

## Inside this edition:

January Calendar, President's Corner

**New Building on the Way** 

**Awards Presented/Christmas Party** 

**New Class Members** 

Herb Group's Annual Christmas Tea, Q&A

**Announcements, Recipes** 

What's Happening in Your Yard?



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed   | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|
|     |     | 1   | 2 Grounds Committee Meeting 9 am Chili Wednesday 11 am                  | 3   | 4   | 5   |
| 6   | 7   | 8   | 9 General Meeting: Tree Care Through the Seasons 11 am New Class Begins | 10  | 11  | 12  |
| 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  |
| 20  | 21  | 22  | 23<br>Board of Directors<br>Meeting 9 am                                | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |

## The President's Corner

Happy New Year Master Gardeners! We have had a busy year with many events and a busier year on the horizon. I hope you were able to attend the Christmas party. Congratulations to all of the award winners and a thank you to all who supported the silent auction. If you have not visited the extension office in the last few weeks, you might want to drive by the sight of our new building. The concrete foundation has been poured and we are on our way.

The month of January is scheduled to bring more action at the building site. As long as the weather holds we should not see any delays in the completion of the building. However, I am sure we all feel we could endure a few days of delay due to a much needed rain.

With a dry winter and probably a dry spring, native plants and drought resistant plants are on most of our minds. I have received a few more seed catalogues and have been scanning the pages for plant varieties that use less water. As I plan my spring vegetable garden, I am beginning to see a few varieties developed for dryer climates; hopefully we will see more varieties in the future. In addition to spring garden plans, this is the month to do a little garden clean up, plant bulbs, and plant a few vegetable seeds or trans-

plants. This is also usually our coldest month, so covering those new transplants should also be on our list of gardening duties. Tree planting is also a January activity. With that in mind, don't miss the January 9<sup>th</sup> general meeting. Arborist, Seth Thompson, will present a program on caring for trees.

Also, January 9<sup>th,</sup> is the first class for our Master Gardener Interns. We have a class of 18 new members; I know you will want to welcome them. Along with the new class, we also have a series of

propagation classes beginning. There is still space in some of those classes if you wish to attend.

We are in need of gardening articles for the local paper. If there is any gardening topic that you would like to address, please write an article. Candace Mulllen will edit your article and prepare it for publication if you feel you do not have writing talents.

On the horizon is the youth fair, home and garden show and activities associated with the new building. Watch your email for information relating to these and other BCMGA events.

Meanwhile, curl up with a good gardening magazine on the cold days, enjoy the sunny days and look forward to Spring.....Laura



# New Building On the Way



## 2012 Bell County Master Gardener

## **Awards Presented**

- Gary Slanga

The following awards were presented at the Annual BCMGA Holiday Party on November 29th.

## **Golden Trowel 2012**

Bob
Gordon for
the numerous hours he
spent visiting
individuals
throughout
the community as they
ask for help
with their
sick trees.
For contin-



ued support of the Killeen Municipal Court Gardens and for work in the speakers bureau expounding the virtues of vegetable gardening.

Mel Myers for his service as past president of the Master Gardeners, for vegetable presentations done for the speakers bureau and for work in gardens in the Temple area. Most of all for his patient and continued efforts working with the often contentious and divergent members of the



committee tasked with planning the construct our new building and training facility.

Photos by Randy Brown and Gail Christian

## Green Thumb 2012

Carla Harmon for her superb work as Chairperson of the



plant sale committee. Her dedication to this project has produced record sales for our organization. Also for her active participation in the work of the grounds committee, the Home and Garden Show and for the hours spent diagnosing tree problems as a member of the Woodlands, Grasslands group.

**Carol Runyan** for her volunteer service as one of the intern class mentors and as a mentor for the propaga-

tion class.
Also for
volunteering for several of the
committees within
the organization and
for her help
with herb
presenta-



tions and with intern class graduation events.

