day!

Thank you,

Jann Dworsky, Dedication Committee

2013 Master Gardener Class

Jane Strong is a retired elementary school teacher with Belton. She has enjoyed gardening

all her life and has been wanting to take this class, and can now do so since she retired.



Anabel

Reeser is a retired teacher from Baylor.

She is interested in learning about soil improvement and beekeeping.



Soldier 4 the Lord is employed by the US Army as Chaplain Asst. He owns a cafe and hopes to open a soup kitchen. He would like to learn about growing food that he can harvest to supplement his soup kitchen for the poor and needy.



New Class photos by Carol Runyan

Class is in Session

- Mary Lew Quesinberry

Twenty-one interns of the Bell County Master Gardener class of 2013 began their education with a course in basic botany presented by State Master Gardener Coordinator, Jayla Fry. Jayla also explained the mechanics of the state and county master gardener programs and how the dedication of master gardener volunteers make the program successful.

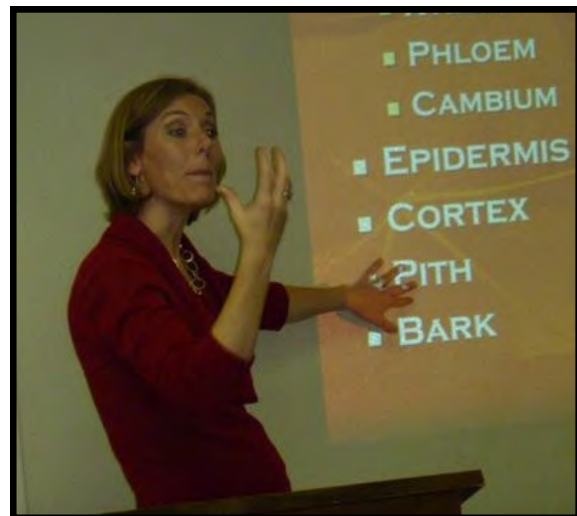


Photo by Mary Lew Quesinberry

Edible Landscape

- Rick E. Schroeder

This is sixth in a series. In earlier articles we introduced the concept of an edible landscape, discussed specific edible plants, and introduced you to some books and newsletters. As this is the time to begin planning for the spring garden I am going to provide a list of plants we have covered so far and others you may want to consider as you order seeds. Plants that are edible and make a pleasing garden are:

Amaranth	Beets	Mustard greens	Rosemary
Artichokes	Chard	Nasturtiums	Sage
Arugula	Eggplant	Oregano	Sorrel
Bachelor Buttons	Fennel	Parsley	Thyme (ground cover)
Banana	Kale	Passion Flower	That should be enough for this year.
Basil	Lettuce (Red)	Peppers of various types	Remember: If you can't eat it, don't plant it.
Beans of various types	Mints (ground cover)	Roses	

January General Meeting Photos

- Randy Brown



January's General meeting highlighted Arborist, Seth Thompson, pictured right, who presented a program on caring for trees.

Photos by Randy Brown



Q & A

Editor's note: Let's learn from one another. Submit your questions and answers to me at moom-pie45@hotmail.com or call me at 512-863-9837.

Last month's question from:

-Terrie Hahn

I saw this at the Dallas Arboretum. I think it's called a Luxor Mum. The bloom was about 4 or 5 inches across. The plant was about 2-3 feet tall. Has anyone grown this here? Any luck?



And the answer is:

*I didn't hear back from any Master Gardeners, so I went to the source and emailed the Dallas Arboretum. **Jennifer M. Wang, Horticulture Manager** promptly wrote back with the following:*

I checked in with our Greenhouse Manager who does all of our mum propagating and growing. The following is what she emailed me:

"Actually, that picture is of the mum 'Houston'. 'Luxor' is a pink variety. They are both classified as irregular incurve mums.

This particular mum has been extensively disbudded to reach the large flower form it is in. It is important to know that it will not reach this size naturally.

It is not available from seed, only cuttings. The cuttings can be purchased from www.kingsmums.com.

Depending on the final height wanted, it can be started as early as March. I usually take cuttings in May so there isn't as much training & pinching involved.

They are hardy, but I find it easier to start

over with new cuttings every year."

Ms. Wang clarified by writing:

These mums will grow where you live just fine, however, as she noted above, the flowers will not ever naturally grow that large without a lot of tending. In order to get flowers that large, you have to disbud the plant as it begins putting out flower buds. By disbudding, you allow the plant to put all of its energy into one large flower instead of 20 or 30 smaller flowers. In other words, you pinch ALL flower buds. Typically if you grow these in your yard, then you would prune them to the ground in winter and then again around the 4th of July to keep them from being leggy and to allow them more growing points to produce a flower in the fall. Potted mums that you buy in the fall are in a meatball shape because they are pruned to promote branching and encourage more flowers. The latest mums can be pruned is mid August or you run the risk of pinching off primordial blooms (buds that are forming but have not taken the shape of a flower yet). You can google mum disbudding to find more info. Let me know if you have any other questions.

Good luck!

