

# The Blooming Bell

March 2013



**Bell County  
Master Gardener  
Association**



## Inside this edition:

<b>March Calendar</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>President's Corner</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>MG Lab and Learning Center</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Sleeping Bees?</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Home and Garden Show</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>News from Class of 2013</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CTG Visit, Interesting Bee Facts</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Q&amp;A</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>February Meeting Notes</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Announcements</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>What's Happening in Your Yard?</b>	<b>15</b>



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Work Day 8 - 11 am  Bean Dish Wednesday 11 am	7	8	9
10 Day-light Savings Time Begins	11	12	13 Work Day 8 -11 am General Meeting: Discussion on up-coming Events 11 am	14	15	16
17 	18	19	20 Work Day 8 - 11 am  Spring Begins	21 Plant delivery	22 Plant delivery	23 Plant Sale 7 am - 1 pm
24 <hr/> 31 Easter	25	26	27 Work Day 8 - 11 am  Board of Directors Meeting 9 am	28	29	30

Upcoming Dates: Plant Swap, April 10  
Class Field Trip, April 24

## The President's Corner

A few Red Buds are beginning to bloom and last week I saw a very large vine of Yellow Jasmine in full bloom. Spring is beginning to show herself. From the comments I have heard, we are all ready for the warmth and beauty of spring.

Last month we had a very interesting program on African violets. After hearing our speaker, violet care in my home has improved. African violets are a bit of spring in the midst of fall or winter. The March monthly meeting will be training and preparations for the spring plant sale.

The Home and Garden show was successful. Our gardening seminars were in demand and the booth was visited by many. Thank you Louann Hight and crew for once again arranging this event. During the month of February we also completed and dedicated our new building. If you have not seen the building, please stop by and take a look. The dedication was a special event and well planned. Thank you Ilene Miller and committee for planning a wonderful and well organized luncheon for the dedication. More than one person commented that they did not know the meeting room could look so good.

A paver campaign is now underway. There is more information on page 13 about the pavers. Hopefully you will buy a paver and put your name among your fellow gardeners. The first order goes in on May first.

The spring plant sale is March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please tell family and friends the date and encourage them to attend. We will be doing our usual advertising, but word of mouth encourages people to attend.

Members of the new class have been very helpful and serving their volunteer hours. If you see a new face be sure to introduce yourself. The class field trip will be April 24<sup>th</sup>. There is room on the bus at this time for additional gardeners. The class will be visiting an olive ranch, hear a presentation by a Travis county master gardener, and make a stop at the Natural Gardener in Austin. It will be an interesting and fun day trip.

On page 13, you will see a couple of photos of Kim Pringle and me. We visited the set of Central Texas Gardener at the KLRU studios in Austin. The day we

were on the set, Peter Hatch, the garden director at Jefferson's Monticello was the guest being interviewed. After the taping,

there was a reception, Kim and I were able to meet Peter and ask questions. We were very warmly greeted by the CTG producer and a VP of the station. They both have encouraged us to return and have invited you to attend a taping. The producer has emailed the dates of full day tapings in the near future. They are March 7, March 28, April 18, and May 2. You do not need to make a reservation to attend. I'm pictured above with producer, Linda Lehmusvirta.

We have other events happening, but the most important is the Spring Plant Sale. Look for signup sheets for working, plan to shop, spread the word about the sale and enjoy the event...in our NEW BUILDING.

.....Laura



### MG Rob Smith Passes Away

Rob Smith, class of 2012, passed away the beginning of February. Rob had been ill while taking his Master Gardener classes, so we may not have gotten to know him as well as we would have liked. His wife Pat was Class Reporter for the class of 2012 and is still active with MG's. He will be missed.



