



# ***The Blooming Bell***

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

### **April 2006, Newsletter**

**Monthly Meeting Wednesday, April 5, 2006, 11:00 a.m.  
Bell County Extension Office  
1605 N. Main St., Belton, Texas 76513**

**Opening: Candace Mullen**

**Meeting: Board Elections**

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#### **Refreshments:**

**Cookies; Mary Lou Edmondson, Sandy Street, Emilie Butts  
Drinks; Candace Mullen, Frances Idoux**

## EVENTS SCHEDULE

- Belton Greenhouse  
  
Workdays,  
  
Wed. & Thurs., 9 am,  
  
Belton
- Burger Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup>  
  
Wednesday
- 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



## Greenhouse News

### Items Needed

If anyone has a trencher available, the hardhat crew would greatly appreciate your assistance. The water pipes for the greenhouse and hardening house need to be buried to prevent the periodic leaking (and higher water bills) that we have been experiencing.

Without the use of a donated trencher, budget constraints dictate that the work will have to be done by hand (and pick!)

## Spring Plant Sale & Seminars

The Spring Plant Sale will be held Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Bell County Extension parking lot. For those helping in the morning, we will begin moving plants at 7:00 am. Please contact Sandy Street at [sandystreet@direway.com](mailto:sandystreet@direway.com) or (254) 780-1800 if you can help. There will be a 45 minute seminar entitled

"Growing and Using Culinary Herbs" by Betty Nejtek and Sue Spivey. We will keep you informed of additional seminar times and topics as they are finalized.

### **Come Get Acquainted**

Have you been in the greenhouse lately? Yesterday? No? Then you may not be familiar with "what's goin' on". Observe the greenhouse crew when they arrive at the greenhouse. What is the first thing they do (after signing in)? They slowly walk around looking top-to-bottom and sideways to see what has changed. Plants grow. Bugs grow. Diseases develop. These changes can occur overnight. Each morning is a new day for everyone. Not only do the plants change but their location and the location of the contents of the greenhouse are constantly being rearranged to take advantage of some new situation. Procedures are constantly being "tweaked". When one of the crew members are absent from the greenhouse for a few days, they feel like they are walking into a new house when they return. Their first question of the others is, "What's new?" So, if you feel a little lost, don't

dismay. Do a walk-around and see what's happening. Say "hello" to the plants. And you will feel more at home. Please come get acquainted. Ask "What's new?" The plants will appreciate the carbon dioxide.

### **Tomato/Pepper Sale & Home & Garden Show**

The March 11<sup>th</sup> tomato/pepper sale was a huge success! Over sixty people attended the spring vegetable gardening seminar. All the tomatoes were sold along with most of the peppers and basil. We made approximately \$2,500.00. Plant sales at the Home & Garden Show totaled \$435.00. Unfortunately, attendance was low at our Home and Garden Show seminars.

### **BCMGA Spring Garden Tour**

The spring garden tour will be Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The garden tour brochure with a detailed description of the yards on the tour and driving directions is included in this newsletter. Please copy it and give it to all your neighbors, friends, and coworkers! Remember, the garden tour

is free this year and we will be giving out coupons for \$1.00 off plant sale purchases at the April 29<sup>th</sup> Plant Sale. We are still short of volunteers to work in the yards for the day of the garden tour. If you can help, please contact Mary Ann Everett at [pma4514@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pma4514@sbcglobal.net) or (254) 773-9576.

### **BCMGA Scrapbook**

Rita Bielik has been working on the BCMGA scrapbook and needs pictures from anything that occurred during 2004. Pictures of class trips, garden tours, Spring and Fall, plant sales... and anything else that members would like to have in the scrapbook! Please bring these to the April BCMGA association meeting.

### **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  
  
Director: Neil Cochran  
Director: Emily Butts  
Director: DJ Campbell

The other three directors are in the middle of their 2 year terms and will be open for nominations next year. They are Linda Hunter, Bob Gordon and Gabriele Marsh. The Officers serve one-year terms. Nominations may be made from the floor at the March meeting. Write-ins may be made on the ballot at the April meeting. Ballot elections require that the ballots be submitted and counted. Proclamations of acclamation are not allowed. Bonnie Otte and Clyde White will be monitors for the election and they will be set up in the foyer. Only certified members are eligible to vote in this election. To be certified you must have paid your dues for the 2005-06 fiscal year and must have completed the hours of service and education required for the year June 1, 2004 to May 31, 2005. In other words,

last years hours requirements must be met and this years dues must be paid.

