

TheBloomingBell

March 2007, Newsletter

Bell County Master Gardeners

Association

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 14th, 2007

11:00 a.m.,

Bell County Extension Office

Carolyn Insall

**With the
"Poi**

son Center"

on

**Poisonous Plants,
Spiders &**



Snakes

Opening

BCMGA Events Schedule

- Belton Greenhouse Workdays,
Wed. & Thurs. 7am to 5pm
- Burger Wednesday, 1st Wednesday
- March 14th – Herb Group Meeting
- March 17th – Spring Veggie Sale
- April 21st – Spring Garden Tour
- April 28th – Spring Plant Sale
- August 25th – Fall Veggie Sale
- October 20th – Fall Garden Tour
- October 27th – Fall Plant Sale

President's Corner

A word to the wise - or I only look like I'm all wet.

In the last "President's Corner" I had reported on visiting the Clearwater Board of Directors meeting last month when they considered a request of the Texas Veterans Land Board for an additional 18.4 acre feet of water annually to bring their total allotment of water to irrigate the grass on the 175 acre Texas Veterans Cemetery to 55.2 acre feet of water per year. The request was turned down because the Clearwater Board felt that it would unduly stress the Trinity Aquifer, from which the water would be pumped.

This experience led me to take pen in hand and

try to estimate how much water the residents of Bell County use. Unfortunately, all the data needed to make the calculation is not easily found. This forced me to restrict my calculations to personal water consumption. This is defined as the water that each of us uses in our home for personal use. Examples would be cooking, washing ourselves and our clothes, bathing, flushing toilets, etc. This would not include the water that we use to irrigate our yards or lawns.

It also would not include that water used by business, government, and industry. I am sure that this number would be several times the volume used for personal consumption. Dealing with large numbers often leads to problems visualizing them in a meaningful way. This results in the use of some unusual units of measure that the average person is not routinely subjected. For example, we all know what one-gallon of water looks like. Most of us can conceptualize how much water is in 100 gallons, or even 500 gallons. But can any of us actually visualize how much water is in 10 million gallons? I don't think so. Scientists get around this by using the units of acre-feet. An acre-foot is the amount of water that covers 1 acre 1 foot deep, and is equivalent to 325,851.42 gallons. Most of us know about what an acre looks like and how long one foot is. These units allow us to conceptualize how much water is in an acre-foot.

Now that we understand the units we will be working with, let's consider Bell County. All of us who have lived here for the past several decades have personally witnessed the growth of both our urban and rural areas. Where there used to be open fields and pastures, we now see more and more businesses and houses. In each of those buildings there are people - and they all need and use clean water. But how much do they consume now and what are the projected

needs in the future. Remember that I am only considering personal water use in the home.

According to the United States Census Bureau statistics, the population of Bell County in 1990 was 191,088, grouped into 67,240 households. Using a rather conservative estimate of 40 gallons of water per person per day, the total personal water consumption would be estimated at 23.5 acre-feet of water per day (7,643,520 gallons/day). You could read this as the volume of water needed to cover 23.5 acres 1 foot deep or the volume of water needed to cover 1 acre 23.5 feet deep. I find the latter easier to visualize, but you can use whichever you find easiest.

Bell County has been growing at an average rate of 4688.6 persons per year. The U.S. Census Bureau lists the population of Bell County in the year 2000 at 237,974 persons grouped into 85,507 households. Estimated personal water consumption would have grown to 29.2 acre-

President's Corner Contd.

feet (9,518,960 gallons), representing an increase of 5.7 acre-feet above the 1990 estimate, or an increase of 24.3%. The County has continued to grow at about the same rate, and currently has a population of about 260,000 persons. The estimated personal water consumption in 2006 would therefore be an additional 3.5 acre-feet, or a total of 32.7 acre-feet.

It is said that the population of Texas will double by the year 2040. If growth proceeds as anticipated at the rate of 4688.6 persons per year, the population of Bell County will increase to 425,518 individuals and daily personal water consumption will increase to 52.2 acre-feet. The average water consumption per person over the entire state of Texas is estimated to be in the range of about 280 gallons per day, which is about 7 times what I estimated the average personal water consumption to be. The Texas value includes water used for irrigation of lawns

and plants. Using this estimate of total water consumption, our water consumption in Bell County could increase to 365 acre-feet each day.