# BCMG Laboratory and Learning Center Dedication

- Laura Murphy

Bell County Master Gardeners Laboratory and Learning Center

Congratulations Master Gardeners you have completed phase one of your new center. Tuesday was a wonderful event. Our County Judge and commissioners attended, as well as other members of the court. Extension was represented locally and on the district level. We also had guests from the community at large. After a brief ceremony, we all had a light lunch. The weather cooperated and the building looked great. In brief, all went well.

After the building was completed, a few people stepped in to put insulation over the exposed siding screws, clean up around the area, and clean and seal the floor. There are a few more items to complete. Door knobs will be changed out when the new hardware arrives. The doors will be rekeyed for security and the combination on the gate locks will be changed before the plant sale.

A paver campaign is underway to raise funds for landscaping and other projects to assist with completing the learning center.

The building is ready for use.



# Dedication...continued



Photos by Randy Brown



# Sleeping Bees?

- Stephen Gardipee

I was asked recently if honey bees hibernate. The answer is no. To hibernate means to be in a dormant state resembling sleep over the winter while living off reserves of body fat, with a decrease in body temperature and pulse rate and slower metabolism. Animals that hibernate include bears, bats, many amphibians and a few insects.

Honey bees do not hibernate but the bumble bee, which is closely related, does hibernate. It is interesting to note that although closely related their winter behavior is very different. A colony of honey bees will live throughout the entire winter, actively keeping the nest warm.

Bumble bees do not maintain colonies throughout the winter. When the end of summer draws near the last brood will contain a number of queens. Each of these queens will mate and find a nest in which she will hibernate, alone until spring. Just like the animals that hibernate, such as the bear or bat. When the bumble bee queen hibernates she is neither eating nor working. Her depressed rate of metabolism allows her to live for long periods while burning very little fuel.

Honey bees maintain their colony throughout the entire winter. The winter colony will be much smaller than the summer colony; it will nevertheless contain thousands of individuals. Unlike the bumble bee or any of the other insects that actually hibernate such as Lady Bird beetles, “Lady bugs” to some of us, or house flies and blow flies, honey bees eat and work all winter long.

In the winter, honey bees require protection from the cold temperature and wind. To provide this protection they work all summer to seal all cracks with a sticky substance they gather called propolis. When the outside temperature drops below 57 degrees F. (14 degrees C), the bees congregate to the center of the hive, in the brood nest area. They crawl into some of

the empty cells; they form a well defined ball or cluster and fill the space between the combs.

This is called the winter cluster. The outside layer of the ball is composed of bees tightly packed together and acting as an insulating layer. They will line up with their heads facing toward the center of the mass. The winter cluster expands and contracts as the outside temperatures rise and fall. Bees in the cluster will be active, moving about, feeding, rearing brood and generating heat. The temperature required to raise brood is about 95 degrees F. (35 degrees C), so the bees in the cluster vibrate their wing muscles to generate heat. This activity requires a large supply of stored honey and pollen. If they did not or could not store this food supply, they would not survive the winter. At the very edge of the cluster the temperature drops from 95 degrees F. (35 degrees C), to 45 degrees F. (7 degrees C). Obviously the bees on the very outside of the cluster cannot sustain themselves for long at that temperature, so they gradually move towards the center, and the warm, well –fed bees from the inside move toward the outside to replace them.

Because the honey bees remain clustered inside the hive during the cold weather they rarely leave the hive. This is why some think the bees are hibernating. If the temperature rises over 57 degrees F. (14 degrees C), the bees are

able to break their confinement to take cleansing flights (to defecate). In the spring, when the temperatures rise, the population expands rapidly as the early food sources become plentiful and available. As the

weather becomes favorable for foraging, you will be able to see honey bees coming and going, to and from the hive. When you watch the bees flying from flower to flower you now know they are not coming out of hibernation. The temperature is above 57 degrees F. and the honey bees are leaving their winter cluster. They are resuming their normal spring behavior. They are pollinating flowers, gathering nectar and pollen and making the nutritious and delicious honey that we love to eat.



