



The Blooming Bell

October, 2010
BCMGA Newsletter

Inside this edition:

October Calendar

The President's Corner

Plant Sale Update

Garden Tour Pictures

Upcoming Events, Announcements

Help Wanted

What's Happening in Your Garden



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 Work Day 9 am Herb Study Group 8:45 am Hamburger Wednesday	7	8	9 Central TX Gardeners' Conference In Schertz 8 am
10 Georgetown 350 Sustainabil- ity Expo 10:10 am	11	12	13 Plant Swap 10 am (bring plants at 9:30) MG General Meeting 11 am Rich Kostecke - Birds of Central TX	14	15 Nolanville Science Day 8:15 am - 2:00 pm	16 Garden Conser- vancy Tour 9 am-5 pm, Austin
17	18	19	20 Greenhouse Commit- tee meeting 9 am Grounds Committee Meeting 10 am	21 Trip to Fort Hood	22	23
24	25	26	27 Board of Directors Meeting 9 am	28	29	30
31 						

Important upcoming dates: November 20, Ellison's Nursery in Brenham

The President's Corner

AUTUMN IS IN THE AIR

As usual, September has been filled with all kinds of activities for Bell County Master Gardeners. Our Garden Tour was a very successful endeavor. We want to thank all who hosted on the tour this year. I think we had a good turn out and the gardens were beautiful. We need to get together and decide if this is the right Saturday to have a garden tour. I realize that we have thought that by having the tour the week before the plant sale we would generate more interest in the plant sale. I think we should have a discussion as to the pros and cons of this particular Saturday for the tour.

Please take notice of the improvements made at the west end of the greenhouse (hardening house). Our grounds committee has added pots and a "desert" garden for display. I think this makes a great addition to our campus. Our thanks to the grounds committee for this work.

Our plant sale has come and gone. Once again you have stepped up to the plate and put forth the effort necessary to make this sale great. We had approximately 313 people who came and shopped with us. We had a lot of exposure thanks to the Temple Daily Telegram and the Killeen Daily Herald. They not only wrote up the plant sale but the garden tour as well. It appears that we will net over Five Thousand Dollars as a result of this sale. I realize that this sounds like a lot of money, but we have had to pick up a lot of expenses in several of our programs because of the economy and cut backs on school funding. Our thanks go to David Fitch and the greenhouse committee for the good work.

We tried something new during this year's plant sale. We had seminars on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. I think we might have learned that we cannot compete with Friday night football, no matter how important our seminar is. Thanks to all who participated in this.

Don't think that just because we have been successful in September that we can sit around and think about this success. We still have work to do. Our greenhouse is in need of repair and decisions must be made about the "hardening" house. A committee is being formed and we will be making a recommendation to the board as to the future of these structures. Your ideas and recommendations are important to us and please let me hear from you.

I will not be at the October general meeting. Sharon and I will be going to New York State to witness the incredible "changing of the colors" that occurs this time of year. Hope we picked the right week for this.

The lessons from the community garden will cease. I have planted a raised bed garden at my home in lieu of the community garden this fall. We will make a decision about the spring garden at a later date.

Happy Gardening! - Mel Myers



These are the hardy folks who lasted till the end of the "garden tour for the volunteers" on Monday. Taken at the Killeen Community garden. Can you match the correct names to the faces?

-Pearl Fellingham

Another Successful Plant Sale!

Submitted by David Fitch

Well, the much awaited Fall Plant Sale is behind us. I would say that by most standards it was yet another success in a growing line of BCMGA plant sales. With very few exceptions, the plants arrived from all three vendors in excellent condition. They were uniform in height and color and were mostly pest and disease free. This makes for much easier selling when customers are pleased with the appearance and are not troubled with selecting the best looking plant.

Our goal was to take in \$10,000 from the sale and we exceeded that by a couple of hundred dollars. This, in spite of the fact that we had a fairly large inventory of unsold roses. I think we may have temporarily reached market saturation on roses. We've sold quite a few over the past several sales. I hope to liquidate the remainder of the plants through a half price sale to members.