Brenda Albro for her hard work as co-chair of the grounds committee helping to ensure that our grounds were in tip-top shape for the plant sales. And for her participation as a member of the Board of Directors.



helping with plant sales and numerous other Master Gardener events.

Continued on next page

## Awards Presented...continued

## Green Thumb 2012

**Sophia Gomez** for her dedication as co-chair of the grounds committee and her hard work keeping the garden areas looking their best. For her work with the Board of Directors and involvement with the plant sales and help with the Home and Garden Show.



Jerry Lewis for his efforts in organizing and conduct-

ing the new intern classes over the last years. For his work with the Killeen Municipal Court Gardens and for his participation in the speakers' bureau doing many presentations to help educate the Bell Co. community.



Steven Overby for the many hours doing the heavy



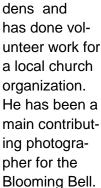
work and mechanical tasks that need to be accomplished on the Killeen Municipal Court Gardens. Also for the many hours volunteered sharing his composting knowledge through public presentations

and participation in the Salado Spring Celebrations.

### New Master Gardener Award

Randy Brown who had completed many hours of vol-

unteer service even before he completed his MG training. He has contributed many hours to the Killeen Municipal Court Garden and the service of the service







## 500 + Service Hours Award

Extension Agent Lyle Zoeller presents Ursula Nanna, Don Wyatt and (not pictured) Mary Ann Everett with the 500 Hours Award.



Continued on next page...

## Awards Presented...continued

## 300 - 399 Service Hours



Extension
Agent Lyle
Zoeller presents 300-399
Service Hours
Awards to
Gail Christian,
Laura Murphy
and (not pictured) Pat
Maskunas.

## 200 - 299 Service Hours

Gary Slanga, Jerry Lewis and Karen Colwick receive their 200-299 Service Hours Awards.



## 100 - 199 Service Hours



MG's receiving an award for 100-199 Service Hours are: Carol Runyan, Betty Nejtek, Judy Herrmann, Steve Overby, Fran Sheppard, Brenda Albro, Sydney VanLoh, Janelle Burson, Louann Hight, Diane Calderwood, Bernie Hurta, Edie Campbell, James Anderson, Bob Gordon and Beverly Wickersham. Those not pictured are: Larry Maehnke, Mary Lew Quesinberry, Linda young, Sophia Gomez, Peg Fleet, Raymond Machovsky and Terrie Hahn.

## 5 and 10 Year Pins Awarded

Below to the left is Gladys Newsom receiving her 10 year pin. Mary Lew Quesinberry (not pictured) also received hers. Below are recipients of the 5 year pin: Carol Runyan, Wayne Baker, Edie Campbell, Janelle Burson, Sidney VanLoh, Gail Christian and Kathy Patterson. Not pictured are: Dee Coffeen, Pat Maskunas, Brenda Smith, Linda Young and Laura Jung.



# **Christmas Party Fun**



## **More Christmas Party Fun**



## 2013 Master Gardener Class

Cindy Allen
recently retired
from Belton Middle School
where she
worked as a librarian and
teacher. She
currently lives in
Belton and has
been gardening
for over 40



years. She has lived in Morgan's Point for over 20 years and has learned quite a bit about gardening in deer country. Cindy enjoys both floral and vegetable gardening and would like to learn more about numerous Master Gardner topics such as entomology, pathology, xeriscape gardening and landscape design. Some of her volunteer interests include the Junior Master Gardner program, greenhouse work, vegetable demonstration gardens and community beautification projects.

**Melinda Arriola** is a retired registered nurse. She lives in Harker Heights and has been gar-

dening her entire life. She enjoys both floral and vegetable gardening. She would like to learn more about soils and nutrition, vegetable, flower and xeriscape



gardening and floral design. Some of Melinda's volunteer interests include serving as a school gardening resource person, developing and presenting horticultural presentations, community beautification activities and helping with the demonstration gardens and plant sales.