Photo by MN Linda Mahaffey

# MG's Participate in 2013 Home and Garden Show

- Louann Hight



The Bell County Master Gardeners participated in the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Home and Garden Show held this weekend at

the Bell County Expo Center. Thanks to all who volunteered (over 50 individuals) to make this great public interaction a success. Once again, our Booth was featured in the Sunday edition of the Temple Daily Telegram thanks to Larry Causey, Temple Telegram Staff writer. He showcased the vegetable seminar given by Jerry Lewis. Jerry gave timely vegetable planting information and focused on growing tomatoes. Other seminars included "Drip Irrigation" by Gary Slanga, "Invasives" by Gail Christian, "Butterflies and Hummingbirds" by Mary Ann Everett and "Herbs" by Linda Young and Kim Pringle. The free seminars were very well attended. 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 & identification of weeds.



Photos by Gail Christian

# News From 2013 Master Gardener Class

## - Anabel Reeser, Class Reporter

During our first class, Jayla Fry, State Master Gardener Coordinator, explained that if a county has a large population, the Extension Office receives countless questions from the public. The Master Gardeners are volunteers who are trained to help answer them.

Each Master Gardener project, such as a demonstration beds or greenhouse can be maintained only if it becomes popular with the public, no matter how healthy and pretty the plants look. If a question comes up about projects, costs, etc., it is the County Extension Agent who has the final say.

Jayla then reviewed some basics of botany, including the structure of a complete flower. She then gave a detailed view of the amazing structure and workings of one thin leaf.

In the group activities that followed, we first identified the families of some plants by their stems and leaves, and tossed around a lot of new terms. Then we dissected a flower. Everyone was amazed at how beautiful and complex it was.

## Propagation Class

For our second class, Judy Herrmann, presented Sexual/Asexual Propagation. Wayne Baker was present as a mentor. He and Judy are state-certified propagation specialists as well as Bell County Master Gardeners.

We were treated to a wealth of practical information from an experienced gardener. Judy first reviewed the sexual propagation of plants, giving more detail about pollination. We were reminded, among other things, that if you grow plants of the same family too close together, such as squash and cucumbers, you'll get a hybrid that doesn't taste very good.

Judy then reviewed asexual propagation. One advantage of cloning is that you can preserve or share a plant you really like by cloning it, using its leaves, stems or roots. Another advantage is that cloning may be cheaper and easier. Hundreds of orchids for corsages are now being grown, drastically reducing their

price. But beware! If the parent has a virus, all its clones will, too.

We learned in detail about rooting stems, and about raising seedlings in the winter. Our practicum consisted in making a mini greenhouse from a gallon milk jug, and planting it with flower seeds.

In passing, Judy mentioned that Walker's Honey Farm east of Temple is looking for places to put hives.

## Our First Propagation Class

Our first propagation class was led by Louann Hight and Judy Herrmann. Louann gave a lecture and demonstration on seeds and seeding tomatoes, peppers and eggplant, plus advice on starting many other vegetables from seed. Also she advised that feed stores offer less expensive seeds than big-box stores. Seeds from all over the world are available. Seeds from Israel and the Mideast will grow in Texas heat!

She discussed many methods of getting seeds to germinate, such



as fermenting them in butter-milk or beer. You can soak some seeds for 24 hours, and the viable seeds sink to the bottom,

and the bad seeds float. Seeds also are individual about their needs for water, temperature, and darkness or light in order to sprout.

Then each intern in the class got six pots filled with potting soil, and three seed packets. We got the advice that heirloom tomatoes sell for a high price in specialty markets.

Louann reminded us that (a few experiments aside)

Photo from [www.stokeseeds.com](http://www.stokeseeds.com)

Continued on next page...

## Propagation class...continued

you must plant what is labeled for your area. It is also a good idea to pay attention to the number of days before germination. All that is on the seed packet.

A pencil or a chopstick, marked to the half-inch mark, is a good instrument for planting certain seeds at the right depth. I would never have imagined being that careful about planting directions. It was also news to me that you need a label marked with an indelible marker to keep track of what you planted.