The Veteran's Land Group had proposed using a total of 55.2 acre-feet of water each year to irrigate the grass on the Veterans Cemetery. This is 0.15 acre-feet per day, which is a "drop in the bucket" compared to what we will need in the year 2040 just for our personal water consumption. Just think - if pumping 0.15 acre-feet of water daily was felt to stress the Trinity Aquifer excessively, think what removing 365 acre-feet each day would do to it!

Because water is a finite commodity (there is not an infinite supply), the big question we need to ask is "where are we going to get it?" Will our aquifers and reservoirs continue to be able to supply our population with the water that we need? Some would hold up a picture of our blue planet as seen from outer space and declare, "See, there is no shortage of water on earth. Seventy-four percent of its surface is covered with water!" While that is true, only 3% of this water is found as fresh water. Land creatures (including us) and plants cannot survive on seawater. Of the 3% that is found in the form of fresh water, 77% is found as ice at the north and south poles and another 22% unreachable as groundwater and soil moisture. The remaining 0.3% makes up our lakes, rivers, aquifers and wetlands.

I am personally pessimistic about the adequacy of our water reserves if we will have to support those large populations. The semi-arid and arid lands of Texas were not meant to support the population of humans that we want to place on it. This is why some are prophesying that water will become the now "oil", and wars will eventually be fought to control it, just as they have been fought to control oil production in the past.

The importance of water conservation in the present and future is self-evident. We need to

begin serious efforts to make the best use of our precious water resource. To that end, our Bell County Rainwater Specialists have developed an excellent program on "Home Rainwater Harvesting. Over 90 people attending the seminars we presented at the Expo Home and Garden Show warmly accepted this program. We would like to present our program to other groups in and about Bell County. If any of you are involved in other organizations or groups that would like to see this program, please contact Dirk Aaron or me.

Gy Okeson
President BCMGA

Class '07 March Schedule

3-7-07

Vegetable Gardening (Understanding Organics)
Skip Richter – County Agent

3-14-07

Oakwilt & Earthkind Roses
B.C.M.G. Specialists

3-21-07

Gardening w/Native Plants & Wildlife
Kelly Bender – TX Parks & Wildlife

Landscaping with... Dr. Welch!



2007 Master Gardener intern Dee Earls visits with Dr. Bill Welch Professor and Landscape

Horticulturalist with the Department of Horticultural Sciences at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Welch received enthusiastic applause when he was introduced to the Bell County Master Gardener class of 2007. Dr. Welch shared his love of landscaping with antique roses and companion perennials with the class and a dozen or so of Master Gardeners auditing the class. His beautiful presentation stressed the use of texture and pleasing color combinations in the garden. Dr. Welch explained rose propagation methods, best times to divide perennials and his favorite rose varieties.

Dr. Welch has an article on Fuss-Free Roses in the February issue of "Southern Living Magazine".

Submitted by Mary Lew
Quesinberry

Daffodil Myths, Legends and Facts

"He that has two cakes of bread, let him sell one of them for some flowers of the Narcissus, for bread is food for the body, but Narcissus is food of the soul."-- Mohammed

Daffodils or Narcissus are probably on nearly everyone's favorite flower list. Harbingers of spring, they are one of the first cheery flowers to bloom each year. Bright yellow or white, a few varieties even pink or orange, they are a cheering sight in the garden. Making them even more attractive to many gardeners is the fact that deer tend to avoid them.

The best known legend has the flower named after the handsome young Greek god, Narcissus, who fell in love with his own reflection in a pool of water and died either from falling in or pining away. The flower sprang to life where he had been.

It is said that Hades sent up a single daffodil as a trap for Persephone who, when she stopped to pick it, he kidnapped to the underworld.

Thereafter daffodils bowed their heads in shame for their role in Hade's malevolent plan. There are a myriad of myths, facts, and anecdotes about the daffodil. Here are a few more of them:

Daffodil, Narcissus and Jonquil were at one time separate flowers, but over the years interbreeding and hybridizing has produced more than 5,000 varieties, in 11 main categories. Narcissus is the main group of which daffodils and jonquils are members. However the terms daffodils and narcissus are often used interchangeably.

Narcissus tazetta, a miniature daffodil, is believed to be the oldest daffodil in cultivation. It was known to the ancient Greeks and to the Jews of ancient Israel.

The Greek writer Theophrastus was the first to write about daffodils in his 'Enquiry into Plants', about 300 BC.

