

# ***The Blooming Bell***

## ***Bell County Master Gardeners Association***

**March 2006, Newsletter**

**Monthly Meeting Wednesday, March 8, 2006, 11:00 a.m.**

**Bell County Extension Office  
1605 N. Main St., Belton, Texas 76513**

**Opening: Dirk Aaron**

**Speaker: Chico Valdez - Grapes**

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**Refreshments:**

**Cookies; Jean Gautier, Linda Hunter, Nancy Hawkins**

**Drinks; Johnny Buck, Carol Holcombe**

*April drink refreshments are still needed. Please contact  
Carol Holcombe to volunteer (254) 773-7203 or e-mail [echolm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:echolm@sbcglobal.net)*

***Please note, the April association meeting has been moved  
to the first Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> due to the new class field trip.***

# EVENTS SCHEDULE

- Belton Greenhouse  
Workdays,  
Wed. & Thurs., 9 am,  
Belton

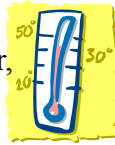


## Greenhouse News

- Burger Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup>  
Wednesday  
Tomato/Pepper Sale,

Mar 11th

- Spring Garden Tour,  
Apr 22nd



- Spring Seminar &  
Plant Sale,

8am-3pm, Apr 29,

2006

- Fall Vegetable Sale 8-  
10am, Aug 5th

- Fall Garden Tour, Oct  
14, 2006

- Fall Seminar & Plant  
Sale,

9am-3pm, Oct 21,

2006

**Items Needed** The current wish list at the greenhouse includes an automatic temperature recording device to keep track of temperature fluctuations in the greenhouse, and a covered real estate brochure holder (the kind used for advertising houses for sale) for keeping events flyers handy for public viewing. Contact Sandy Street if you are able to donate either of these items.

## Burger Wednesday

We will be having Burger Wednesday, March 1 2006. Our big project will be putting the shade cloth on the greenhouse. Even though it is still quite cool, it will warm up quickly in March. We could use lots of hands for this project. We supply the burgers, but if you can

bring something to go with our burgers, let me know at [sandystreet@direcway.com](mailto:sandystreet@direcway.com). Everyone is invited and it is lots of fun. Come on out!

## **Vegetable Garden**

Our vegetable garden is being filled with cool weather crops. Recent additions include potatoes, red and green cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and brussel sprouts. Spring plantings will be made after March 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Policies and Procedures** **January 2006**

The BCMGA greenhouse may be used by members and our sponsor for demonstrations of plant propagation, seed planting, tours, student projects, etc. Demonstration materials must be provided unless other arrangements are made with the greenhouse crew. Reservations may be made through the greenhouse crew on greenhouse workdays from 9:00am until 11:00am or by contacting one of the following crew members: Louise Oldham, Bonnie Otte, Gabriele Marsh, Sandy Street. Crew

members are available to help with your demonstration.

## **Policies & Procedures** **Contd.**

Each calendar year two requests for plant material donations from non-profit organizations may be approved. Requests must be made in writing and given to the greenhouse crew prior to the event. Plant material with a total value of \$50 will be chosen by the greenhouse crew. Requests from the same organization may be considered every 3 years. **Plants in the greenhouse are to be bought only on greenhouse work days, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 until 11:00, or by special arrangement.**



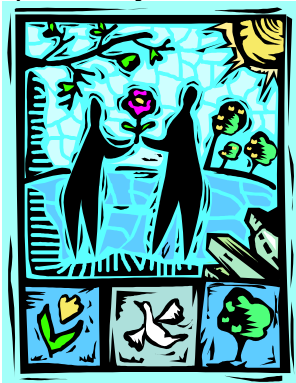
## **Tomato/Pepper Sale**

Don't forget the tomato/pepper sale Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am – noon in the Bell County Extension parking lot. Workers should report to the Greenhouse at 7:00 am to prepare for the sale. Help is still needed.

Contact Sandy Street at [sandystreet@direcway.com](mailto:sandystreet@direcway.com) or (254) 780-1800 if you can help with the sale. A variety of tomatoes and peppers that thrive in our difficult climate will be for sale. Tomato varieties for sale are: Celebrity, Rutgers, Super Fantastic, Better Boy, Porter and Tomato /Pepper Sale Contd.

Early Girl. Peppers for sale are: California Wonder, Pablano, Jalapeno and Serrano. A seminar on spring vegetable gardening will be presented at 9:30 in the Extension conference room.

***There will be no advance sales for Master Gardeners or interns this year. You have to come to the sale to get the goods!***  
Hope to see you there!



## **Spring Yard Tour**

It's that time again to be thinking about putting your yard on the spring yard tour. This year it will be April 22, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be no money to collect

but we will have brochures that folks can bring to the plant sale the following weekend and get a dollar off their purchases. This is a great way to get some of those volunteer hours and you get to meet lots of really enthusiastic gardeners and mingle with other master gardeners. Won't you give it a thought? Call or email Mary Ann Everett at 773-9576 or [pma451@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pma451@sbcglobal.net).