Judy Hermann continued with a lecture on bulbs, corms, tubers, and rhizomes. She described many beautiful flowers that come from bulbs, and many details about planting bulbs. Onions, for example, can be sliced from top to bottom, but each onion chip must have part of the basal plate attached to the bottom of it in order to grow into an individual plant. We each got a large pot full of perlite, and our selection of bulbs. We then chipped a daffodil bulb, dipped each piece in sulfur to retard mildew, prepared a hole in the perlite (so as not to wipe off the sulfur) and planted them.

## Basic Plant Processes

Flo Oxley, from Austin Community College led the third class. Flo lectured on the structure of plants on a cellular level. Some basic components of all living cells were mentioned, then the structure of plant cells and how they differ from the cells of all other living organisms. She described their cellulose walls, unique to the plant world, as being "like bricks with balloons in them."

Factors affecting the growth of plants included the sugar created by photosynthesis in the leaves during the growing season, which goes down the phloem to the plant's roots where it is stored as starch during the winter. In spring, the starch is converted back into sugar and is drawn back up to the leaves, giving them the energy to start photosynthesis again, and to make the plant grow again.

Another aspect of the plant's growth is the formation of the seed and the food that surrounds it, and the external factors that influence the plant's germination and growth.

The conversation then turned to plant keys, by which you can hope to identify a plant. First we learned to read one, then we had to create one. It seems easier to read a key. In a series of contrasting statements, you read from top to bottom, choosing the statement from each "couplet" that better fits the plant sample you have in your hand. Creating a key was tougher, but we became instant latinists, and had a hilarious time. Different botanists can create different keys to identify the same plant, based on what qualities they choose. She recommended these books: Wildflowers of Texas by Geyata Ajilvsgi; Wildflowers of the Texas Hill Country by Marshall Enquist; Shinner's & Mahler's Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas.

## Vegetable Class

Gary Slanga and Bob Gordon presented "Vegetable Gardening." One of the many things I learned was that two very successful gardeners often do the same thing in diametrically opposite ways.

Some advantages of growing your own vegetables are that they are fresher, taste better, and are less expensive. You have control over pesticide use. It is good exercise, it can be a family activity, but only the gardener can tell you whether it is actually fun.

In choosing a site for your garden, you need to look at the soil, the hours



of sunlight, and the water source. A tip about water is that the more convenient your water source is, the more time you can spend on your garden. You can put a spigot in the corner of each garden plot.

The soil to the west of I 35 is very different from the soil to the east of this highway. To the west is caliche and rocks, which is difficult to work with. Our lecturers suggested raised beds as an option for a vegetable garden. One of the interns told me she uses a pickaxe to make a hole in the caliche rock, and her plants do well. She may have been referring to permanent landscape plants.

Photo by Werner Hahn

Continued on next page...

## Vegetables...continued

Raised beds can be waist high, and should not be more than four feet wide. Old railroad ties (10-15 years old) work fine, but avoid creosoted telephone poles. In a rock wall, you should put a French drain.

To the east of I 35 is clay. It is far from the ideal soil, which is loam, composed of 10 to 30% clay, 30 to 50% silt, and 25 to 50% sand. Clay is the smallest particle in soil, and it is waterproof. To improve the aeration of clay soil, you can replace clay with organic matter.

Another way to improve clay soil is to replace some of its sand with expanded shale, developed by Texas A & M research center. The shale is heated to 2000 degrees F in a kiln. The result is very porous and holds water and air.

With a very high Ph level, nutrients are often locked up in the soil and are not available to plants. A & M will measure the available nutrients in your soil sample. It is a good idea to have your soil analyzed every year because you are amending the soil.

The amount of sunlight needed for a vegetable garden is six hours minimum. Eight hours or more would be best. A location with morning sun, but protection from the sun in the afternoon, is best in Texas. Orientation is important. Watch the shadows, and plant the tallest plants on the northwest side of the garden, and the shortest on the southeast.