Patricia Allen (Pat) recently retired as a middle school teacher. She lives in Temple and has been



gardening for 40 years. She enjoys people and learning and would like to broaden her gardening knowledge specifically in areas such as soils and nutrition, vegetable and herbs, xeriscape gardening and landscape and

floral design. Some of Pat's volunteer interests include the floral and vegetable demonstration gardens, greenhouse work, plant sales and community beautification projects.

**Mary Bradburn** is a retired licensed professional counselor and registered nurse. She lives in



Harker Heights and has been gardening for 30 years. She enjoys both floral and vegetable gardening and is happiest working outside in her yard. Mary hopes to learn more about flower and vegetable gardening, floral and landscape design and soils and nutrition.

Some of her volunteer interests include developing horticultural presentations, being a classroom garden resource volunteer and community beautification activities. Terry Bradburn is a retired USAF navigator

and financial counselor. He lives in Harker Heights and has been gardening for 22 years. Terry enjoys both floral and vegetable gardening and hopes to learn even more about annuals, perennials and vegetable gardening as



well as soils and nutrition, landscape design and fruit and nut production. Some of his volunteer interests include community beautification and landscape projects, horticultural presentations, and perhaps serving as classroom garden resource person.

Donna Estep is retired and worked in software installation and maintenance. She lives in Belton and has enjoyed both floral and vegetable gardening for 10 years. Donna is interested in learning more about the soils and plants native to the area and which plants are



compatible. She would also like to learn more about entomology, vegetable and herbs, flower gardening, xeriscape gardening and landscape design. Donna's volunteer interests include community beautification projects, developing horticultural presentations, greenhouse projects and working in the demonstration gardens.

Barbara Dalby is a professor at UMHB. Barbara lives in Temple and has enjoyed both floral and vegetable gardening for about 40 years. She has always loved plants and would like her own greenhouse. She would like to learn more about herbs, floral design and



flower gardening with annuals and perennials. Barbara's volunteer interests include public speaking, helping with the demonstration gardens, greenhouse plant maintenance, plant sales, community beautification projects as well as developing and presenting horticultural presentations.

Melissa Fletcher
lives in Killeen and is
self employed. She is
a passionate gardener
and has been gardening for 8 years.
Melissa enjoys both
floral and vegetable
gardening. She is



looking forward to all the topics that will be covered from entomology to fruit and nut production but is especially interested in learning more about organic gardening. Melissa's volunteer interests include willingness to help with any of the organizational work as well as working in the demonstration gardens, plant sales and the Junior Master Gardener program. She also expressed interest in public speaking and community beautification ac-

**Audrey Garner (Gail)** is a retired medical and dental assistant. She lives in

Belton and has been gardening for 14 years. Gail enjoys floral gardening. Some of her other hobbies include cooking, sewing, camping and hiking. She is interested in learning more about all of the topics covered in the course. Some of Gail's volunteer interests include community beautification projects, helping with the demonstration gardens, plant sales and greenhouse projects.



# is a retired title company executive. Terri lives in Killeen and has been doing predominately floral gar-

dening for over 50

years. She has loved



pardening ever since
helping in the vegetable garden as a child. Terri is relatively new to the area and is anxiously looking forward to becoming a competent Bell County gardener. Some of the areas Terri hopes to learn more about include entomology, soils and nutrition, vegetable, herb and flower gardening as well as xeriscape gardening and landscape and floral design. Terri's volunteer interests include any organizational work, editing and training. She has also expressed interest in helping in the demonstration gardens,

**Beverly Hillyard** is a retired teacher from Belton I.S.D. and lives in Belton. Beverly has no

public relations and public speaking.

gardening experience
but is eager to learn.
She is especially interested in floral gardening but also
wishes to learn about
soils and nutrition,
vegetables and herbs
and floral and landscape design. Some
of her volunteer interests include working



with children, the Junior Master Gardener program, community beautification activities and also developing horticultural presentations.

Katherine Haas is a semi-retired accountant.



