



The Blooming Bell

Bell County Master Gardeners Association

January 2006, Newsletter

Monthly Meeting Wednesday, January 11, 2006, 11:00 a.m.

Bell County Extension Office

1605 N. Main St., Belton, Texas 76513

Opening: Charles Newsom

Speaker: Hill Country Water Gardens

from Cedar Park

Refreshments:

Cookies; Marlene Gillman, Bev Chenowith, Emilie Butts

Drinks; Sandy Jones, Barbara Davis

Please contact Carol Holcombe to volunteer

For February & March refreshments

Welcome New Class!

On behalf of the Bell County Master Gardener's Association, we would all like to extend a hearty welcome to all of our new class members. We all look forward to meeting and working with you as you go through the fun and challenging process of becoming Master Gardeners.

New Class Calendar

1/4/06	Propagation, Greenhouse Workshop; Deb Martin
1/11/06	Soil Testing; Dr. Tony Provin, Director of Soil, TAMU
1/18/06	Basic Botany, JMG Overview; Lisa Whittlesey, TAMU
1/25/06	Landscape Design; Keb Burns
2/1/06	Antique Roses, Perennials; Dr. Bill Welch, TAMU
2/8/06	Garden Entomology, Insects & Chemicals Jeff Tomberlin, Dirk Aaron
2/15/06	Native Plants, Texas Parks & Wildlife; Reid Lewis, Kelly Bender
2/22/06	Botany II; Harriet Jackson
3/1/06	Plant Diseases; Dr. Larry Barnes, TAMU
3/8/06	Vegetable Garden, Fruit and Nuts; Skip Ritcher, County Agent
3/15/06	Oak Wilt, Earthkind Roses; Deb Martin, Neil Cochran
3/22/06	Understanding Chemical Labels & Laws; Dr. Don Rennie, TAMU
3/29/06	Overview Master Gardeners, Xeriscape; Dr. Doug Welsh
4/5/06	Rainwater Collection; Billy Kniffen
4/19/06	Composting & Organic Gardening Guy Okeson, Brazos River Authority
5/10/06	Growing & Cooking With Herbs; Janice Cannard, Betty Nejtek, Sue Spivey

Each session begins at 1:00 p.m. Certified B.C.M.G.A. members are invited to attend. Seating is limited. Some sessions may be standing room only!

Greenhouse News

Mark your calendars!

Every Wednesday & Thursday Greenhouse Workdays 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Every Wednesday Vegetable Garden Workday 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

****Note: There will be no Burger Wednesday in January, 2006.***



Burger Wednesday Survives Ice Storm

Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet, nor hail or an ice storm will keep Master Gardeners away from their appointed tasks (or their hamburgers!) Master Gardeners turned out in force for December's burger Wednesday despite the treacherous weather and accomplished many "indoor" greenhouse tasks that have been on the to do list. Come by the greenhouse to see the newly installed cabinets and the plan for planting the vegetable garden. Regular greenhouse workdays have resulted in significant progress in the vegetable garden. There is only one bed remaining to be constructed and five to be dug in, filled and mulched. There is still much to be done to prepare for upcoming plant sales. Come out on Wednesdays and Thursdays to lend a hand. All help is appreciated!

Submitted by Karla Tomaka

“Burger Wednesday” participants request recipe!

Watergate Salad

Ingredients:

- 1 pkg. (4-serving size) JELL-O Pistachio Flavor Instant Pudding & Pie Filling
- 1 can (20 oz.) DOLE Crushed Pineapple, in juice, undrained
- 1 cup JET-PUFFED Miniature Marshmallows
- 1/2 cup chopped PLANTER'S Pecans
- 1 1/2 cups (1/2 of 8 oz. tub) thawed COOL WHIP Whipped Topping

Mix dry pudding mix, pineapple, marshmallows and pecans in large bowl until well blended. Add whipped topping; stir gently until well blended. Cover. Refrigerate 1 hour or until ready to serve.

