

The image shows the cover of a newsletter titled "The Blooming Bell". The background is a lush garden scene with several bright yellow flowers, likely Gaillardias, and green foliage. A monarch butterfly with its characteristic orange, black, and white wings is perched on one of the yellow flowers. The title "The Blooming Bell" is written in a large, elegant, white cursive font across the center. Below the title, the date "July, 2012" and the text "BCMGA Newsletter" are printed in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

# The Blooming Bell

July, 2012

**BCMGA Newsletter**

## **Inside this edition:**

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**Remembering Laverne**

**Edible Landscape, Q & A**

**Cactus Care**

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**Announcements, What's Happening in Your Yard**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4  <b>NO Burger Wednesday</b>	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 <b>Work Day 7 - 8:30 am General Meeting, Clint Walker speaks about Bees and his recent trip to Africa 11 am</b>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 <b>Work Day 7 - 8:30am  Board of Directors Meeting 9 am</b>	26 <b>Keyhole Gardening, 9-11am at the Blackland Research Center</b>	27	28
29	30	31				

Upcoming Dates to Remember: Fall Veggie and Tree Planting Seminar, September 15th  
 Fall Plant Sale is September 22nd  
 Fall Garden Tour, October 20

Flag image by Nuttakit of [Freedigitalimages.net](http://Freedigitalimages.net)

# The President's Corner

Summer has definitely arrived. I took an early morning walk to my vegetable garden, watered the pot plants, filled the bird baths, picked the figs and returned to the comfort of the indoors. Now I will get down to doing all those indoor projects I have been putting off until the temperatures were too high to be outdoors during midday. I am already looking forward to fall.

With fall on my mind, I think of the fall plant sale. Plans are well underway for the sale. There will be a fall vegetable garden and tree planting seminar September 15<sup>th</sup>, the Saturday before the plant sale on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Flyers and posters will be distributed, but word of mouth also works, so tell your neighbors and friends about the seminar and the sale, too.

Plans for the fall garden tour are also in the final stages. The tour will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Cooler weather and some interesting gardens should make this a very pleasant event. A list of gardens on tour will be available soon.

The July monthly meeting will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the topic will be Bees. The last Bee program presented to our organization was informative and interesting. If you want to read a bit about bees before the meeting, this month's issue of "Texas Parks & Wildlife" magazine has an interesting article on Bumblebees. I didn't know we had nine species in Texas.

A reminder, the city of Temple is sponsoring a "Keyhole Garden" program on July 26<sup>th</sup>. This will be held at the Blackland Extension facility from 9:00am to 11:00am.

**DUES!!** It is that time of year. Please send your dues (\$25.00) to Don Wyatt or drop them off at the extension office in an envelope with Don's name on the front.

Gail Pierce, Kim Pringle and Frances Idoux are working with the Temple V.A. providing recommendations for landscaping in the courtyard of the V.A.'s new healthcare facility. The project will involve planning and education. Please contact one of them if you would like to assist them with a very worthwhile project.

The "Welcome Home Garden" project is in need of one or two more veterans to volunteer. The program is being coordinated locally by Texas Military 4-H at Blackland. There are several different directions the volunteers can go with the project. Please contact me if you would be interested in helping. The project can be simple or grand in scale; it will be up to the volunteers.

A brief update: Last Wednesday Mel and I met with the planning director for the city of Belton. Belton has implemented a new ordinance against metal buildings. We are awaiting information as to what we will need to do to meet the new criteria. After years of planning, I know we are all anxious to get the new facility underway. Please be patient, we have hoops to jump and permits to obtain. Hopefully, you will see something happening inside the fence within a few weeks.

Have a happy and safe Fourth of July with your family.....and stay cool, take care in this very hot weather.....Laura

## Check Out the Dallas Arboretum

**- Terrie Hahn**

Werner and I went to see the Chihuly Glass Art in amongst the gardens at the Dallas Arboretum recently. This exhibit is there until November 6<sup>th</sup>, so check for their monthly specials. Don't miss the whimsical, creative use of blown glass in the beautiful gardens throughout the Arboretum! *There are more photos of this exhibit throughout this issue.*

**Wednesdays**, Buy One, Get One Free - July 4 through 25 - Regular price, adult: \$15, senior: \$12, and child \$9.00, equal or lesser value free. Coupon available online. Customer must present printed coupon at time of visit. Up to 2 admissions per coupon. Parking - \$10.00 per car or \$5.00 presold on-line.

AT&T Senior Thursdays – \$11 for 65 or older – 9am to 5pm only.

If you are a member of other Gardens like the Wildflower Center, etc. (even in other states), check to see if they have a reciprocal agreement and you may be able to get in free. Go to [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org).