Both the Egyptians and the Greeks associated the flower with death. The Egyptians often hung wreaths of them at funerals. The word narcissus comes from the Greek word "narke", which means to numb. They thought the flower gave off a bad emission which could cause dullness and death.

The Romans were responsible for bringing the flower to Britain. There are two, sort of contradictory myths about the Romans and narcissus. One said that the Romans believed the sap could heal wounds, and the other said that Roman soldiers often carried a few bulbs so that if they were mortally wounded they could ingest the poisonous bulb to act as a narcotic and ease their way out of this world.

On a happier note, according to Chinese Feng Shui the flower will bring good luck if it is into bloom in the New Year.

Daffodil Myths Contd.

It is used as a symbol of hope for a cure by the American Cancer Society, which sees it as representing new hope and life.

The medieval Arabs used juice of the wild daffodil, *N. pseudonarcissus* as a cure for baldness and also thought the flower to be an aphrodisiac.

The earliest American grown daffodils were cultivated by John Bartram on his farm near Philadelphia. Elizabethans sometimes called the flower Daffodilly, Daffodowndill and Primrose Peereless.

If you go to visit someone in Wales take a pot or a bouquet of daffodils, but never a single, which is a symbol of bad luck

A New England myth says that pointing at a daffodil with your index finger will prevent it from blooming.

The American Daffodil Society was organized in 1955.

If you wish to use daffodils in an arrangement with other flowers, separate them for 24 hours first, as daffodils secrete a latex like substance that will be detrimental to the other flowers.

An old British legend has it that bringing daffodils inside the house when your hens are sitting will cause them to stop laying or the chicks to be born dead.

Monks used to plant daffodils and today daffodil colonies in Europe often indicate old religious sites, although the buildings may be gone.

Finally, a narcissus is in one instance the payment of cheap "rent". The daffodil is the national flower of Wales because it is thought to bloom on the first of March, the birthday of the patron saint of Wales, St. David. Prince Charles of England (the Prince of Wales) is annually paid one daffodil as rent for the unattended lands of Scilly in Cornwall.

References:

http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/daffodils_garden_and_show/15165/2
<http://www.green-garden-news.com/2006/09/19/daffodil-legends/>
<http://www.angelfire.com/journal2/flowers/d.html>
<http://www.paghat.com/narcissusmyth1.html>

*Submitted by
Jane Capen*

Have Master Gardener..will travel



Blanco County Master Gardener interns were recently treated to a propagation class presented by ***Bell County Master Gardener Specialist Mary Ann Everett***. Everett is a Propagation Specialist and traveled to Johnson City to teach propagation methods to the Blanco County Master Gardener interns. The 18 member class took notes during the lecture and then participated in a work shop propagating roses, rosemary, dusty miller, jasmine, pavonia, Mexican honeysuckle and items brought from their homes.

Submitted by Mary Lew Quesinberry

Filing Cabinets



Bonnie Otte, Mary Lew Quesinberry, Jan Anderson, and Mary Ann Everett have been busy on and off for almost 2 years trying to get all the filing cabinets in order. Each file drawer is labeled as to what its content is. In addition each folder within that drawer is alphabetized. When you use something from the drawers please put it back in its proper folder. If you

have any trouble, ask one of us and we can help you out! Thank you.

Dr. Provin presents Soil Class to 2007 Interns



He loves to dish the dirt or rather soil, as he refers to it. Dr. Tony Provin traveled from A&M University to give a presentation on soils to the BCMGA 2007 interns... It sounds like a rather dusty subject, but Dr. Provin loves the study of soils so much that it was contagious and the interns, the mentors and others observing the class thoroughly enjoyed learning how different soils came to be and how to work with the soil you have and make it better. Dr. Provin, Associate Professor and Soil Chemist at Texas A&M University, obtained his PH D at Purdue University. He directs the operations of the Soil, Water and Forage Testing Lab at A&M.