## **Salado Garden Tour**

The Salado Garden Club will be hosting a Garden Tour on Saturday, May 6 from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm and Sunday, May 7 from Noon until 4:00 pm. If you would like to help them out by being at one of their gardens for a few hours, or all day, just let me know and I will put your name on the list. I will have the sign up sheet at the monthly meeting on April 5th. ***For those of you who have already signed up for Sunday, May 7th, the person in charge sent me the wrong hours. The tour will be from Noon until 4:00 PM on Sunday, not from 9:00 AM until Noon as I was first told.*** Let me know if this is something you would like to do.....an easy way to earn some service hours and see a beautiful garden.

[sandystreet@direcway.com](mailto:sandystreet@direcway.com)

## **Need Service Hours?**

If you are in need of service hours, I have a deal for you! Now that the temperatures are on the

rise, we will be needing someone to water our plants in the greenhouse. You could earn 50 to 100 hours a year just by going to the greenhouse one day a week and watering. Everyone is qualified. We need five people. The days are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. You can water any time on your day. Share the job with a friend.! It is more fun that way. You will be watering both greenhouses and sometimes the beds around the greenhouse. You will have a back up person to call when you cannot make it. If you are interested, e-mail me at [sandystreet@direcway.com](mailto:sandystreet@direcway.com). I will have a class on "how to water," so do not let that let that deter you from volunteering.

Thanks. Sandy

## **New Master Gardener Volunteer Hours Reporting Form**

A new form has been developed for tracking our master gardener volunteer hours. It was developed in order to simplify record keeping and hours submission for everyone. Only the information that must be tracked in order to meet Bell County Extension requirements

and to certify and recertify our members is recorded. The only categories which must be reported are education and service. A quick means for determining which activities are education or service is: if you were sitting in a class receiving instruction, that counts as education. Everything else you do for our organization is service. The new reporting system is paper only. Hours cannot be submitted by e-mail. Forms are to be submitted containing one months volunteer hours at a time. At the end of the year, you should have submitted twelve forms. Forms can be dropped off with Pat Pomaykl at the Extension office or faxed in. If you submitted hours by e-mail from June 1, 2005 until the time the old system went down, there is no way to retrieve these hours from the old system. When it went down, the data was lost. Hopefully, you printed your confirmation copies and have the information available. If not, please reconstruct as best you can and submit the information on the new forms. It is not necessary to replicate dates, just a total of education and service hours for those months. If you don't get it exactly right, don't worry. Remember, there are no

hours police! ***Please look for the new form contained in this newsletter and make copies.***

### **Louisiana Mulch**

Below is an email from Michael Merchant, Extension Entomologist, regarding the concern over Louisiana mulch: I have conducted a little research today on the subject of this email in response to some media requests, and thought you all might be interested. I spoke with Louisiana termite researcher Dr. Gregg Henderson, LSU, and he informed me that there is indeed a quarantine on all wood waste from hurricane devastated areas of southern La. The quarantine specifically addresses the concern about Formosan termite-infested wood products being shipped to new areas. The state is currently debating how or whether large quantities of wood material can be treated prior to shipping to overflow landfills in Mississippi that do not currently have Formosans. However, the bottom line is that La. neither encourages nor condones the sale of wood waste in mulch from the hurricane damaged areas. If anyone

is chipping, bagging and selling mulch from southern La. it is being done under the radar and illegally. The same would be true for Texas where there are also large quantities of wood from Hurricane Rita-affected areas that also have Formosan termites. The email message circulating around the Internet is accurate—at least the part about Formosan termites being found in damaged trees and the POTENTIAL for Formosans to be transported in wood mulch. However, the mulching process is highly destructive to termites and the likelihood is low of transporting a viable mini-colony of Formosans in this manner. However, Formosan termites have been known to be shipped in this manner at least once. The essence of this email is a hoax, in my opinion. I believe it very unlikely that large retailers mentioned would be buying and distributing termites from illegal sources. A far greater, and better documented risk is the sale and distribution of recycled railroad ties. Railroad ties are commonly sold throughout the south for use as landscape timbers. Unfortunately, despite their creosote treatment, Formosan termites can easily inhabit the center

(untreated) areas of railroad ties. Texas recently enacted a quarantine for this type of wood coming from Formosan infested areas; however we are still in the process of developing enforcement protocols and I am unaware of whether inspections and stop-sale orders have yet to be enacted. Despite the fact that I consider risks of Formosan termite infestations in mulches to be low, I am recommending that consumers be alert to the presence of termites in bagged or bulk mulches. A quick dousing of a garden insecticide labeled for control of ant mounds or other soil insects will control any termites you observe in newly spread mulch. If you open a bag and find it infested with termites you might consider resealing the bag and placing it in a larger black plastic garbage bag and exposing it to the hot sun for several days. Raising mulch temperatures to 120 degrees Fahrenheit for an hour or more is generally sufficient to kill all insect life. Another way to ensure that you don't introduce unwanted termites into your landscape is to purchase garden mulch from a reliable, local source. Many

municipalities now produce and sell mulches produced from city yard trimmings and landscape waste. This should be a safe source for mulch and is a great way to “close the circle” and encourage recycling of a valuable resource that would otherwise end up in a landfill. For more information see the website at [termite.tamu.edu/Formosa](http://termite.tamu.edu/Formosa) n.