## **BWI Orders**

BWI orders will only be placed once a month due to increased shipping charges. We need to have an order totaling at least \$250.00. ***All requests must be in no later than Burger Wednesday.*** There is an order form in my box in the greenhouse. After the order is placed, I will put an invoice for your items in my box. **Put your payment and the invoice in Treasurer, Jan**

**Anderson's box.** An 8.25% sales tax will be added to your order when the reimbursement is calculated. If you have any questions please call or email me. My phone number is 986-1341 and my email is

[Sues7946@aol.com](mailto:Sues7946@aol.com).

Thanks, Sue Spivey

*January 23, 2006*

*Officers and Director of  
the Board Bell County  
Master Gardener  
Association*

*Texas Cooperative  
Extension Belton, TX  
76513*

*Dear Officers and  
Directors:*

*On behalf of the Cedar  
Knob Cemetery  
Association, we would  
like to thank you for  
assisting us in the  
beautification of our*

*cemetery association  
will now take  
responsibility for the  
project as agreed to in  
the original proposal by  
providing the labor for  
building and  
maintenance. As a  
graduate of the 2002  
Master Gardener class,  
I will oversee the care  
of the plants and the  
construction of the  
projects.*

*Thank you again for  
participating in this  
worthwhile endeavor.  
Sincerely,*

## ***Letters of Appreciation***

*grounds. This project  
will definitely be  
noticed and appreciated  
by the association and  
visitors. We especially  
want to thank Master  
Gardeners Verlene  
Cabaniss and Carolyn  
Hunter for all the hard  
work and personal time  
they spent on the  
landscaping project for  
the cemetery. The  
planting has been  
completed, and designs  
and recommendations  
have been made for an  
arbor and bench for the  
meditation garden, the  
rainwater collection  
system, and a pathway  
to the garden. The*



*Billy J. Alexander  
President  
Cedar Knob Cemetery  
Association*



**Chris Reese**  
3802 Sumac Drive  
Temple, TX 76502

January 30, 2006

Bell County Master  
Gardeners Association

Bell County Extension  
Office

1605 N. Main Street,  
Belton, TX 76513

Dear Members of the  
Master Gardeners,

I would like to thank each and every member of the Master Gardeners for giving me the opportunity to speak to your group in September. Your generous donation towards the purchase of the flagpole for my Eagle Project is greatly appreciated. The flagpole has been erected and was dedicated on December 7, 2005 as planned.

I learned a great deal in the process of completing my Eagle Project, and I thank the Master Gardeners for giving me the opportunity. I hope the flagpole enhances the area and brings a sense of pride to each and every one of you.

Thank you,

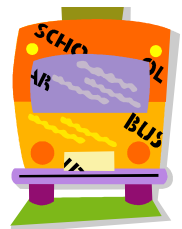
Chris Reese

## ***New Class Bus Tours***

***Bus reservations for approximately 27 seats are available to Master Gardeners and guests for the field trips scheduled in April, 2006.*** The reservations will be on a first come first served basis. New class members and Master Gardeners may reserve a seat for one guest. (Note: New Class Members do not pay for bus reservation.)

**The cost for the San Antonio trip is \$21.00 and the cost of the Dallas trip is \$20.00(includes transportation and admission fees).**

Contact Kim Pringle at (254) 791-1564 if you have questions about reservations. Payment must accompany each reservation and may be submitted to Kim. We



request payment by check to Bell County Master Gardeners Association and in the memo indicate the tour(s) you wish to reserve. The reservations are non-refundable but transferable, that is, you may sell your reservation. Kindly let Kim Pringle know if a reservation has been transferred to assist with roll call the morning of the tour.

If you have specific questions about the tours, please contact the tour coordinators.

**1. April 12, 2006:**

Field trip to San Antonio Botanical Gardens and Antique Rose Emporium

***Louise Oldham, Tour Coordinator***

Depart 7:00 a.m. Bell County Ext Office  
Return 6:00 p.m. Bell County Ext Office

**Lunch Options:** Bring your own lunch/drink or dine in the Carriage House Kitchen at the Gardens (menu options may be viewed at

[www.sabot.org/Kitchen/menu](http://www.sabot.org/Kitchen/menu)).

**2. April 26, 2006:**

Field trip to T.A.M.U.

Dallas Education Center.

The schedule is not finalized, but we are hoping to have Dr. Wayne Mackay speak on Texas Superstar research garden, Kim Engler, entomologist, speak on fire ants and Dr. Steve George speak on EarthKind Rose project.

