

Bell County Master Gardeners
Tip of the Week
By Jann Dworsky
“Tending God’s Garden”

This spring some of the Bell County Master Gardeners were invited to the First Baptist Church of Killeen to participate in their women’s evening titled “Tending God’s Garden”. We had a delightful time and gave short talks about gardening and being thankful for growing things. Darla Menking, and the church women had organized this evening and it was a big hit with everyone attending. There was a delicious salad supper and the tables were covered with bright cloths in floral colors. We answered questions the ladies had about gardening and it was hard to tell who had a better time, the ladies from the church or the master gardeners!

Also this spring, many of the Master Gardeners were involved in the Junior Master Gardener program and went to numerous schools in Belton, Killeen, and Nolanville. We enjoyed giving programs for the children on many aspects of growing plants and making a “Grasshead Man” depicted in the photo. Again it is hard to tell who had more fun, the gardeners, or the kids.

Bell County Master Gardeners work on many different projects in the community. There are ongoing education classes, and each new Master Gardener intern class runs from January through May weekly. The classes are provided to community members of Bell County in conjunction with the Bell County Extension office, Bell County Master Gardeners, and directed by Dirk Arron.

These education classes include every aspect of gardening such as vegetables, flowers, culinary herbs, grasses, trees, and fruits. Classes are also included on the subjects of rainwater harvesting, Earth Kind plants, plant propagation, budding and grafting, and insects including butterflies and fire ants, to name just a few. Gardening on all levels and all types is discussed and you do not have to be an expert to sign up. Just a desire to learn and expand your knowledge is sufficient. Knowledgeable speakers from Texas A & M come regularly to give lectures and demonstrate techniques. There is a greenhouse and wonderful demonstration gardens to observe. This is a service organization with the goal of giving back to the community through projects and education. All ages of people are welcome but there is a class limit of 25 each year. Sign up now for the start of the January 2011 class; it fills up early.

If you are interested in joining the Bell County Master Gardeners call the Bell County extension office at 933-5305. Have any questions about gardening in Central Texas? Contact ask.bcmga@gmail.com