# Remembering Laverne

Laverne Adams passed away on June 16th. We will miss Lavern's sweet smile. Lavern Adams, class of 2004, had her garden featured on the Garden Tour of Spring, 2005. She served on the 2007-2008 Board of Directors as Recording Secretary.

She is shown here working in the greenhouse.....Mary Lew Quesinberry



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Laverne was one of my favorite Master Gardeners and I will truly miss her. Much of what she did for us went unseen. Laverne and I taught a Saturday Prop-lab for the very first class, and she and I became allies. We only had 2 interns, and they were game to try anything, and so we did. Laverne got info from her Master Gardener daughter, Claire, who taught propagation in Fort Worth, and we tried these and many other suggestions she made. Most of it was used in the following years. This included the material on succulents and our planting potatoes, plus material on planting seeds. I never saw Laverne lose her temper or become upset, no matter what anybody did. She usually responded with a bit of humor instead, and

that sunny smile. Laverne was an active member of the speaker's bureau, and gave many classes in the community. She was averse to using the computer, but taught an entertaining and informative class by demonstrating and helping. Laverne also served a term as Recording Secretary.

It is people like Laverne, who aren't there every Wednesday, but who truly are the "glue" that make the Master Gardener program work. She left a lasting impact.....Annette Ensing

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I know we all will miss Laverne. She was a loyal member, always had a smile and frequently attended monthly meetings. It is noted in her obituary that she was a Master Gardener. A sympathy card has been sent to the family from the Master Gardeners. ....Laura Murphy

Photo by [Mary Lew Quesinberry](#)

# Edible Landscape

- Rick E. Schroeder

*This is the first in a series on Edible Landscaping.*

Would you like to mow-less, grow more in limited spaces and have a beautiful landscape? Then it is time to try Edible Landscaping. Edible landscaping is selecting plants and trees that include edible flowers, fruits and greens and yet provides color, texture and taste. The grass lawn is an American tradition but now many are realizing that it is an expensive, fertilizer demanding and water consuming product that is seldom used. What you will discover in this series of articles is that an edible landscape can be absolutely beautiful in color, varying in heights, provide seasonal changes, and provide some healthy organic foods for your table.

The Edible landscape is also friendly to the environment and to your budget. With food costs rising at the rate of 7% and more foods that are arriving from foreign markets, wouldn't it be great to be able to go to your front or back or side yard and pick your own organic products?

An interesting fact is that edible landscaping is a common practice in many parts of the world. In some countries one can walk down a street and see fruit trees, edible flowers, sugar cane, melons and all varieties of herbs and greens that are designed to be a landscape as well as a garden. So imagine walking into your yard and seeing a variety of colors, textures, and fruits and being able to pick these and take these right to your table. Growing edibles makes sense to your palate, your pocket book and your health. So stick with us as we turn your current yard into a place that is inviting, and tasteful.

This series of articles will introduce you to the dozens of edibles that can be planted in your space and show you how a sustainable landscape can be as beautiful as your current garden and yet provide you with tastes you could have never imagined.

The second article in this series will begin to introduce you to the literally dozens of edibles herbs and plants that are available, some of which you may already have, and never realized that you could place in your salads or your dishes.

If you can't eat it, don't plant it.



Top photo by Terrie Hahn, Bottom photo from "Digging" Blog by Pam Penick.

# Q & A

*Editor's note: This is a new column for Questions and Answers. When I get a question from a MG, I'll put it out there for other MG's to answer and publish the answer for everyone to benefit from it. Please send your questions and answers to me at [moom-pie45@hotmail.com](mailto:moom-pie45@hotmail.com) or call me at 512-863-9837.*

*Our first question is:*

I picked this along the Pepper Creek Trail. Can you tell me what it is? It is 3 " long at present.

**- Myra Crenshaw**



*And Gary Slanga's answer:*

## Buffalo Gourd

**- Gary Slanga**

This plant is a member of the Cucurbitaceae or Squash family. Its scientific name is *Cucurbita foetidissima*. Its most common name is buffalo gourd and is native to the southwest. It is also known as wild pumpkin, wild gourd, Missouri gourd, Coyote gourd or fetid gourd. The last name derived from the fetid odor produced by the leaves when they are crushed.

Buffalo gourd is a fast growing perennial that is very drought tolerant. It sends out long vines from a large

underground tuberous root that can be as large as 16 inches in diameter at the ground level and which usually splits into two descending roots that can go as deep as three feet. From this tuber the long vines can extend for hundred of feet along which large triangular green/gray leaves are produced. The gourd itself is usually 3-4 inches in diameter.

