



The Blooming Bell

March, 2012

BCMGA Newsletter

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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4	5	6 Work Day 8 am	7 Hamburger Wednesday 11 am	8	9	10
11 	12	13 Work Day 8 am	14	15	16	17 
18	19	20 Work Day 8 am First day of spring 	21 General Meeting 11 am Firewise Landscaping Greenhouse Commit- tee Meeting 9 am	22	23	24 Plant Sale
25	26	27 Work Day 8 am	28 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am	29	30	31 Killeen Farmers Market

Upcoming dates to remember: New Class Field Trip, April 18th

Artwork by Simon Howden, Salavatore Vuono, Graur Razvan Ionut from www.freeimages.com

The President's Corner

I just returned from the annual Home and Garden Show. Our Expo booth, though slightly off the main traffic pattern, had plenty of visitors. The seminars were well attended and there were many questions on a variety of gardening topics answered by our master gardeners. As I looked around our booth at the volunteers, I could not help but think about the enormous amount of gardening knowledge we have as a group. It seems no matter what the gardening question, someone had the answer. The visitors themselves and their questions were diverse. Several visitors asked about becoming a master gardener, others asked about vegetable gardening, rose pruning, weeds, and trees. A few just stopped by the booth to see what they could learn this year. One of our visitors was a founding member of our organization here in Bell County. Thanks go to Louann Hight and her crew of volunteers for another successful Home and Garden Show.

Kathy White is also due a big thank you. Kathy investigated and implemented our adoption of Whistle Stop Park in Temple. Congratulations Master Gardeners, we have been awarded the Adopt-a-Park group of the year by the city of Temple. We have received an engraved plaque to honor our organization. If you have not

been a part of the group working in Whistle Stop, you still have a chance. Three to four times a year they meet at the park for general pick up, with light maintenance occurring occasionally. Wednesday, February 29th is the next Whistle Stop workday, meet at the park at 8am.

We have several events coming up within the next month or two. On February 29th, our vegetable specialists will be giving a vegetable gardening seminar. This is open to the general public and held at the ex-

tension office. The program for the March monthly meeting will be *Firewise*, a timely program we all need to hear. March 24th is the annual spring plant sale. I heard more than one H & G booth visitor say they planned to be there early the day of the sale. So, check your flashlight batteries. March 31st, is the grand opening of the new Killeen farmer's market. We have been asked to man a booth and be a part of the grand opening. We have a number of schools and civic organizations that will be receiving programs. Our speaker's bureau is in need of additional speakers, please step forward and volunteer your expertise. You do not have to be a specialist to be a speaker. Gary Slanga continues to do a great job of juggling our calendar and the requests for speakers, but more speakers are needed.

Spring is almost upon us. The fruit trees are beginning to leaf out, and I have seen red buds in bloom. A stroll through my front lot confirmed a wildflower show later this spring. After a bleak wildflower season last year, I will at last have a stand of blue-bonnets to enjoy in a month or so. If I had to choose a group of plants to be my favorite, I would probably choose wildflowers. In past years, my husband and I have timed our travels to other states to catch their wildflowers. But, none compare to the flowery spring show Texas can produce. I hope you have the opportunity to travel central Texas this spring and enjoy what might be a great show.

If wildflowers are not on your agenda, there are many gardening events around our state worthy of a road trip. Just a few to consider are: The Zilker Garden Festival in Austin which will be held March 31st and April 1st. The flower show is in the garden center and a number of garden talks are on the agenda. One listed is *Care for Drought Stressed Trees*. This will probably be on my list to attend. Dallas Blooms, my favorite local garden show begins March 3rd and runs through April 8th. The specialty is the 500,000 spring blooming bulbs, a spectacular sight. The 76th Azalea Trail Home and Garden Tour will be held in Houston March 9th, 10th and 11th. This long running event is always beautiful. Grab a few friends to invest in that tank of gas, plan a road trip and revel in spring's glorious show.....Laura