Katherine lives in Gatesville and has been gardening for 50 years. She enjoys both floral and vegetable gardening. Katherine has expressed interest in all the topics offered in the course in addition to learning more about growing wine grapes. Some of her volunteer interests include working in the vegetable demonstration

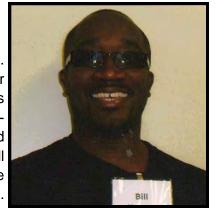
gardens, greenhouse projects and community beautification activities and any needed organizational work.

Angela Hunter lives in Temple and is a stay at home mom. Angela has only been gardening for 4 months. She has expressed interest in all topics of the course and is especially interested in learning more about the entire growing process,



growing her own food, storing and preserving and using organic methods for pest control. Some of Angela's volunteer interests include helping with any organizational needs since she enjoys writing and editing. She also expressed interest in the Newsletter, the Junior Master Gardener program, helping in the demonstration gardens, plants sales and greenhouse activities.

**Bill Hunter** is a registered (field) nurse working at Lakeway Home Health. Bill lives in Temple and has been vegetable gardening for 1 year. He is eager to learn everything and expressed interest in all of the course topics. Bill is willing to help in any organizational projects. Some of his other volunteer interests include being a resource person for classroom gardens, developing and giving horticultural presentations, community beautification projects as well the Junior Master Gardener program, demonstration gardens and greenhouse activities.



**Charlotte Jones** is a retired office manager. She is relatively new to Belton and has done



'very amateur' (her words) floral gardening for 30 years.
Charlotte enjoys people, "playing in the dirt" and looking forward to helping in her new community. She has expressed interest in learning more about entomology, pathology, soils,

herbs, flower and xeriscape gardening and landscape design. Some of her volunteer interests include helping with office work, plant sales, plant propagation, community beautification projects and perhaps being a resource person for classroom gardens.

Yvonne Mattix is a retired education/ teacher/media specialist. Yvonne moved to Temple recently from Kansas City and loves gardening and caring for her yard and especially enjoys floral gardening.



She hopes to learn more about soils, nutrition, herbs, flowers and landscape design. Some of Yvonne's volunteer interests include being a resource person for classroom gardens, community beautification activities, the Junior Master Gardener program as well as greenhouse plant and grounds maintenance.

Sandra Jones lives in Nolanville and works in oil

and gas production. Sandra has done floral gardening for 50 years. She has been a past president of the Rosebud Garden Club and Big Springs Bulb Chapter of Texas Garden Club. Sandra is interested in learning more about herbs, flower gardening and fruit and nut produc-



tion. She is also interested in learning how to design a landscape for a new home. Some of Sandra's volunteer interests include the Junior Master Gardener program, working with children, developing and presenting horticultural presentations as well as community beautification activities.

**Jean McCulloh** is a retired elementary school teacher. Jean lives in Temple and has been enjoying floral and vegetable gardening for 30 years.



She is also a member of the Temple Garden Club. Jean hopes to learn more about vegetable and flower gardening as well as floral and landscape design. Some of Jean's volunteer interests include being a resource person for classroom gardens,

developing and presenting horticultural presentations, working with children and helping with the floral demonstration gardens and plant sales.

Let's all give a warm welcome to our new class members!!!

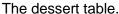
## Herb Group's Annual Christmas Tea

#### - Terrie Hahn

Although the BCMG Herb Study Group no longer actively meets, we still do get together for our annual Christmas Tea. This year, (pictured below) Brenda Smith, Laura Murphy, Terrie Hahn, Suzanne Boyer, former BCMG's Susan Firth and Nancy Blansett, Kim Pringle, Beverly Wickersham, Denise Wilkinson (a friend of Kim's) and Frances Idoux got together at Terrie Hahn's home to celebrate the Season and to try out a variety

of teas and herbal dishes. We also brought a sprig of our favorite herb to talk about. Beverly Wickersham brought Ambrosia. You'll find her recipe on page 18 of this issue of The Blooming Bell.