Submitted by Mary Lew Quesinberry

2007 Salado Garden Tour

The Salado Garden Club is once again asking the Bell County Master Gardeners for help with the Salado Garden Tour which will be Saturday, May 12th from 10am to 4pm and Sunday, May 13th from 1-4pm. There will be 2 three hour shifts on Saturday and 1 three hour shift on Sunday. Volunteers will receive a complimentary ticket to the gardens. Miriam Jordan and Martha Francis will be sending around a sign up sheet at the March monthly meeting or if you would like you may e-mail

them. Thank you for your help.
Miriam Jordan at mejcom@gmail.com or
Martha Francis at Martha.Francis@templejc.edu

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Garden Tour Committee Meets



The Garden Tour Committee knows how to mix business with pleasure. The garden tour group met recently at Susan's Tea Room in Temple to plan the spring garden tour. Jane Capen, Sue Morgan, Rae Schmuck, Deanna Rankin and Mary Lew Quesinberry make-up the garden tour committee.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 21st from 9 am – 4 pm. The gardens of Violet and Gy Okeson, Louise Oldham, Jane Capen, Mary Ann Everett, Ilene Miller, Alan and Ginger Jones, Beverly and Vernon Chenoweth and Deanna Rankin will be featured on the spring tour. It will be called the "Tenth Anniversary Garden Tour" in honor of BCMGA's tenth year in existence. Co-Chairwomen Sue Morgan (254-698-8668) and Rae Schmuck (254-933-7765) will have details of the host gardens and sign-up sheets for workers available at the March and April monthly meetings. Sue is also starting a list of gardens for the fall tour. If you would like to show-off your garden this fall contact Sue Morgan (txmorgan2@earthlink.net). In addition to the opportunity for service hours hosting in a garden, hours can be obtained by helping the host garden prepare for the tour.

Submitted by Mary Lew Quesinberry

HERB STUDY GROUP

Rowena Fengal treated the Herb Study Group for Valentines Day to edible flower artichoke dip, vegetables and heart-shaped bread and chocolate truffles. The next meeting is March 14 "Cool Cucumber" with borage and salad burnet.

Submitted by Kim Pringle

Bug Behavior & History



Dr. Jeffery Tomberlin, Entomologist with Texas A & M University, shares "bug" issues with 2007 intern Cathy Hoefert.

Dr. Tomberlin gave the new Master Gardener class new insights into bug behavior and history. He is researching methods for suppressing fly populations and insects that colonize human remains. He has consulted on several homicide investigations using his knowledge of Forensic Entomology.

Submitted by Mary Lew Quesinberry



Ilene Miller opened the February monthly meeting with a prayer and a poem to the 52 in attendance.

President Gy Okeson reported on the upcoming March 17th Spring Veggie Sale and Seminar, the Home & Garden Show and the Texas and International Master Gardener Conventions.

“Welcome to my garden” Stone

If anyone is interested in having a sand-blasted stone like the one currently in our greenhouse, which says 'Welcome to my garden', please contact Mary Ann Everett. She is taking orders now. The cost is \$50.00 payable to Temple College Landscape Fund. You do not have to pay for the stone until time of delivery.

Burger Wednesday



Nolan Young, class of 2006 and Greenhouse Chef, cooked the most delicious burgers ever eaten Burger Wednesday. They were big, fat, juicy and grilled to perfection.



The weather was wonderful allowing us to eat outside in the sunshine. We had dips, chips, veggies, coleslaw, brownies and beautiful heart-shaped cookies.

*Submitted by Mary Lew
Quesinberry*

Greenhouse Plant Database

Computer whiz and 2007 intern Annette Ensing is inventorying and cataloging the greenhouse plants. Ensing is working with Tricia Newton, also a 2007 intern. They are researching each plant and creating an Excel spreadsheet with the information they gather. When this huge project is completed it will provide invaluable information to the greenhouse leadership.

Ensing and Newton will also have a page for each plant with its photo and vital statistics. This will help educate the community when they come to the plant sales. 2007 interns Dru Buuch and Sara Lee Perryman check out the progress



2007 intern Mel Myers and Greenhouse Chairman Lawrence Cox are getting the veggies ready to sell. The Spring Veggie Sale and Seminar is March 17th. Volunteers are needed to set up, to help customers and to clean up afterwards. Contact Karla Tomaka (kstomaka@aol.com). She needs volunteers to help sell the beautiful vegetables.

Blanco County Cooks!

This is a delicious recipe from the Blanco County Master Gardeners

Rosemary Muffins

3/4 c milk	2t baking powder
3/4 c golden raisins	1/4 t salt
1T chopped Rosemary	1 large egg
1/4 c unsalted butter	8T goat cheese or cream cheese
1 1/2 c all purpose flour	
1/2c sugar	

Simmer milk, raisins, and Rosemary 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Add butter, stir to melt. Let cool. Mix dry ingredients. Beat egg into cooled milk mixture. Add to dry ingredients. Stir just until moistened. Fill muffin cups 1/3 full. To center of each muffin add 2 teaspoons cream cheese. Add 1/3 batter to top. Bake approximately 20 minutes at 350 degrees.