Photo by Gail Christian



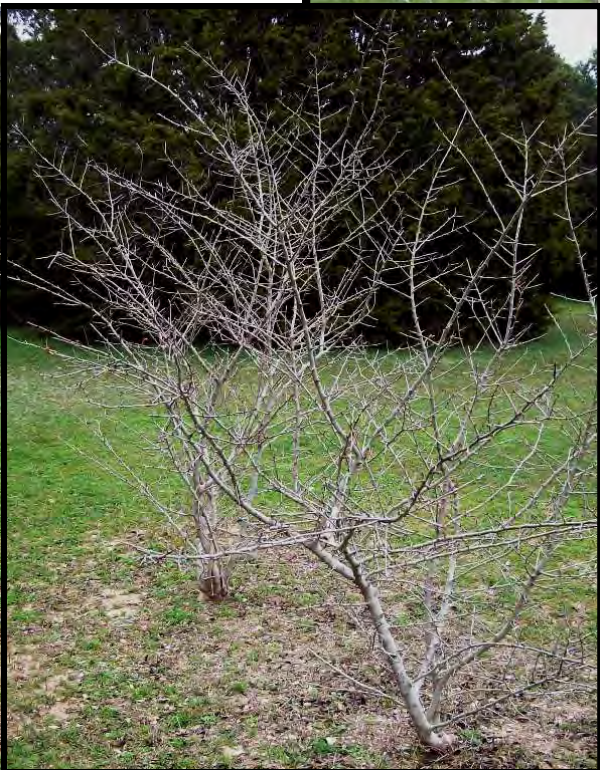
The American Robin

-Beverly Wickersham

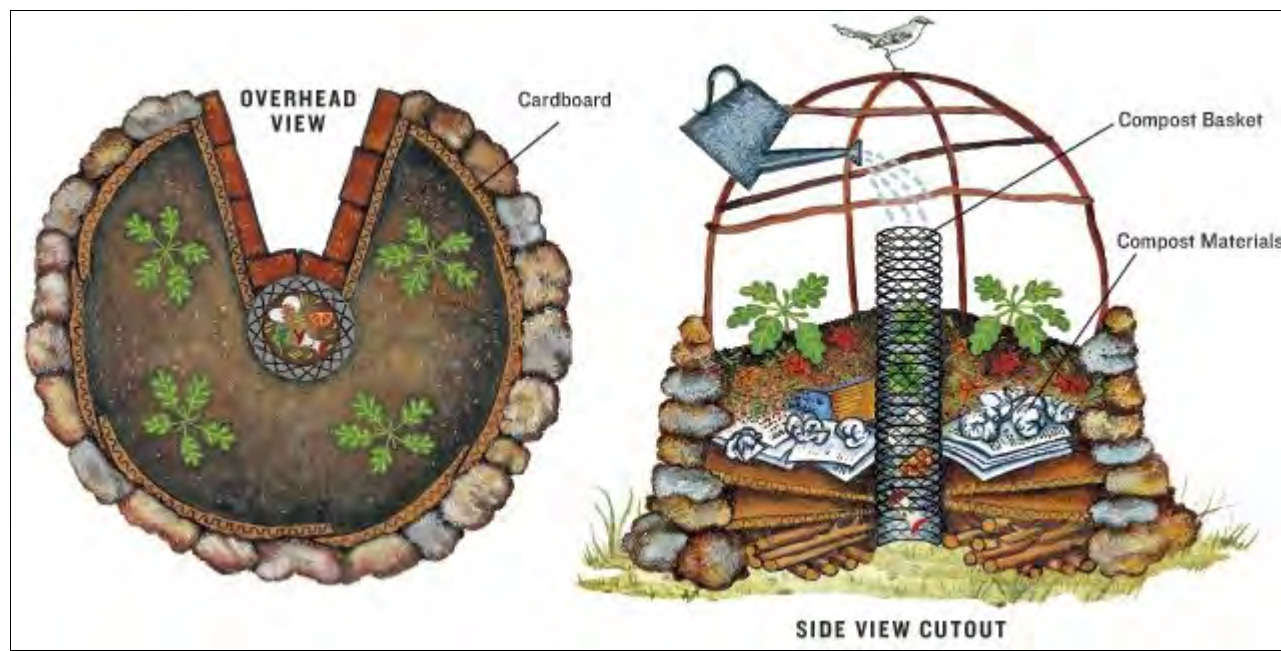
The American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) is a member of the Thrush family. The Pilgrim Fathers who first saw this native Thrush with the red breast were reminded of their much loved Robin Redbreast in England and gave the Thrush the name "Robin." This beautiful bird is the state bird of Connecticut, Michigan and Wisconsin and has the reputation of being a reliable harbinger of spring as the flocks begin their northern migration in late winter. Males precede females by a week or ten days in their northward journey to Canada and Alaska, the agreed upon breeding ground. Once mated, the female generally builds the cup shaped nest alone, using the materials the male has helped gather. The nest is made of twigs, cemented with mud, and lined with grasses. The three to four eggs are robin's-egg blue and are usually laid one a day in late morning. A second and perhaps a third brood will be raised before it is time for the southern migration.