You have bad drainage if in a moderate rain the soil doesn't drain in 24 hours.

Don't use horse manure on a vegetable garden because growth hormones and steroids can get into vegetables. It's fine for lawns.

Our lecturers warned that some companies that sell soil don't even know what clay is, and will be glad to sell you some.

We got advice on how much room some plants need, and were strongly advised to rotate crops as a way to control pests and diseases, which overwinter, and build up in one spot if their favorite plant is still there season after season. Trellises, proper planting time, and types of mulch were discussed, as well as lists of vegetables that are easy, medium, or hard, to start from seeds. Then extremely detailed suggestions

were given for growing onions, potatoes, tomatoes and radishes. It sounded like fun to plant potatoes in soil in an old tire, and then keep adding a new tire full of soil and straw as soon as the potatoes below start to sprout. My favorite hint was that lots of water makes onions sweeter, and keeps radishes from tasting too hot. Quite a few other vegetables were discussed, but in less detail.

## Native Plants

Reid Lewis of Temple College lectured on Native Texas plants and landscaping with them. He emphasized their beauty as well as how you might use them in your landscape. The second part of his lecture was on basic principles of landscape design. He spoke of the diversity of Texas habitats: it isn't surprising that there are 5500 flowering plants that are native to Texas or are well adapted to Texas. He discussed

importing to our region plants that grow in the wild in other regions. If you're moving plants in Texas, you have better luck moving plants from west to east, than if you



move plants east to west. In your display of flowers, diversity is very important, starting with

very early blooming plants, and continuing to flowers that bloom late, and even some that are showy in winter.

Redbud Tree

Reid presented a slide show of many Texas plants—flowers, trees, shrubs. All were beautiful. He listed their climate and soil preferences, their size when full grown, whether they grew aggressively, and some good uses, such as ground cover. One plant, the Spiderwort, grows sitting on a rock! Since many gardeners are eager to attract birds and butterflies and bees to their garden, he included that information, and the list was quite long. He also warned us about some thug plants that you shouldn't plant unless you have 200 acres.

Photo by MN Linda Mahaffey

Continued on next page

## Native Plants...continued

Sometimes he urged us to get a certain plant that had every great quality imaginable, such as the rare Blue Star Ansonia, a fabulous plant with powder-blue flowers that spreads non-aggressively. Overall, I could see that you can find anything you want in the great variety of native plants, and solve any landscaping problem in using them. Their advantages aren't just that they can grow in dry hot weather.

He recommended Marshall Inquist's book Wild Flowers of the Hill Country.

Reid presented almost as many native trees as flowers, warning along the way about the aggressive pests. He also described native grasses, cacti, and vines.

In discussing landscape design, Reid emphasized in many ways the idea of using a light hand, especially in pruning. He urged choosing plants that grow to the adult size that you want in your design, rather than drastically reducing the plant's size. He also advocated preserving the plant's natural shape, not "abusing the plant" by trying to create a tree shape out of a shrub, for example. Ideally, you would never need to take out more than six inches here and there.

He recommended odd numbers in a group of plantings, and no straight lines; that is, placing your plants so as to create curved, or flowing, patterns along the ground.

## Our Second Propagation Class

Gary Slanga presented the first part of the class, on growing grapes. He showed slides of different trellising systems. The vine grows a stem that becomes woody and reaches the height the gardener chooses. You cut off any grapes that grow on the vine the first year, because the vine needs that energy to grow thick cordons, or horizontal branches. If there are any cordons that are big enough, at least ½ inch in diameter,



they are thinned to just one branch on either side, and each branch is cut to three feet long. If the cordons are not ½ inch thick, a different approach is used. You balance the number of grapes to the vigor of the vine. A certain amount of healthy leaf surface is necessary to support the growth of the grapes. The mature grape bunches are huge, as we saw in a slide.