This plant has a long history dating back an estimated 5000 years as evidenced by seeds found in archeological digs at Hinds Cave historic site near the Pecos River. The plant was valued by Native Americans for a variety of uses. The root was used for medicinal purposes, the seeds are edible, and the dried gourd, which turns yellow when mature, was used as a rattle in rituals. The fetid odor of the crushed leaves is said to act as an insect repellent and insecticide. The oil can be used in cosmetics and the root, which is rich in a combination of saponins, steroids and sugars will foam when water is added and was used as a shampoo and as hand and laundry soap.

A word of caution is in order. The fruit and roots contain high levels of a group of triterpenoid glycosides that can be poisonous in high concentrations. All members of the domestic squash family produce these chemicals, but not in the high concentrations found in this native plant.

An expanded list of uses for this plant, along with some recipes for its use can be found at the New Mexico State University web site <http://medplant.nmsu.edu/buffalo.shtm>

## And this month's question:

**- Werner Hahn**

Can someone please tell me why some of my garlic is cloving, but others are coming out perfectly round with no



cloves. They're planted next to each other getting the same treatment of water and sunlight. They have died back as much as the cloving garlic when pulled.

# Cactus Care for the Summer

- Ursula Nanna

This time of year is the peak growing season for most cacti. In fact, we won't even ship out *Opuntia* or *Cylindropuntia* during June to August.

During the long, hot dry spells of summer, water your cacti once a month. Yes, they will live anyway, but some additional watering helps cacti to look their best, especially if you have them in pots. Be sure your cactus soil drains quickly because cacti rot easily, especially if too wet.

Be on the lookout for slugs and cactus mites. 5% Seven dust and slug pellets will solve the problem. Trim back any limbs or branches causing cacti to receive less than 6 hours of direct sunlight. Do not fertilize....if at all, fertilizing can be done around mid-March only. Please use slow release and WITHOUT WEED KILLER. Weed killer will kill your cacti.

Be sure to avoid the glochids...the fuzzy part at the base of the spines. Resist the urge to touch them as they are bad news.

New offerings of wonderfully small to tiny cacti are being started and re-researched. I avoid starting from seeds because I cannot vouch for the gene-pool as it will vary. This way, those getting cacti will start with the same stock that has been researched and been successful.

Remember the 2 keys to growing cacti successfully: Direct sunlight all day at least 6 hours and have excellent drainage.



Pictured top is *Opuntia Aciculata*; bottom photo is *Echinocereus fendleri* - hedgehog.

# To All Master Gardeners,

Here are some educational opportunities that you may want to explore.

**Irrigation Efficiency Specialist Training** at the Tarrant County Extension Office in Fort Worth. Details at <http://dallas.tamu.edu/courses/october-24,-2012-master-gardner-irrigation-efficiency-training/>

**Rain Water Harvesting** at Blinn Collage in Brenham Texas. Details at <http://txmg.org/training10/specialist/rain-water-harvesting/>

For those needing education hours but unable to travel to another site, there is on-line training.

**Earth-Kind** on-line training at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/>

**MGTV-Texas on line tutorials** at <http://www.youtube.com/user/MGTVTexas> These are you-tube tutorials on things such as trees and clean air, Trees and Energy Conservation, Grass Clippings info etc.

Please check out these opportunities to earn the required 12 education hours for the year.

**Also don't forget to nominate** the hard workers of our organization for either Green Thumb, Golden Trowel awards or for the new folks New MG of the year. Forms and requirements are listed on the Bell County Web Page.

Thanks,

Gary Slanga, Education/Awards

## Dallas Arboretum Chihuly Glass

Photos of Dallas Arboretum by Werner Hahn





# Announcements

## General Meeting Information

### - Bernie Hurta

Our speaker for the July 11<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting program is Clint Walker from the Walker Honey Farm in Rogers. He will speak about bees and his recent trip to Africa.

## It's Time for Annual Dues

### - Don Wyatt, Treasurer

It is time to pay your annual dues. The amount is \$25, payable to BCMGA. You can give your check or cash to me, leave at the extension office or mail to:

Don Wyatt

153 Autumn Circle

Belton, Texas 76513.

Please pay right away, as the deadline has passed. Remember that you do not have to be certified in order to stay a member of BCMGA. But you do have to pay your dues. I hope you decide to stay a member and come to our monthly meeting and stay involved in our activities.

Also, JMG teachers are exempt from paying dues. As well as the new class that just graduated. Your dues were included in your tuition.

## Work Days and Burger Wednesdays

### - Brenda Albro

Since July 4th is on a Wednesday, we will not have Burger Wednesday in July. We will meet to take care of the grounds on July 11th and 25th at 7 a.m. If we see we need to meet more often than the above dates, we will send out an email.