Robins are not "feeder" birds, although they will occasionally eat bits of fruit and oil-type sunflower seeds. Their foods of choice are worms, larvae, beetles, spiders, assorted insects, fruits (especially cherries) and evidently, Possumhaws' red berries. Robins stripped the berries on my two Possumhaw trees in one day. I will be planting several more female Possumhaws this spring for the benefit of the Mockingbirds, the Cedar Waxwings, and the beautiful Robins.

Photos by Beverly
Wickersham



Keyhole Gardening



This appeared in the February 2012 issue of Texas Co-op Power. Kim Pringle sent me a copy and I thought everyone might be interested.

Follow these guidelines to get started:

1. Measure a 6-foot diameter circle to define the inside wall of your garden.
2. Notch the circle (like cutting a wedge of pie) so you can access the basket at the center.
3. Construct the exterior wall about 3 feet high using rocks, metal, timbers or any material that can support the weight of wet soil.
4. Use wire mesh to create a tube about 1 foot in diameter and about 4 feet high. Stand the tube in the center of the circle.
5. Line the outer walls with cardboard and fill the garden area (but not the wire mesh tube in the center), with layers of compostable materials, wetting it down as you go. Fill the last few inches with compost or potting soil. The soil should slope from a high point at the top of the center basket downward to the edges of the garden.
6. Fill the center basket with alternating layers of compostable material, along with layers of kitchen scraps and herbaceous weeds that provide the plants with moisture and nutrients.
7. Water the center basket and the garden only when the plants will not survive without it. This forces the plants' roots down toward the center basket.
8. Feed the garden by adding more kitchen scraps, lawn clippings, etc., to the center basket.
9. Consider arching a framework of thin wires over the garden. During the hottest months, the wires can support a shade cloth, and in winter, plastic sheeting creates an instant greenhouse.
10. Enjoy the fruits (and vegetables!) of your labor.

Continued on next page...

Keyhole Gardening ...continued

During a drought, Texas has a lot in common with southern Africa. Scorching heat, thin layers of topsoil and elusive rainfall can make for a brutal summer when gardening is not for the faint of heart. Recent Texas droughts are the most severe on record, and the National Weather Service warns that the long-term forecast is drier still.

So it's nothing short of amazing that the community of Clifton in Bosque County has been transformed into an oasis in this gardening desert with help from creative landscape architect Deb Tolman. Leaning on her 30 years of experience in landscape design, doctoral studies in environmental science and research on African survival strategies, Tolman has teamed with local ranch owners Jim and Mary Lou Starnater to unlock the secrets of sustainable gardening.

Lessons from Africa

A keyhole garden is the ultimate raised-bed planter. It is often built in the shape of a circle measuring about 6 feet in diameter that stands waist-high and is notched like a pie with a slice cut away. A hole in the center holds a composting basket that moistens and nourishes the soil. The garden, which from above looks like a keyhole, can be built with recycled materials and requires less water than a conventional garden.

"It works well in places far drier than we are here on the edge of the Hill Country," says Tolman, who discovered the technique five years ago. The sustainable gardening method was developed by a humanitarian aid organization in southern Africa, where resources are scarce and the climate unforgiving. There, three keyhole gardens can feed a family of 10 all year long, reports the BBC.

In her area of North Central Texas, Tolman has added a twist to keyhole gardens, making beds almost entirely of compost. Some of the soil is composed of recycled newspapers, telephone books and cardboard, which she says adds carbon, nitrogen and air to the soil. In Tolman's garden, cardboard is gold, and what it buys is priceless.

"In the summertime, I grow Malabar spinach, which loves the heat. The chard's been going all year. I can

eat a power snack of French green beans right off the vine." Her harvest also includes carrots, kale, tomatoes, berries and more, rivaling Texas farmers markets. "I eat year-round from these gardens," says Tolman.

Texas Keyhole Gardens

Tolman is sharing these ideas with the community, and Clifton now has about 60 keyhole gardens.

Jim Starnater has helped build three community keyhole gardens in Clifton and has built several on his ranch. He was skeptical when he first attended one of Tolman's workshops and saw photos of a beautifully productive raised-bed garden built on a mutual friend's property. "I thought that garden was several years old," he says. "But it had been planted just seven months before. You're not going to start anything else in Bosque County that grows like that."