In the garden plots outside our classroom, there was a grapevine that was just ready to be pruned to two cordons. Gary allowed us to help prune them, and then gave branches to everyone for rooting.

The second part of the propagation class was led by Nancy Kozuko. She described several varieties of roses, then explained the Baggie method of growing roots on cuttings. Fill a one-gallon size Ziplock baggie ¼ to 1/3 full of potting soil. A cutting should have 3 or 4 nodes. Trim the bottom leaves, and clip diagonally under the bottom node. Then shave off the bottom ½ inch of the bark, dip it into rooting powder and place it into a hole in the soil



(avoid rubbing off the rooting powder), with two nodes under the soil. Blow into the baggie and close it. In four or five weeks, there will be roots about 4" long. We planted as many rose cuttings, from old-fashioned roses, as we wanted.



Photos by Gail Christian

# MG's Visit Central Texas Gardener Studio



Laura Murphy and Kim Pringle visited the set of CTG on KLRU when Peter Hatch, the garden director at Jefferson's Monticello was being interviewed by Tom Spencer. They also got to see behind the scenes in the sound booth.

## Interesting Article on Bees

- Annette Ensing

My sister heard this on NPR and I found the text at the site listed below. The bottom line is that flowers emit a negative charge and bees have a positive one which forms an electrical attraction that lures bees to the flower!

<http://www.npr.org/2013/02/22/172611866/honey-its-electric-bees-sense-charge-on-flowers>

This is an excerpt from NPR's site listed above. The article, *Honey, It's Electric: Bees Sense Charge on Flowers* was written by Adam Cole.

Gregory Sutton of the University of Bristol in the U.K. says, "We found that flowers can use electric fields."

That's right — electric fields. It turns out flowers have a slight negative charge relative to the air around them. Bumblebees have a charge, too.

"When bees are flying through the air, just the friction of the air and the friction of the body parts on one another causes the bee to become positively charged," Sutton says.

It's like shuffling across a carpet in wool socks. When a positively charged bee lands on a flower, the negatively charged pollen grains naturally stick to it.

# Q & A

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

## **Last month's question from:**

**-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?*



## **And the answer is:**

This is Echeveria runyoni. The common name is Topsy Turvy. Ursula Nanna says this is an offset growing out of the mother plant.

## **This Month's Question:**

**- Terrie Hahn**



My friend, Linda Mahaffey has this flower come up in her yard every year at this time. What is it?



## **February General**

### **Meeting Notes**

**- Laura Murphy**

#### **Pavers**

At the February General Meeting, Gail Christian talked about the paver campaign which is now in full swing. Check our web site for a form to fill out. One paver is \$60. Two pavers are \$100. Because we want all Master Gardeners to be able to participate in the campaign and have a paver with their name and class date, financial arrangements are available. You can pay for your paver/pavers by paying 50% of the cost down and paying the remainder in 30 days. The first order deadline is May 1st.. Please speak with Don Wyatt if you want to make partial payment for a paver. There will be a second order for pavers with the deadline to be determined.



## **African Violet Care**

A Talk on African Violets was conducted by Dorothy Keele with the African Violet Society.



Photos by Randy Brown

# Announcements

## March Monthly Meeting

- **Bernie Hurta**

The March Monthly Meeting will be Wednesday, **March 13<sup>th</sup>**. We will not have a speaker this month because we have so much business to cover, we will not have time for a speaker. We will talk about the Spring Plant Sale on **March 23<sup>rd</sup>** and have sign-ups to work on that day and the days before the sale. We will also have sign-ups for the 2013 Class Field Trip (**April 24<sup>th</sup>**).

## April 10<sup>th</sup> Plant Swap

- **Bernie Hurta**

We will have a plant swap before the **April 10<sup>th</sup>** monthly meeting. Start potting any extra plants that are coming up now. Also, if you have any extra seeds that you harvested last summer and fall, please bring those also. Plant swaps are always a lot of fun to participate in and you go home with great plants.