Editor's note: This is a new column for Questions and Answers. When I get a question from a MG, I'll put it out there for other MG's to answer and publish the answer for everyone to benefit from it. Please send your questions and answers to me at moompie45@hotmail.com or call me at 512-863-9837.

## And last month's questions from:

#### -Terrie Hahn

What kind of caterpillar is this. I believe it will be some sort of moth. We had a large population of them eating many different types of plants. This one was eating Spiderwort.



### And the answer is:

#### - From Beverly Wickersham

The black fuzzy caterpillar pictured in the December issue of the "The Blooming Bell" is most likely the banded wollybear (*Pyrrharctia Isabella*), although I cannot see in the picture the reddish brown band(s) that often encircle the body. When numerous bands are present, folklore has it that a long winter is sure to come. The black spines do not sting, but they can be irritating to sensitive skin. I've handled two of these showy creatures that appeared in the raised beds at the Municipal Court Garden and felt no ill effects. The adult version of this caterpillar is the Isabella tiger moth which has a 2-inch wingspan and is overall yellow-brown. Its abdomen is marked with black spots.

Caterpillars are general feeders, eating leaves of weeds, grasses, and landscape plants. When they appear in large numbers they can do great harm to vegetation and require damage control. When only a very few are seen, I leave them alone.

#### Thank you Beverly!

Below is a Jelly Bean Succulent Plant (sedum rubrot-inctum, I believe). Most sources say it isn't cold hardy, but KLRU's Central Texas Gardener said that it is. Has anyone had experience with this plant in the cold? It's sitting in a pot I bid for at one of our silent auctions, painted by MG Deb Martin.



#### And the answer is:

I experimented with leaving some small plants out when it got into the mid 20's. A piece rooted in a hole in a boulder is still okay. A potted plant sitting on the ground froze. So, I would have to say that Central Texas Gardener was wrong - this isn't a cold hardy plant. It may have a slightly better chance if it's growing in the ground, but take your potted plant in.

## This Month's Question:

#### - 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?

## Announcements

## **No December Monthly Meeting**

#### - Bernie Hurta

The January 9th monthly meeting is "Tree Care Through The Seasons" with Arborist, Seth Thompson at 11 a.m.

## **Grounds Committee Upcoming Dates**

#### - Brenda Albro

The grounds committee is opening 2013 with our first get together on January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. We will be making plans for 2013. Please attend if you are interested in helping us make the grounds grab attention when passing by on 317.

We will end meeting with our Burger Wednesday. It is Chili this Wednesday.

## **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 <a href="mailto:candace.mullen@gmail.com">candace.mullen@gmail.com</a>. 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!

## **Plants-the Perfect Gifts!**

#### - Terrie Hahn

We painted and planted these pots of succulents as a gift for my sister who is a huge longhorn fan and wants to try gardening with something simple to grow.





## Recipes From the Christmas Party Salad Bar

## Cranberry Delight

#### - Nelda Machovsky

6 oz box cherry flavored gelatin

- 8 oz crushed pineapple, drained
- 2 Cups boiling water
- 1 C finely chopped pecans or walnuts
- 1 can of whole cranberry sauce
- 1 tsp almond extract

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Cool and add remaining ingredients. Pour into a 9x13 dish and chill.

#### \*Notes

You may want to break up the cranberry sauce before adding. This makes it easier to blend into the other ingredients.

I didn't have any almond extract on hand and didn't add any to the dish we brought to the MG Christmas Party.

Glad you enjoyed the recipe.