Drought Hardy

Clifton resident Rosa Peitz met Tolman through the Clifton Garden Club. "I'd never heard of keyhole gardens before Dr. Deb's workshop," says Peitz, "but I liked the idea of a garden where I didn't have to bend over and that would only use a gallon or two of water every day."

Tolman's and Starnater's gardens also continued to produce during the 2011 drought, although extra water and care were required. "If you go through a Texas summer with more than 60 days over 100 degrees, nothing's going to grow if you don't water it," says Starnater. "But we used drip irrigation and a thick layer of mulch, which reduced the amount of water required by about 30 percent. We also created umbrellas to shade the plants and reduce the heat and sun exposure by about 60 percent. That makes a big difference."

Because keyhole gardens can both weather the drought and take a big bite out of the grocery bill, they're a welcome gift from Africans to Texans for bountiful seasons to come.

G. Elaine Acker is a freelance writer and occasional blogger who divides her time between Texas and New Mexico.

Visit Deb Tolman's website www.debtolman.com for more information on keyhole gardening.

Master Gardeners Participate in 2012 Home and Garden Show

- Louann Hight

The Bell County Master Gardeners participated in the Home and Garden Show held this weekend at the Bell County Expo Center. Thanks to all who volunteered (over 30 individuals) this weekend to make this great public interaction a success. Our Booth was featured in a front page article in the Sunday edition of the Temple Daily Telegram thanks to Larry Causey, Temple Telegram Staff writer. He showcased the vegetable seminar in his article. BCMGA specialists presented five seminars on gardening, herbs, firewise landscaping and earth kind principles. The 'Ask a Master Gardener' booth was kept very busy by answering various questions from show participants concerning lawn grasses, trees, vegetable gardening, tomato planting & weeds. We had several questions concerning a plant that looked very exotic. It turned out to be nothing more than a variegated thistle (*Silybum marianum*). Variegated thistle invades dry coastal vegetation, lowland grassland and grassy woodland, dry sclerophyll forest and woodland and riparian vegetation, and it seems to now be growing just about everywhere in Bell County.



Home and Garden Show...continued



Hard at work

Don Wyatt, Gail Christian and Ursula Nanna re-working the Special Needs beds.

Photos by Gail Christian

Deer Resistant Plants for Bell County

- Terrie Hahn

I have compiled the following list of deer resistant plants from lists sent to me by Dee Coffeen, Jane Capen and Suzanne Boyer along with some plants that I have had luck with. It's a longer list than I expected.

As many of you know, deer can wreak havoc on our gardens very quickly. They will eat what they don't normally touch if their food supply is gone. Late last summer, they even started to munch on my lantana, which they've never done before. So, there is no such thing as a deer proof plant, only deer resistant plants, because when the deer are starving from loss of habitat or the heat killing their normal food supply, they will resort to eating things they don't want to eat. Very often a deer resistant plant is fuzzy, smelly, tough, tastes bad to them or is poisonous.

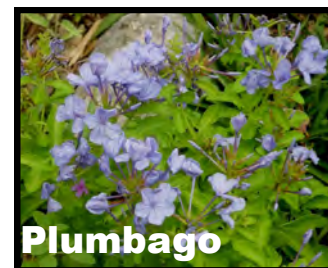
I'm very lucky in that our backyard has a 7 foot deer fence around it. When I want to plant something in front, where there isn't a fence, I put the potted plants where I know the deer will walk past to see what they'll eat, a deer buffet. If they munch on it, it goes to the backyard, if they don't touch it, it gets planted in the front yard. Last October, while it was still hot, I planted the following plants in dappled shade, and the deer walked through them daily without eating them:

Grape Sage (sun/partial shade)
Mexican Oregano (sun/partial shade)
Peppermint, Spearmint (sun/partial shade)
Cat Mint (sun/partial shade)
Belize Salvia
Pigeon Berry
Germander (sun/partial shade)
Twisted Leaf Yucca (sun/partial shade)
Coralberry

You will see many herbs in the following list compiled with the help of fellow MG's. All of these plants have been in the ground since last spring or before. Most do well in sun/part sun.