SPRING VEGGIE SALE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Submitted by Mary Lew

Quesinberry

EarthKind Program

Anyone who is interested in landscaping or gardening is invited to attend the TC Landscape Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 6th. Master Gardener Mary Ann Everett will give a presentation on EarthKind Roses and Landscape Management. The goal for the EarthKind Program is to develop beautiful and productive landscapes that provide maximum environmental benefit with minimal management. The EarthKind Program combines the best of organic and traditional gardening. The meeting will be held at noon in Room 1804 located across from the elevators on the first floor of the Health Sciences Center. The Health Sciences Center is on the East Campus next to the Del Martin Nursing Education Center.

BCMGA OFFICERS

We finally have a slate of officers for next year to replace the ones who are finishing their terms. They are;

Francis Idoux --1st Vice President

Judy Hermann -- Treasurer

Laverne Adams-- Recording Secretary

Jeanette Karr -- Board member (1 year)

Deanna Rankin -- Board member (2 year)

Rae Schmuck -- Board member (2 year)

Johnny Buck -- Board member (2 year)

2007 BCMGA CLASSFIELD TRIP

Bus reservations for approximately 28 seats are available to Master Gardeners for the field trip to Texas A&M Horticulture Gardens and the Antique Rose Emporium on April 11, 2007. The reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. New class members and Master Gardeners may reserve one seat for a guest. (NOTE: 2007 Class Members do not pay for the bus reservation.) The cost of the trip is \$18.00 for bus transportation and includes the admission fee to the gardens. Please note that reservations are non-refundable but transferable, that is, you may sell your reservation. To make reservations, please submit a check payable to Bell County Master Gardener Association to Kim Pringle (address is 2410 Birdcreek Dr., Temple, TX 76502). The bus will depart the Bell County Extension Office at approximately 7:00 am and will return approximately 6:00 pm. Please bring a picnic lunch as we plan to dine in the gardens. If you do transfer your reservation, please let Kim know to assist with roll calling the morning of the tour. If you have any questions, please call Kim Pringle at (254) 791-1564

Kudzu Be Kidding?

Kudzu came to America from Japan in 1876 as an ornamental plant. In the early 1900's Charles Pleas of Chipley, Florida discovered farm animals loved eating it! He began selling plants through the mail. But the invasion really began in the 1930's & 40's when the Soil Conservation

Service planted millions of the vines to control soil erosion. But as the vines quickly grew and solved the erosion problem, a bigger problem began...the vines couldn't be contained! We've all seen it engulf telephone poles, trees, and abandoned houses along our highways. But let's get back to Mr. Pleas discovery of feeding it to his farm animals. Did you know that every part of kudzu is edible? You can cook the enormous tubers like potatoes or grind them into a powder and add to sauces and stews as a thickening agent. Bees produce a delicious honey from the sweet purple flowers. The blooms can be added to salads and used to make jelly, syrup, or tea. Deep-fried leaves are absolutely delicious and boast high levels of vitamins A and C. Who knows, maybe the deer would go for it!



Remains of a burned out textile plant in Rockingham, North Carolina. Featured in Juanita Baldwin's book, "Kudzu in America".

References: Kudzu the Vine; J Anthony.com

Submitted by Jeanne

Richard



Dr. Clint Walker, owner of Walker Honey, visits with Master Gardener 2007 intern Dru Buuch.

Dr. Clint Walker owner of Walker Honey and Lone Star Honey gave a presentation titled "**The Essential Honeybee from Backyard to National Food Supply**". Dr. Walker explained that pollination methods range from bees, hummingbirds, butterflies, bats, moths, the wind and mechanical means. Bee pollination is an important service to the national food supply, without it food production is limited. Large agricultural producers rent beehives to increase their production. Walker explained the operation of the honey business and said 120 pounds of honey can be produced from one hive.

He said that one tablespoon honey mixed with one tablespoon of apple-cider vinegar and 4 ounces of warm water, used daily is recommended by some Scott and White doctors to lose weight and lower blood pressure.