Thanks so much to the Dallas Arboretum and Ms. Wang!

This Month's Question:

- Terrie Hahn

Last week, I saw this plant in a pot in one of our succulent beds at the Extension Center. The label was off. I was wondering what it is. Also, I was surprised to see that growth. Any explanations? Is that normal?



Announcements

February Monthly Meeting

- **Bernie Hurta**

The program for the **February 13th** monthly meeting will be "African Violets". It will be conducted by Dorothy Keele with the African Violet Society.

April Plant/Seed Swap

- **Bernie Hurta**

We will have a plant/seed swap before the **April 10th** monthly meeting. So start thinking about what plants you want to divide and pot for the swap. Also, share some of your seeds you harvested last summer and fall.

Grounds Committee Upcoming Dates

- **Brenda Albro**

Burger Wednesday is **February 6th**. The food of the day is Pasta/Spaghetti.

We will have a work day every Wednesday beginning at 9:00 a.m. weather permitting. There is much to be done around the building.

We are seeking your input on the landscaping around the new

building. If you need a drawing of the area or if you want to send us your thoughts, please contact Brenda at Brenda.albro@sbcglobal.net.

Thanks!

Brenda and Sophia

Tip of the Week Articles Needed

- **Tammy Ray for Lyle Zoeller**

The "Tip of the Week" weekly news column provided to area newspapers is a great educational tool and Master Gardener marketing piece. We need your help. Candace Mullen leads this mission, edits and submits the article after my review. You all have many talents and passion for various aspects of the Master Gardeners program area. I need each of you to consider writing some factual news article and submit to Candace at Candace.mullen@gmail.com. These articles need to be timely, educational and factual for our wide variety of audiences across Bell and surrounding counties. Lengthy topics can be broken down into a series of articles.

Thank you for your assistance and I look forward to seeing your articles!



Announcements

Education Opportunities

- Gary Slanga

To All Master Gardeners,

The following web address for the Dallas Agrilife Extension lists a series of classes being offered this year in Dallas. Anyone wishing to attend should contact the Dallas office as indicated at the bottom of the web page. Only a few of these classes as noted in their titles will lead to a State Specialist rating for Master Gardeners but all are informative classes and of course they all are educational hours for certification.

<http://dallas.tamu.edu/courses/>

Propagation Class Offered

- Gary Slanga

The Tarrant Co Agrilife office and Tarrant Co. Master Gardeners will be offering a Specialist Course in plant propagation on the **26th and 27th of April, 2013**. Training begins at 12:30 pm on the 26th and runs through 3:30 pm on the 27th. Registration fee is \$195.00. Registration deadline is 1 April.

The agenda, registration form and local information is found at the web site below.

Registration forms must be signed by Lyle Zoeller our Agrilife Extension Agent.

<http://txmg.org/training10/specialist/plant-propagation-tarrant-county/>

SkyWarn Training

This has been approved for Master Gardener Education hours.

The National Weather Service Office in Ft Worth presents its SKYWARN severe weather program from 9

a.m. To 4:30 p.m., **February 9th** at the Belton ISD Administration Building.

Basic talks start at 9 a.m. Advanced sessions are conducted in the afternoon 1:00-4:30 p.m..

The program is free and open to the public. No advanced registration is necessary.

For more information go to: www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/skywarnsch.php?file=skywarnsort05

Herbal Forum Coming Up

- Kim Pringle

The Herbal Forum this year unfortunately coincides with our Plant Sale, but for those of you not working the plant sale and if you're interested in herbs, the Herbal Forum may be just the thing for you! "The Fruitful Herbal Harvest" celebrating Elderberry, Herb of the Year 2013 is at Festival Hill in Round Top on **March 22 and 23**. The website is festivalhill.org. Click on Events. Several MG's usually attend this conference - many of us get rooms together. Contact me if you have any questions or are interested.



Oreganos and Rosemary

Photo by Terrie Hahn

What's Happening in Your Yard?



Silver Bed

The Silver Garden at the Extension Center. Herbs are beautiful no matter what time of year.

Honey Bees Move Into Gingerbread House

- Terrie Hahn

When it got so unseasonably warm in January, I saw one lone bee meandering around looking for something blooming. I put my gingerbread house out and wet it down. The bee sat on it for a while and flew away. About 15 minutes later, several dozen were covering the house and stayed until sundown. Over the next two days, they came back and feasted on the frosting and candy on different parts of the house. The bees were lucky. In past years, the critters get to it the same day I put it out.



Officers and Directors 2011- 2012

President	Laura Murphy
First Vice President	Bernie Hurta
Second Vice President	Jerry Lewis
Recording Secretary	Myra Crenshaw
Corresponding Secretary	Peg Fleet
Treasurer	Don Wyatt

Directors

Garden Tour	Margaret Leigh
JMG	Pearl Fellingham
New Class	Fran Sheppard
Outreach	Don Gold
Grounds & Maintenance	Sophia Gomez
Greenhouse	Mel Myers
AgriLife Agent	Lyle Zoeller Randall Rakowitz

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