Salvia Pachyphylla "Blue Flame"
Gulf Muhly

Rosemary
Lemon Verbena
Mexican Bush Sage
Mexican Mint Marigold
Texas Betony
Mealy Blue Sage, Salvia "Henry Duelberg"
Pink Skullcap
Plumbago (sun/part shade)
Lavender
Lantana
Blackfoot Daisy
Dianthus
Verbena
Turks cap (sun/ part shade)
Salvia
Jerusalem Sage (Phlomis)
Trailing Winecup
Wooly Butterfly Bush
Fall Aster
White Mist Flower
Thyme
Bay Tree
Oleander
Copper Canyon Daisy
Thyrallis
Esperanza (Yellow Bell)
Russian Sage
Damianita
Flame Acanthus
Cenizo (Texas Sage)
Yaupons
Winter Honeysuckle (part shade)
Artemesia
Oregano
Holly
Mountain Laurel
Wildflowers
Primrose Jasmine



When planting 4 inch potted plants, in the beginning, protect the plant with fencing or even some large rocks on top of the rooted area that won't be lifted easily by the deer when they decide to take a little taste. Always check in the morning to see if they've tasted the plant and lifted it out of the soil so you can replant it. They like to taste and usually lift a small plant out in the process. Using one gallon potted plants usually assures a better root system and tougher plant that can withstand the nibbles. Sometimes a plant they don't like when it's grown, they will eat when it's a baby. They ate my Turk's Caps right down when they were young and unprotected, but not the larger, older plants.

MG's in Action

- Mary Lew Quesinberry

Grounds Committee Action



Photos on this page are of Grounds Committee members, Brenda Albro, Bette Gilmore, Sophia Gomez, Pat Maskunas, Louise Crowell, Johnny Herring, Carla Harmon as they replace newspaper and mulch in the rose/native plant garden.



Burger Wednesday Action

Burger Wednesday (always the first Wednesday of the month, 9-11 AM) was a fun productive event. Crews worked on the rose/native plant/grass garden adding newspaper and fresh mulch. Another crew (Gail Christian, Mary Lou Edmondson, James Anderson, Ursula Nanna and Wayne Baker) worked on the roses in the tabletop garden. Bernard Mc Devitt groomed the pocket gardens. The new class was busy in a propagation lab led by Judy Herrmann. Steve Gardipee grilled burgers. Everyone enjoyed burgers, pot luck and yummy desserts. Burger Wednesdays are fun, fattening days.

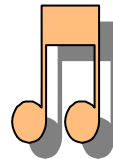


Photos by Mary Lew Quesinberry

The MG Singers!

Temple College horticulturalist, Reid Lewis, was introduced to the new class by the singing group- The Native Five. Diane Calderwood, Jerry Lewis, Darla Menking, Fran Sheppard and Mary Ann Everett sung "Reid's Song...Class 2012" to the tune of "When the Roll is Called up Yonder."

Can I plant some onions now or is it getting way too late...
Would a yucca with a rose look really great?
Are there certain native trees that you would highly recommend...
Are there landscape rules you would never bend?



Is it sun or shade that grasses like to help them do the best...
Are there specimens that outshine all the rest?
I am looking for a rare plant can you help me in my quest...
Is this plant a Texas native or a guest?



Is a salvia the answer for that spot that's in the shade...
Should I add some compost to that bed I made?
Do I prune my roses now or do I wait another day...
It's corn gluten time, that's what the experts say.



(Chorus)

Bring your questions from the garden,
Just be sure you ask a hard one.
You'll know more than most when he's done...
For your questions from
the garden, Reid's the
one.

Written by
Diane Calderwood

Photo by Mary Lew Quesin-
berry



News from the Master Gardener Class of 2012

- Pat Smith

This month several members of the Master Gardener class of 2012 have provided comments about our class and the wonderful things we are learning. Our excitement abounds with opportunity to learn about making our surroundings more beautiful and volunteering to share our talents in our respective communities. Some of the volunteer opportunities we have experienced are working in the Killeen Community Garden, helping with the Bell County Youth Fair and the Home & Garden Show. I am convinced that one of the best aspects of our class is making new friends.

Betty Burkett enjoys the propagation class, as well as what she learns from our gifted speakers...

I am loving our Master Gardening class, but the Propagation class is by far much more helpful in planting and propagating plants. We have so much fun in every single class that I am disappointed if I have to miss something. All of our instructors and volunteer instructor helpers are wonderful too. They are the sweetest and most helpful bunch of ladies that I have ever met. We have learned how to plant seeds



so that they will come up! We have learned to propagate roses, as well as other plants and we have learned various ways to propagate. We will never have to waste our money on plants that don't grow well in our area, as learned from our Master Gardening classes, again unless we just can't resist the urge to add something of beauty in our garden(s).