This time away gives us time to rest up for the Plant Sale in September. Mid-August we will go back to meeting every Wednesday morning to get the grounds ready for the plant sale.

Burger Wednesdays dates and themes.....

August – Hot Dogs (August 1)

September – Salads (September 5th)

October – Hamburgers (Oct 3rd)

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Brenda or Sophia or Carla.

Happy Summer!

## Dallas Arboretum Chihuly Glass



# What's Happening in Your Yard?



## Picking Peaches is Fun!

- Brenda Albro

Here are some pictures from picking peaches at Gary Slanga's house. Carla Harmon and I went and Payson Albro, my 18 month granddaughter got in the picture too.

## Famished Caterpillar

- Kim Pringle

Below is a photo of a Giant Swallowtail caterpillar on a rue plant in my garden. The rue plant was nearly devoured by Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillars before this one hatched. I cut some rue at the Extension Office to bring home to feed it.

## Butterfly Vine

- Bernie Hurta

Here is a picture of my Butterfly Flower Vine. It is from a cutting I received in my Master Gardening graduation gift basket in 2007.



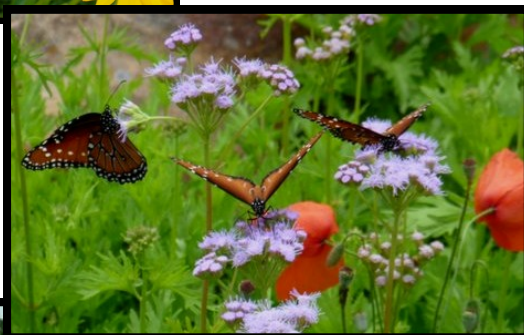
# What's Happening in Your Yard?...continued



## Wildflowers Everywhere!

- Edie Campbell

These were taken in the wildflower area of my yard. Some of my favorites. The butterflies were all over the Tickseed/ Coreopsis (also shown on page one). I also had an abundance of Purple Horse Mint and Indian Blanket. The Texas Paintbrush are starting to multiply, but I am having a battle with the snails when it comes to Bluebonnets. Still I keep trying.....

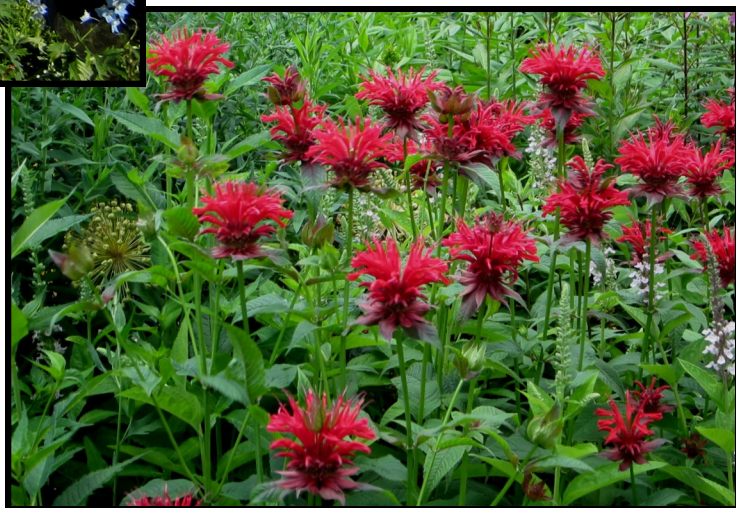


## Blooming In My Yard!

- Mary Lew Quesinberry

Right: Queen butterflies enjoying Gregg's Blue Mist (also shown on page two); and Green Cloud Cenizo, Thryallis and Salvia greggii.

# What's Happening in Your Yard?...continued



## Blooming at Frank Lloyd Wright Houses

- Annette Ensing

Right: Monarda, I think, at Talliesin; Frank Lloyd Wright designed his garden with native and adaptive plants. Above right: House on the Rocks in Spring Green, Wis. This man was more eccentric than I am, so don't know what this could possibly be. It looks like a flower in a flower. Above: Munsinger and Clemens gardens in St Cloud Minn. I wish I could grow delphiniums like this!

## Candid Camera

-Sue Judd

Left: I caught this Gulf Fritillary laying her eggs on my Passion Vine.



Dallas Arboretum

## Officers and Directors 2011- 2012

<b>President</b>	<b>Laura Murphy</b>
<b>First Vice President</b>	<b>Bernie Hurta</b>
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A publication of the Bell County Master Gardener Association sponsored by Texas AgriLife Extension of Texas A & M University

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