### **Wright's Nursery**

By: Ursula Nanna Bell  
County Master  
Gardener

Joyce Friels and I took a short trip to Wright's Nursery Located just off 190 W in Briggs. I have known Barbara Wright for a few years as she delivered her herbs and plants to to a nursery for which I was working. Wright's herbs were so full in the pot that we could actually make two from the one she brought. Everywhere I go, I see plants and herbs from Wright's nursery and I knew it's time to visit. On our arrival, we were greeted both by Barbara and Bobby and also by Elvis and Daisy. The tour took Joyce and me from greenhouse to greenhouse and from plant room to plant room. The plant choices just made my mouth water and

I was amazed at the new plant material that was available..no same-old-same-old..I even found a Texas Sotol !!

There are at lease 9 varieties of Oak trees, maples, elms, grasses of every species, sun-loving and shade-tolerant plants, shrubs, ground-covers and vines of every description. I also am excited about the yellow “coral honeysuckle” and a few other varieties the Wrights are propagating for sale. I could go on and on, but you have to visit the nursery for yourself to get the full effect of it's scope. Barbara will send me some other info I requested..as soon as her computer is up again...and I will pass that info along. Joyce gives you the travel information and the phone number. Give them a call and visit their nursery...you'll enjoy.

### **1**

***By Joyce Friels, Bell  
County Master Gardener***

On a warm, sunny and windy Sunday in March, we visited Wright's Nursery, in Briggs, Texas. I had driven by their nursery sign many times but had never taken the time to stop. So, when Ursula asked if I would like to go with her to see what they were all about, I was excited to visit a new place where I might be



able to buy native plants. The owners, Barbara and Bobby Wright, greeted us, along with their four-legged friends, Elvis and Daisy. They all gave us a tour of their greenhouses and all the surrounding plantings; which are hundreds. There are several different trees growing on the property including a deodar cedar. I liked the stately form of this tree. The different varieties of trees that will be available for sale are the Texas Kidneywood, Mexican Redbud, Mountain Laurel, Eve's Necklace, and Goldenball Leadtree, just to name a few. The Wright's have set up a timed watering system that is designed to save many, many steps for them. I got excited to see the yellow coral honeysuckle, the shade loving cedar sage and the big red sage. It is a place that I will visit again and again while I am 'filling in' my perennial flower

beds with more native plants. I was delighted to be able to select from a wide variety of native plants, all within a short, scenic drive from my home.

If you are looking for a particular plant or just want to take a nice spring drive, I hope you will check out Wright's Nursery. I think you will be surprised and satisfied with your discovery! Their nursery is located on a large curve, before you get to Briggs, in Burnet County, about thirteen miles south of Copperas Cove on Farm to Market Road 2657. The nursery welcomes customers each day of the week, including weekends, however, it is best to call ahead to make sure they are available. Their phone number is 512-489-2239. So, plan to take a trip west and get a warm welcome at Wright's!!

*One sheet per month – to be submitted to  
Extension Office Fax: (254) 933-5312*

## **BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**

HOURS WORKSHEET MONTH OF

\_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal  
Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Hours Requirement:    Service - 50 per year**  
**Education - 12 per year**

Number Date contacts	Service Description of activity Hours	Education Hours	of	
Total				

## How to Report?

1 Form per month (Weekly and/or daily totals)

## **Who to Report?**

Give forms to Pat Pomaykl (fax or hand deliver hard copy)

## **When to Report?**

Monthly is best : June 1 to May 31<sup>st</sup> (Association year)

HINT: I need only 12 forms per year!

- Travel Time (to and from) to service events is counted . Travel Time to and from continuing education events are not eligible to be counted.
- Self Study (Self Education) can only be counted as Service Hours if Service Hours when used to reach & teach Others.
- If Self Enhancement to improve self for Service Events - This is Service Hours
- If Self Education is Service Hours (this is preparation for you to teach)
- Formal Education Events are Continuing Education

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