Our Master Gardening class has supplied us with the most awesome speakers and each one teaches us a different facet of gardening. The most interesting to

me, so far, is our teacher from A&M that wrote a book about the steps of planning ahead to landscape a yard, and how to landscape it with nature in mind by providing larger flora in the back, medium flora in the middle and the shortest flora in front, thereby encouraging birds and other creatures to inhabit and en-



hance our garden by pollination of our plants as well as eating our plant predators. She talked about how spiders are helpful instead of a nuisance encouraging us not to discount anything in nature that might be beneficial to our garden as well as laying out a landscape and showing us how to turn problems such as

wet areas into a benefit by draining the water into a planned beautiful area that benefits from the excess water. There are so many other things I could mention, but then this article would be way too long to read.

Stacye Parry lists ten things she loves about the Master Gardener class...

The first day we were in class we took the Gardener Personality Type Test. We had to choose between a shovel, gloves, a watering can or wind-chimes. I was drawn (immediately) to the gloves; that means I am a Planner and because I love to plan, I also love making lists. In that vein, I have made a list of the 10 reasons I love Master Gardening Class

1. I re-connected with an old friend at the first class-we were both very surprised to see each other.
2. The mentors are great. They have everything so organized and are immensely patient explaining and re-explaining things like volunteer hours, education hours, and a myriad of other details we need to know.
3. I am coming up with all kinds of new ideas for

Continued on next page...

New Class...continued

my garden. (My husband is not so excited about this because he usually gets tagged for the new project.)

4. The speakers are incredible—so knowledgeable and passionate about their areas of expertise.
5. It gets me out of the office every Wednesday afternoon.
6. The food is always delicious.
7. I always go home with an interesting “factoid” to share-or at very least the name of a new plant I want to buy.
8. I am learning soooooo much!
9. We are a very friendly group (YEA class!!)
10. I love making lists! And I have ideas for lots of gardening lists.

Sandy Bruce Wilson says she sometimes feel like a little child in the class...

I want to race around to every group of people talking so that I can hear each pearl of wisdom that is being passed from Master Gardener to intern! Honestly, this class is so much fun. I walk away each week brimming with ideas, inspirations, and growing confidence that I can do this. I am so grateful to be here.

Ron Casmer reminds me of a kid in a candy store. He says “The NETWORKING available through Master Gardeners has me soooo excited that sometimes I have to sit on my hands just to keep from clappin' !”

Susan Terry shares...

After years of gardening with the best intentions that yielded modest results, I regret that I didn't take this class years ago. I am excited about redesigning beds, focusing on wildscaping, but especially the collaboration and friendships that are developing.

Gail Pierce is excited about working with other Master Gardeners on community projects. She shares...



I celebrated Presidents Day working with Master Gardeners Bev, Steve, Edie and Jerry at Killeen Community Garden. We all dug holes to plant 4 long rows of potatoes. As I progressed down the rows I got taller and taller and ended up with platform tennis shoes from the soil being so damp. It was

quite enjoyable working with fellow gardeners who I met through the Master Gardener class. This program fulfills the need to learn new techniques and especially learning about propagation, but the best thing, is meeting fellow gardeners and hopefully new friends to keep in contact with after the class is over.

Elaine Passman enjoys the volunteer opportunities...

Besides all the helpful knowledge we are gaining and also making new gardening friends I especially enjoyed my time volunteering at the Bell County Youth Fair. I was assigned to help in the Creative Arts section which was a perfect match for me as it is one of the things I love to do. I also gained some ideas that I would like to try out for myself. The old craft of macramé was still around as well as some new clever ways to create out of recycled materials. The whole event was a great example of what the American family life is all about. I am looking forward to volunteering with more youth activities.

Let us all keep encouraging and learning from one another!

Jan George gave herself a gift she describes...

Taking the Master Gardening classes is the best retirement gift I could have ever given myself. I enjoy every second of it and look forward to Wednesdays. The class presentations are excellent and are given by extremely knowledgeable people but my favorite is the propagation class. This is such a fun group and the "Old Timers" are so eager to share their knowledge, experiences, and plants with us. It is so refreshing to make new friends who share the same interests.