## Grounds Committee Upcoming Dates

- **Brenda Albro**

On **March 6<sup>th</sup>**, we will have bean dish Wednesday!

On the **March 13<sup>th</sup>** we will work from 8-11 am before the general meeting.

Then on the **20<sup>th</sup>** we will have a workday 8 – 11am and on Thursday and Friday there will be plant deliveries. We will announce times that we need help for this at a later time.

On **March 23<sup>rd</sup>** is the **plant sale** from 7 am - 1 pm.

Then on the **27<sup>th</sup>** we will have a workday 8 – 11 am.

## Time for This Year's Field Trip

- **Kim Pringle**

Greetings,

Please join the 2013 Class for this years field trip to Austin on Wednesday, **April 24, 2013**. The chartered bus will depart the Bell County Extension Office at **8:00 am** and return at approximately 5:00 pm. You will need to bring a sack lunch.

First stop will be at the Central Texas Olive Ranch near Walburg. They will have olive trees and olive oil for sale if interested. Please bring questions.

Next stop is the Travis County AgriLife Extension Office. We will get to mix and mingle with some of their members and meet their agent, Daphne Richards, a regular guest on Central Texas Gardener. This is an active organization - please check out their website for programs and activities they are involved with. Travis Co. MG Reeve Hobbie will present his talk on "Drought Resistant Perennials" for Central Texas. It's nominated for a state MG award this year, and should be very interesting. Then we will move outside for the tour and Q&A of their demo gardens coordinated by Travis MG Rosalie Russell. I am told that the raised beds in the demo garden probably won't be producing quite yet, but things will be planted and the habitat portion should look very nice. The area is not large like Montgomery County or Bexar County, but was on last years edible garden tour and produced an astounding amount of produce for their local food bank.

We will finish up at Natural Gardener with shopping and touring its grounds, an education in itself.

The cost of the trip for New Class members is included in their tuition and they do not have to pay. For other MG's the cost is \$25.00. 2013 Class members and Master Gardeners may also reserve one seat for a guest. The reservations are on a first come first serve basis and are non-refundable, but are transferable. To make a reservation, or for more information, please call Kim Pringle at (254) 791-1564 or email at [kimberpringle@earthlink.net](mailto:kimberpringle@earthlink.net) or mail Kim Pringle a check (\$25 payable to Bell County Master Gardeners) to 2410 Birdcreek Dr., Temple, TX 76502. Please include your phone number and email address with your check.

# What's Happening in Your Yard?



## Garden Help

- Beverly Wickersham

"We are never too young or too old to enjoy gardening!"

Harper Fish is our 3 1/2 year old granddaughter, and this is the second year that she has helped us plant potatoes. Last year she had a great time harvesting the Jack-Be-Little pumpkins we planted just for her.



## Christmas Tree for the Future

- Cindy Allen

Grandson, Everett, and I took Reid's advice about establishing a microenvironment and are trying our own Christmas tree. I can't wait to watch this year after year (if it survives) to see how the heights of both babies change.

# What's Happening in Your Yard?

## Before and After Shots of My Yard

- Ursula Nanna

These are the before and after photos of my desert gardens in the backyard and by the street one year after planting.



# What's Happening in Your Yard?

## Blooming in My Yard!

- Frances Idoux

My native Redbud and one of my lavender plants is already in bloom. Mother Nature thinks it's spring!



## And Blooming in My Yard!

- Terrie Hahn

Photos on the right show our Mountain Laurel and White Winter Honeysuckle.



## Officers and Directors 2011- 2012

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First Vice President	Bernie Hurta
Second Vice President	Jerry Lewis
Recording Secretary	Myra Crenshaw
Corresponding Secretary	Peg Fleet
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JMG	Pearl Fellingham
New Class	Fran Sheppard
Outreach	Don Gold
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Greenhouse	Mel Myers
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