Submitted by Mary Lew

Quesinberry_

Top Reasons to be a beekeeper

There is very little winter time work with honeybees. If the beekeeper has helped prepare the honeybee colonies so they have plenty of food for the winter and has addressed pest, predator and disease issues in fall then there is nothing to do. They don't need feeding, watering, shoveling, milking or anything else.

No cows, goats, chickens, rabbits or whatever to jump the fence, knock down the fence, crawl under the fence and get out to aggravate you and your neighbors.

Bees make honey. More honey than they need to survive a winter on their own. They share the surplus with the beekeeper. Flowering plants produce a sweet liquid solution called nectar to entice a honeybee to visit the flower and do this important thing—pollination—that we talked about earlier. This nectar is collected by the honeybees. They add enzymes to it to change the sugar profile and reduce the moisture level below 18% so honey doesn't spoil or ferment.

Honeybees pollinate honeybees' main source of nectar/honey and pollen are collected as they fly from flower to flower. Their hairy little bodies pick up the sticky pollen from flowers. This is the pollen that then transfers to the sticky stigma on another flower and pollination occurs. Flowers produce lots more pollen than they absolutely require because this pollination activity is still risky. The excess pollen stuck on the honeybee's body is combed out by a structure on the bee's legs and collected in small balls on the hind legs, easily seen in its bright orange, yellow, and even red and green colors. Bees collect pollen because it is their protein, vitamin, fat and mineral source of food. Nectar/honey is the energy carbohydrate food. But, bees don't eat, can't eat, pollen. These pollen grains are protected and encased in silica (glass) to protect the "sperm" inside from drying out, getting wet, etc., before they can fertilize a seed. This silica shell has to be broken open. Honeybees add various bacteria and yeasts to the pollen collected that when it is stored in the cells of honey comb, it starts to ferment and the silica shell breaks away releasing the food inside. This fermented pollen is called bee bread. Kind of like pollen silage for those of you familiar with that process.

Honeybee equipment, while having a cost, is far less expensive than other farm or agricultural equipment. A hive of honeybees doesn't require oil, gasoline, diesel or anything else to run.

Beekeeping Contd.

If you get too many colonies of honeybees for your backyard, then unlike cows or something else big, you can simply ask a neighbor if you can put some of your valuable honeybees on his property in the unused place in the back. Most of the time, if you have done your PR (samples of honey and the pollination story), the answer is yes. No land to buy or rent.

The honeybee works for almost nothing. They feed themselves (a honeybee can forage for nectar and pollen efficiently in a 2-to 2 ½ mile radius of their colony) and clean up after themselves as well. If you could develop a breed of goats that collected hay and brought it back to the barn to use in winter and then cleaned out the barn as well, you would have something almost as good as a honeybee.

You don't have to get up at 2:00 in the morning to check if they are hatching or calving.

You don't have to own large tracts of your land or barns or fences. You can live in an apartment building and have all your colonies located someplace else.

Honeybees are the keystone fundamental pollinator specie of agriculture and for wildlife. They produce an almost perfect energy food, honey. They are a very foraging livestock. You don't have to be perfect to be a beekeeper. Honeybees do not necessarily require the management skills of a learned beekeeper for optimum results.

They still do extraordinarily well with the

novice working towards being a master beekeeper. More has been written about beekeeping than any other subject except religion. Being no. 2 in that category tells you how fascinating and rewarding beekeeping is.

What you need to do now is to see if you want to go forward. The only way you can do that is by acquiring knowledge. At this stage having access to a computer and Internet is a good thing. There is a lot of junk information available on bees—and some very good stuff as well. The problem is separating the two. You can learn a lot about beekeeping hardware and equipment by reading catalogs. Request a catalog from Dadant Inc., www.dadant.com, 888-922-1293; Mann Lake, Ltd., www.mannlakeltd.com, 740-393-2111; and Glory bee, www.glorybeefoods.com, 800-456-7923.

When you get these catalogs pick out a beginner's book like First Lessons in Beekeeping, or The Beekeeper's Handbook. There will be how-to videos available also. Every state has a state beekeeper's association. Google your state beekeepers association and contact them for information on local and regional beekeepers' groups. There may be a beekeeper mentor out there with your name on him or her. Beekeeping is a lot like other activities in that seeing how something is done and having hands—on assistance the first time through is good for some people. If you are a male neophyte beekeeper with lots of testosterone you can do it yourself and be successful also.

The local beekeeping group, Williamson County Area Beekeeper's website is www.wcaba.org.

Submitted by Juanita Duel



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