Another measure of success is the member and community involvement. We had 313 customers and 23 members who signed in. I know there were some more members that participated but neglected to sign in. There were 61 people who attended our classes. That number is a little disappointing but I think the message here is to avoid classes in the afternoon and never conduct class on a Friday evening during high school football season.

The Kids Kamp was a nice addition to the program.

It was well attended, and the children seemed to have a great time as well as a great learning experience.

Thank you one and all for your participation in making this another successful and fun event.



Darla Menking hosts Kids Kamp at the Plant Sale. Kids made a Mr. Seed Head and took him home to watch for his interesting head to appear.

Photo by Mary Lew Quesinberry

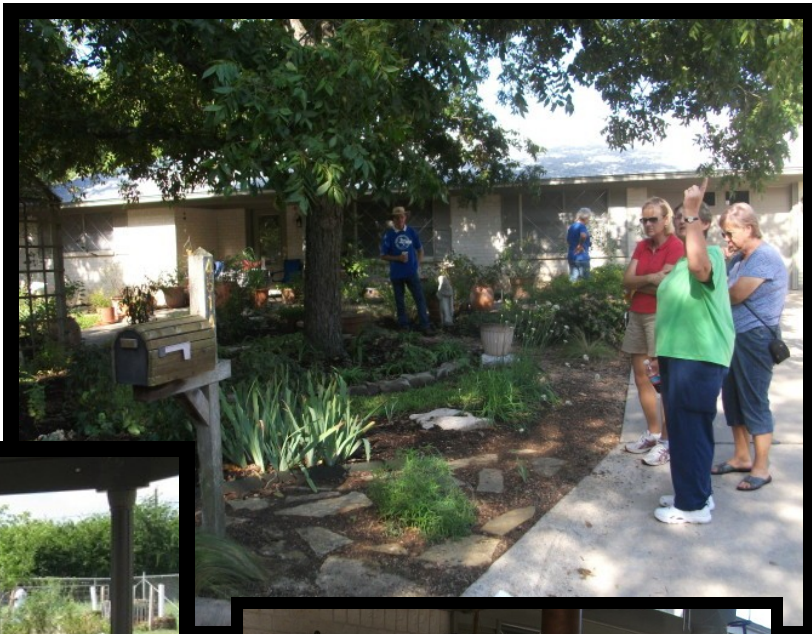
Garden Tour 2010!

Clockwise from top: Mary Ann Everett's pond garden; Greeters at Diane Calderwood's house; Diane answering questions; Mary Ann showing her yard; Diane teaching about square foot gardening in her vegetable garden.



Garden Tour

Clockwise from top: Mary Ann Everett's yard; Greeters at Mary Ann's garden; Gy teaching compost basics; Johnny Buck teaching about dry stack; the Crew at The Killeen Community Gardens.



Photos by Beth Buhl and Don Gold.

Upcoming Events...

Fall Plant Swap

Submitted by Bernie Hurta

A Fall Plant Swap will be held at 10 am, October 13th, prior to the October Association meeting. If you have potted perennials, potted houseplants, bulbs, tubers, or seeds you would like to swap, this will be a great time to do so. Please label them and deliver them by **9:30 am** on that Wednesday, **October 13th**. If you have any questions, contact Bernie Hurta at bhurta@gmail.com.

Other events:

Fourth Annual Central Texas Gardeners Conference, October 9th, go to www.tcmastergardeners.org.

Georgetown350 Sustainability Expo, October 10, go to www.georgetown350.org.

Garden Conservancy Open Days in Austin, October 16, 9 am - 5 pm, go to www.gardenconservancy.org/opendays/events.