## **Green Goddess Dressing**

#### - Judy Herrmann

2 cups mayonnaise

2 cups sour cream or Greek yogurt (or buttermilk for a thinner dressing)

- 1-2 tins anchovies (1 used 1 tin, as not everyone likes them)
- 2 green onions and their tops, chopped
- 4 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley
- 4 Tbsp chopped fresh chives
- 2 Tbsp chopped FRESH tarragon (this is a must--the only fresh herb I have to buy)
- 1-2 cloves chopped garlic
- 2 Tbsp white wine or tarragon vinegar

Put anchovies, onions, chives, parsley, tarragon, garlic, and vinegar in food processor with half the mayonnaise; blend until everything is incorporated into the mayonnaise. Add rest of mayonnaise and the sour cream, yogurt, or buttermilk and blend until thoroughly mixed. Best if made the day before so all the flavors can marry. Enjoy. Also good as a dip with fresh vegetables or as a sauce for sautéed fish.

## **More Christmas Recipes**

## Cranapple Spinach Salad - Carol Runyan

1/2 cup cranberry juice concentrate, undiluted Spiced pecans:

1/3 cup olive oil 1/3 cup honey

3 tbsp raspberry flavored balsamic vinegar 1 tbsp water

1/8 tsp salt 1/2 tsp cinnamon

4 cups unpeeled, chopped tart red apples 1/4 tsp ginger

1 cup dried cranberries 1/8 tsp salt

8 cups torn fresh spinach 2 cups pecan halves

1 cup celery chopped 1 tbsp sugar

Whisk together cranberry juice concentrate, olive oil, vinegar and salt in small bowl. Place apples and cranberries in 2-quart shallow glass dish. Pour cranberry mixture over apple mixture. Refrigerate, covered, at least 3 hours or up to 24 hours; stir occasionally. When ready to serve, toss spinach and celery in large bowl. Top with cranberry-apple mixture (if mixture has been refrigerated several hours, allow to stand at room temperature about 15 minutes for olive oil to liquefy; stir before using). Sprinkle with spiced pecans.

For spiced pecans: Heat oven to 325 F. Combine honey, water, cinnamon, ginger and salt in medium bowl. Stir in pecans until coated with honey mixture. Using slotted spoon, place pecans in single layer on parchment paper lined baking sheet. Sprinkle with sugar. Bake 16 - 18 minutes, turning halfway through baking time. Cool slightly on baking sheet. Remove and cool completely. Store in tightly covered container at room temperature up to 3 days.

## Ambrosia (served at Herb Group's Christmas Tea) - Beverly Wickersham

Five fresh fruits in a sweet blend of peach nectar and honey balanced with pungent balsamic vinegar and lemon juice. This blissful salad is special enough to serve as a light dessert.

MAKES 8 SERVINGS

PREP: 10 MIN., CHILL: 1 HR.

1 medium cantaloupe, peeled, seeded, and cut into chunks

2 navel oranges, sectioned

2 cups fresh pineapple chunks

2 fresh plums, sliced or strawberries, sliced

1 cup seedless green or red grapes or ½ cup of each

34 cup peach nectar

14 cup honey

2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar

3 tablespoons lemon juice

Combine first 5 ingredients in large bowl. Combine peach nectar and remaining 3 ingredients, stirring with a wire whisk until blended. Pour dressing over fruit mixture, stirring gently to coat fruit. Cover and chill at least 1 hour, stirring occasionally. *From "The Best of Southern Living."* 

## What's Happening in Your Yard?

# This is One Big Lemon!

- Laura Murphy

I picked one of my Meyer lemons to compare with this large lemon that came via a friend from a friend in Lake Jackson.



## **Mixed Up Butterfly**

## - Edie Campbell

Earlier in November I brought all my outside plants inside my back screened-in porch for the winter. I am guessing there was a butterfly cocoon attached to one of the plants. This is what I found on November 10 when I went out to water. There is no way a butterfly this size could get inside my screened-in porch. I think it must have emerged from the cocoon after being brought inside. I went in and picked up my camera for some photos. I opened the door, but it would not get near enough to go outside. I finally got it to climb upon my hand and I walked it over to the door and outside to be released.

#### Officers and Directors 2011-2012

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Cover photo by Terrie Hahn of Kale at the Dallas Botanical Gardens in early December.

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