Submitted by Louise Oldham

EVENTS SCHEDULE



- ❖ Belton Greenhouse Workdays, Wed. and Thurs., 9 am, Belton
- ❖ Burger Wednesday, 1st Wed. of month except month of January
- ❖ Home and Garden Sale, Feb 25-26, 2006
- ❖ Tomato/Pepper Sale, Mar 11, 2006
- ❖ Spring Garden Tour, Apr 22, 2006
- ❖ Spring Seminar and Plant Sale, 8am-10am, Apr 29, 2006
- ❖ Fall Vegetable Sale, 8am-10am, Aug 5, 2006
- ❖ Fall Garden Tour, Oct 14, 2006
- ❖ Fall Seminar and Plant Sale, 9am-3pm, Oct 21, 2006

Nominations

Elections for the 2006-2007 Board of Directors will be held at the monthly meeting in April. The slate will be presented to the membership at the monthly meeting in March. Installation will occur at Graduation in May. New BOD duties commence on June 1, 2006. All officer positions and three director positions will be submitted for your vote. **If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please contact Louise Oldham at 254-939-5663, or e-mail her at Loldham@hotmail.com**

Get the “dirt” from Dirk!

These are great publications and very timely for Texas. They are very helpful as we encourage proper use of fertilizers and reduce waste for our homeowners.

<http://publications.tamu.edu/cgi-bin/public.cgi>

The Aggie turf website to help people self diagnose problems in the lawn is as follows:

<http://aggieturf.tamu.edu>

Dirk Aaron, Texas Cooperative Extension, Bell County

(See example of what may be found below)

TEXAS TURF TIPS

Controlling Summer Annual Weeds—Treatment Time is Near!

Summer annual weeds can be an eye-sore for all turfgrass sites. Weeds, in general, like to invade sites where turfgrass is weakened and where the overall density of the turf has been reduced. Therefore, maintaining a healthy, dense turf is the best approach for weed management. But, if you do have problems with these summer annual weeds, there are a number of products (pre-emergent herbicides) that can be used to control these pests.

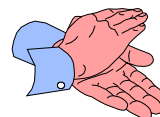
Summer annuals like crabgrass, goosegrass, grassbur, and prostrate spurge germinate in the late winter/early spring season. They will survive into summer and then mature and die. These are plants that come back each year by seed. Control of these weeds can be accomplished, but one has to apply the correct pre-emergent herbicide at the proper time. In South Texas, applications may need to be made in late January/early February. In the northern sections of the State, pre-emergence applications may be made in late February/early March. Hence, timing of the applications will depend on where you live in Texas. Remember, we are controlling germinating seeds—so the pre-emergent needs to be put out prior to germination. Finally, please read the labels on all pesticides prior to application and calibrate your sprayer/spreader. To obtain the proper dates of application, contact your local County Extension Agent with Texas Cooperative Extension (<http://county-tx.tamu.edu>).

Roger D. Havlak Ext. Program Specialist—Turf and Water Mgmt.

Submitted by Jeanne Richard

Christmas Party News

A big thanks to Ilene Miller for all her excellent work in organizing this years Christmas party. We had a great turn out and everyone enjoyed the delicious meal, program, and silent auction. Thank you Diane Wallin for all your hard work in organizing the silent auction which brought in an amazing \$2,400 for our organization.



Sad to report!! *Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Mr. Common*

Sense. Mr. Sense had been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm and that life isn't always fair. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not kids, are in charge). His health began to rapidly deteriorate when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place: Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Mr. Sense declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student, but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion. Finally, Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense finally gave up the ghost after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, spilled some in her lap, and was awarded a huge financial settlement. Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust, his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by two stepbrothers: My Rights and Ima Whiner. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, you're not in the majority.

Submitted by Laverne Adams.

NOTICE:

The first meeting of the 2006 Oak Wilt Conference Planning Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 11th at 0900 in the classroom. This is an organizational meeting before the monthly meeting. Those who wish to sign up for the committee should be certified master gardeners, be able to attend two meetings a month January to June, able to perform some tasks outside of the meeting times, attend the Oak Wilt Conference on June 20 & 21 (both are 12 hour days), and are willing to meet specific task deadlines leading up to the conference.

This is a busy, short term, but fun and interesting committee that requires a big commitment for the participants for a period of six months leading up to the conference. You will become an Oak Wilt Specialist by the end of the conference and will thereafter be asked to give 12 hours of volunteer time performing the duties of an Oak Wilt Specialist during the following 12 months. All certified master gardeners are invited to participate although the committee size is limited to 10 persons.

Questions may be directed to Deb Martin mdrifter@vvm.com

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