The Great Pumpkin Festival

The Dallas Arboretum is celebrating Fall with their annual Autumn at the Arboretum-The Great Pumpkin Festival. There's still time to go! It goes **through November 14th**. They have a Storybook Pumpkin Village with four walk-through houses made completely out of pumpkins! Each house represents a children's book that features pumpkins in the story. The houses are surrounded by pumpkins and decorative gourds. There are 40,000 pumpkins in this area alone! And there are lines of pumpkins bordering many of the gardens throughout the Arboretum.

Master Gardeners, Diane Calderwood, Susan Firth, Master Naturalist Linda Mahaffey and I went up to see this wonderfully fun exhibit last week. It's well worth the drive up to Dallas. On their website you can find buy one, get one free tickets for Wednesdays. Their website is www.dallasarboretum.org.

-Terrie Hahn



Notice the squash that look like swans on a white lake of pumpkins in the middle picture and the flowers made of very flat pumpkins in the bottom picture.

Announcements...

Fall Field Trips

Submitted by Mary Ann Everett

North Fort Hood, Oct. 21, for fall color:

So far I have 12 master gardeners signed up, with 5 who say they can drive. I have room for 23 master gardeners with these 5 cars. I will be asking again at the monthly meeting if anyone else wants to go, and will send out another email.

20th Annual Poinsettia Celebration at Ellison's Nursery in Brenham, Saturday, November 20:

There will be over 8,000 poinsettias! We would leave the Extension Office by 8:30 a.m. to be there by 10:00 a.m. Fee is \$2.00. They do not give any guided tours with the poinsettia celebration, but we can wander through the greenhouses. They do have a gift shop. We could eat in downtown Brenham at *Must Be Heaven*.

If interested in either of these field trips, please let me know by email at pma4514@sbcglobal.net.

Herb Group Tests Citrus Herbs

The September meeting of the Herb Study Group covered lemon and lime flavored herbs. We tasted waters made with Lemon Verbena, Lemon Balm, Lemon Grass, Lemon Thyme, Lemon Basil, Kaffir Lime, and Lime Basil. The favorites seemed to be Lemon Balm, Lemon Verbena and Lime Basil. I demonstrated making a virgin Mojito with and without Lime Basil to show how Lime Basil can make a drink much more lime tasting without adding more tartness. I made pasta with onion, roasted garlic and lemon basil. The lemon basil keeps its bright color better than most herbs once they're cooked. The flavor was definitely more like lemon than basil. I also made Lemon Verbena Tea Bread. Even though the leaves were quite brittle when picked, they became soft and unnoticeable when baked except for the wonderful flavor they imparted to the bread and glaze.

Nancy Blansett brought along a book on Lemon

Herbs by Ellen Spector Platt naming quite a few more lemon herbs than any of us had heard of. Frances Idoux brought along a gelato made with infused Lemon Verbena which was refreshing and extremely tasty. - Terrie Hahn

From Kim

To finish out the meetings for 2010, we will do the following:

October 6 - Research project: Sage. Everyone should research sage to share information at the meeting.

November 3 - Herb Gifts from or for the Garden. Feel free to share ideas for gifts, decorations or recipes for the holidays. Mary Ann Hill will demonstrate how to make the cute brick plant markers.

December 1 - Herb Christmas Tea. Frances Idoux has offered to host at her home.

A row of variegated basil and verbena spotted with white pumpkins at The Great Pumpkin Festival at the Dallas Arboretum.



Help Wanted.....

...Nolanville Science Day

Submitted by Mary Ann Everett

Nolanville has asked our help once again for their Science Day. We will be doing plant heads, nature masks, and know and show sombreros, for grades kindergarten, first and second. The Science Day is on October 15th from 8:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The school would like to have the names of all who will be helping with this, so I would like to have a response by Monday, October 11. Also I would like to meet with everyone who volunteers on Wednesday, October 13, at 10:00 a.m. to go over what we will be doing and materials we will need to bring. This would be before the monthly meeting.

If you can help with this event, or have any questions, please email me at pma4514@sbcglobal.net.