***Neil Cochran, Tour***

***Coordinator***

***Field Trip #2 Contd.:***

Depart 7:00 a.m. Bell County Ext Office  
Return 6:00 p.m. Bell County Ext Office

**Lunch Options:** Bring your own lunch/drink or for **\$7.25** Jason's Deli will deliver a Deluxe Traditional Box Lunch (smoked turkey/provolone on wheat French bread, potato chips, pickle spear, cookie – napkins, mint and condiments contained in each box). You may bring your own beverage or a soft drink machine is available at the Research Center. If you wish to purchase the box lunch, kindly include \$7.25 with your reservation. New Class Members must submit payment for lunch if desired.



## **Salado Garden Tour**

We received a request for Master Gardeners to help with the Salado Garden Tour which will be May 6<sup>th</sup>, from 10am until 4pm and May 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am until noon. Sandy Street will be sending around a sign up sheet at the next class meeting and at the March monthly meeting or if you would like you may e-mail her at [sandystreet@direcway.com](mailto:sandystreet@direcway.com).

## **Are you an Iris Enthusiast?**

Pauline Lawler is looking for someone to go with her to the American Iris Society National Convention which will be held in Portland, OR, May 21-28. The cost will be \$1000-1100 and includes housing, tours and the convention. Get in touch with her at 984-2229.

## **2006 Texas M.G. Conference**

If you are interested in attending the 2006 Texas Master Gardener Conference please visit <http://tmgc.tamu.edu>. It is live and accepting registrations....the tours have limits and they will fill fast...

## **Election of Board Members**

Officers and Directors for the year 2006-07 will be elected at the April Monthly meeting which will be held a week early on April 5, 2006. The newly elected Board of Directors will be installed May 17, 2006. They will assume their duties on June 1, 2006. The following members have agreed to serve:

President: Gy Okeson  
First Vice-President: Mary Ann Everett  
Second Vice-President: Rutha Leffel  
Recording Secretary: Marty Portmann  
Corresponding Secretary: Mary Lew Quesinberry  
Treasurer: Jan Anderson

## **Report of TMGA Quarterly Meeting**

February 25, 2006

Awards Committee: Chair, Deborah Martin reported on the changes made to the 2005 awards process and the progress made to date in awards judging. Awards are being judged by six out of state judges who are Extension Agents or Coordinators with active master gardener associations. These persons are enthusiastic about the process and well-informed about Texas requirements. Any MG or coordinator who wants



more information on judges was encouraged to contact Deborah Martin for information. Upon completion of the judges' pre-defined activities, the awards committee will complete the process and prepare awards for the state meeting in May. These changes were made to promote unbiased evaluation of nominations for award as concerns about fairness of judging had been made in the past. This has been well received by the membership with no objections or questions about the fairness issue.

Website has many changes and improvements. New links were added to include registration for the state Master Gardener Conference. Background check information, Master Gardener Management Guide (includes info on dismissing a master gardener from an association), 501(c) (3) information, specialist training links, and lists of current specialists, officers, committee members, and directors.

Newsletter editor report: state newsletters are available for viewing on the website.

### **TMGA Quarterly Mtg. Contd.**

Umbrella 501 (c) (3) status report: Those counties who do not want to become their own non-profit organization and wish to fall under the umbrella of the TMGA status are waiting for determinations to be made by the IRS. Final approval is pending. Discussion of requirements for sales tax collection, nursery license requirements was made.

### **Background check requirement was discussed.**

It was reiterated that this is required for anyone who works with youth in the state. All master gardener associations are encouraged to comply with the process. Individuals are not required to submit to such a check, but they may not work in any activity where youth may be a part. Associations are encouraged to read the Texas Master Gardener Management Guide posted on the website. The particular paragraph covering dismissal of a MG and conflict resolution was discussed as there are counties who have asked for guidance on this subject. It was suggested that MG associations also read the 4H club management guide which has a list of rules for mediation and conflict

resolution.

Online Earthkind training is available (links on the TMGA website). Four hours of education can be earned by completing the materials and taking the test. County Sponsors are notified of completion when a master gardener completes the course. Master Gardeners are also encouraged to keep their own records. Doug Richards (website manager) offered two suggestions to all counties to defray costs of specialist training since these trainings have become so costly.

1). Remove the requirement of a logo shirt to save \$25 cost of such a shirt. This is being left up to the individual courses to decide if they want to make them optional.

2). TMGA offering a \$25 rebate to the MG who completes both the training and

the payback for the specialist training.

After discussion, the membership voted to accept the rebate offer beginning with the 2006 year. Any individual MG who takes a specialist course and completes all requirements including the payback time may apply for the rebate (forms must be signed by the sponsor/coordinator).

### **Annual State Master Gardener Meeting:**

1). Brazos County discussed the offering of the 2006 meeting in May at Texas A&M. Registration and information is online.

2). 2007 meeting will be held in Kerrville – Hill County MGs

3). 2008 meeting will be held in Abilene – Taylor County MGs

4). International Master Gardener Conference will be in Little Rock, Arkansas May 2-5, 2007. Theme is “Celebrate Gardening in the Natural State”.

***Respectfully submitted,***

***Deborah Martin***

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