I agree with Jan, this is one of the best gifts we have given ourselves!

Photos by Carol Runyan

The Pansy.....a Winter Delight!

- Jann Dworsky

Now is the time to plant the delightful pansy! Nurseries all over town have these beautiful little plants for sale. These cool weather annuals will give you delightful winter color. If you are a beginning gardener this will be a great plant for your first tiny garden or container garden.



Pansies can be planted in the ground and will not freeze unless the temperature goes below 32 degrees. I plant mine as close together as possible so they will look like a little nest of blooms. Planted in front of shrubbery near a front door makes the best impact. They do not become much larger than the size they are when you purchase them.

A beautiful combination for a container garden would be one flowering kale or cabbage, a nest of 4-6 of your favorite pansies and a clump of one of the ornamental grasses. The colorful pansies will be an effective contrast against the large dark blue green of the cabbage. First, get a large flower pot, about 10 to 12 inches across the top. Put a rock in the bottom to cover the hole or holes. This allows water to drain out, but keeps the dirt in more effectively. Fill the pot three fourths full with any good purchased potting soil. I have not had good results with just using soil from my yard. Take the kale out of the pot by turning it upside down and gently tapping the sides and bottom and then put it in the large container. Do the same with the ornamental grass. Put your pansies close together and gently press in the dirt with your fingers all around each of the plants.

Your container garden is now ready to be placed on your front porch or patio and will be beautiful until April or May. Pansies and ornamental kale do not like warm weather and will fade out and die with the heat. Water the container thoroughly until water seeps out the hole in the bottom. Remember to check to see if it

is dry about every three days. The ornamental grass will be getting bigger and you can transplant it into your flowerbed as it is a perennial.

Happy winter gardening and if you have further questions email us at ask.bcmg@gmail.com.



More Cold Weather Annuals

- Terrie Hahn

Snapdragons (right) and Stock (below) are two more great cold weather annuals. We planted these in the fall, but you can still find them at the nurseries.

I even managed to *over-summer* some Rocket Snaps and they are now blooming! Don't forget about Calendulas!



Photos by Jann Dworsky and Terrie Hahn

Announcements

Make Reservations Now For New Class Field Trip on April 18, 2012 *The Bus is Almost Full!!!*

- Suzanne Boyer

The bus will start loading at the Extension Center at 7:30 am and will leave for Austin promptly at 8:00am. Our first stop will be an organic farm, Boggy Creek Farms, on Market morning. Then we will have a lecture **Crazy Plants That Do Well in Central Texas**, eat the sack lunches we have brought, and shop at The Great Outdoors. We will conclude our tour with a lecture on Disappearing Fountains and Streams with time to shop at Hill Country Water Gardens. New Class Students have already paid. All other Master Gardeners and all guests need to pay \$20 to reserve their seat. We usually have a waiting list, so make your reservation now. You can give your \$20 to Kim Pringle or Suzanne Boyer, or mail to: Suzanne Boyer, 710 Chatham Rd, Belton, TX 76513.

General Meeting Information

- Bernie Hurta

The monthly meeting is on **March 21st**. The topic is **"Firewise Landscaping"** given by Sidney Vanloh, Louann Hight, Mary Ann Everett, Pat Maskunas, James Anderson and Linda Young.

Grounds Work

- Pat Maskunas

We are getting close to the plant sale. We will be working on **Tuesdays beginning at 8:00am until noon**.

We need to do this because Wednesdays are meeting days and we can't complete work because most of our members serve on other committee as well as grounds committee.

Come anytime to work with us if you need service hours, we need all the help we can get. Besides its great fun working in the garden with us.

Thank you everyone who has helped us. I appreciate all of you.

Board of Directors 2012

- Mary Lew Quesinberry

The following terms are expiring on the BOD

Recording Secretary Jeanette Karr
Corresponding Secretary Ellen Majestic
Director Garden Tour Beth Buhl
Director Grounds Committee Pat Maskunas

The following nominees for these positions will be announced at the March meeting:

Recording Secretary Myra Crenshaw, Class 2011
Corresponding Secretary Peg Fleet, Class 2011
Director Garden Tour Margaret Leigh, Class 2009
Director Grounds Committee Sophia Gomez, Class 2011

Other nominations for these open positions can be presented at the March meeting. The final slate of officers will be voted on by the membership at the April monthly meeting. The new BOD officers will be installed at the May monthly meeting and will take office June 2012.