Carved pumpkin
from Greenhouse
at State Fair.



Herbal Recipes

The following recipes were from goodies served at the July General Meeting that several people requested.

Salad Burnet Spread

Submitted by Mary Ann Hill

8 oz cream cheese
2 green onions, minced with tops
3 tbsp chopped salad burnet
3 tbsp dill
1 - 2 tbsp mayonnaise or sour cream
1/2 tsp dried mustard
1 1/2 tsp curry powder
2 tsp chopped chives
pinch of salt

Blend together the first 5 ingredients, then add the last 4 ingredients. Serve with slices of party pumpernickel bread.

Lemon Verbena Pecan Crisps

Submitted by Mary Ann Hill

1/2 cup lemon verbena *leaves, packed
2 cups sugar
2 cups unsalted butter
3 cups flour
1/2 tsp salt
2 tsp baking soda - or these two can be substituted w/baking powder
1 tsp cream of tartar -
1 cup chopped, toasted pecans
4 cups corn flakes

Devein lemon verbena leaves. Process with sugar in food processor until very fine.

In separate bowl, cream butter until fluffy, add sugar and beat for another minute.

Mix dry ingredients together in a separate bowl. Slowly add dry ingredients to butter-sugar mixture just until well combined. Gently fold in pecans and corn flakes.

Roll into 1" balls and bake at 350 degrees for about 15 minutes or until lightly browned.

*Can substitute 1/2 cup rose geranium leaves, 6 tsps ground lavender, or any other desired herb or spice. 2 tsps finely chopped rosemary is great too.

Tortilla Rollups

Submitted by Beverly Wickersham

1 8 oz package cream cheese
1 4 1/2 oz can chopped black olives
1 4 oz can chopped green chilies, rinsed, drained
3 - 4 green onions, chopped
Chives, Dill, Parsley (any or all)
8 - 10 flour tortillas
Unsalted butter, softened

Beat cream cheese until smooth. Stir in the olives, chilies, onions and herbs. Spread tortillas with a thin coat of butter and then spread with cheese mixture. Roll up, CHILL, slice. Serve at room temperature.

What's Happening in Your Garden?



From top, clockwise:
Chocolate Plant from Sue Judd's yard;
Flowering Senna from Terrie and Werner Hahn's yard; Fox drinking water from a bird bath beyond a Perle d'Or rose in the Hahn's yard; Hyacinth Vine taking over a shed and chairs in Sue Judd's yard; American Beauty Berry in Karla Tomaka's

Tell Me What's New?

I'd like to do another spread of What's Happening in Your Garden in the coming months. If anyone has any pictures to share, please send them by email or snail mail to me at the address on the bottom of this page. Or if anyone has an article they'd like to write pertaining to gardening, or information to pass along, please send it along. Thank you.

- Terrie Hahn

**A publication of the Bell County Master
Gardener Association sponsored by Texas
AgriLife Extension of Texas A & M University**

**1605 N. Main St.
Belton, Texas 76513
(254) 933-5305**



**Front Cover Picture and Calendar picture: Harvest
Festival at Dallas Arboretum**



Contributing Writers:

**Mel Meyers
David Fitch
Beth Buhl
Bernie Hurta
Mary Ann Everett
Mary Ann Hill
Beverly Wickersham**

Contributing Photographers:

**Mary Lew Quesinberry
Beth Buhl
Karla Tomaka
Sue Judd
Donald Gold
Pearl Fellingham
Terrie Hahn**

Editor:

Terrie Hahn

**Please submit articles and photos for the
Blooming Bell to Terrie Hahn at:**

moompie45@hotmail.com

Or send to:

**321 Logan Ranch Rd.
Georgetown, TX 78628**

**Right: Sculpture made of gun parts and tools at the
Texas State Fair– part of a garden sculpture exhibit.
Below: Garden Trains in the Greenhouse at the Texas
State Fair in Dallas.**