Local Last Frost Date

- Annette Ensing

There is a good interactive website to look at for our last frost dates and other weather zoning information. Go to:

<http://www.plantmaps.com/interactive-texas-last-frost-date-map.php>

What's Happening in Your Yard?

Purple Cauliflower

- Myra Crenshaw

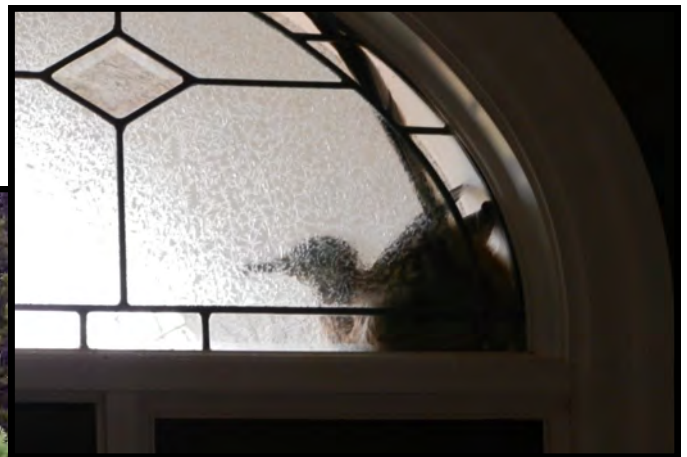
My brother in Houston goes in for exotic plants and a friend gave him a purple cauliflower. It is supposed to turn green when cooked, but how pretty your garden would look with orange, purple and white cauliflower. I have harvested 3 white heads in the last week that were to reach maturity between Christmas and New Year's. What took so long?



Roadrunner Perch

- Diane Calderwood

A Roadrunner decided to take up residence above my front door for about 5 weeks in the evenings, possibly to keep warm.
Strange!



Rosemarys

- Beverly Wickersham

The planting box that my husband Ben built for me was meant to be an Herb Box, and it has been used exclusively for the planting of a variety of herbs. However, planting an upright Rosemary in the middle of the box was not a wise decision. Although it has bloomed profusely this non-winter season to the delight of the bees, it has crowded out several herbs that would have otherwise flourished in this rich environment. The prostrate Rosemary on the left side of the picture is a much better choice for a confined space and is equally enjoyed by the hummingbirds and bees.

Photos by Beverly Wickersham, Diane Calderwood and Myra Crenshaw.

What's Happening in Your Yard...continued



Bloomers and Produce

Above and to the right: Some of Jann Dworsky's Bloomers. Below: Some of Werner Hahn's bounty from his veggie garden. Pictured to the right are four different lettuces, Arugula, Swiss Chard, Kale, Spinach, Parsley, Chives, Kohlrabi, Broccoli and Purple Cauliflower.

Photos by Jann Dworsky and Terrie Hahn



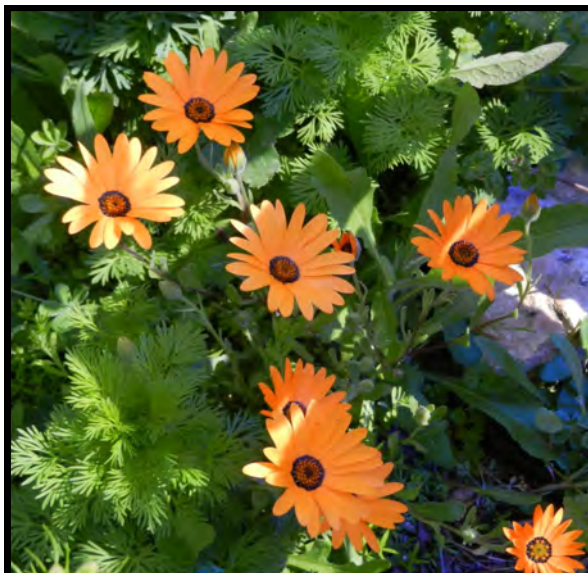
What's Happening in Your Yard...continued

Starting Early!

- Diane Calderwood

From Top,
clockwise:
Gazanias,
Carolina Jessa-
mine, more
Gazanias,
Palmer Sedum
(yellow bloom),
Ox eye Daisy,
4-Nerve Daisy.

Photos by Diane
Calderwood



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Front Cover California Poppies and Calendar
Banner Carolina Jessamine by Diane Calderwood.

Please submit articles and photos for the Blooming
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