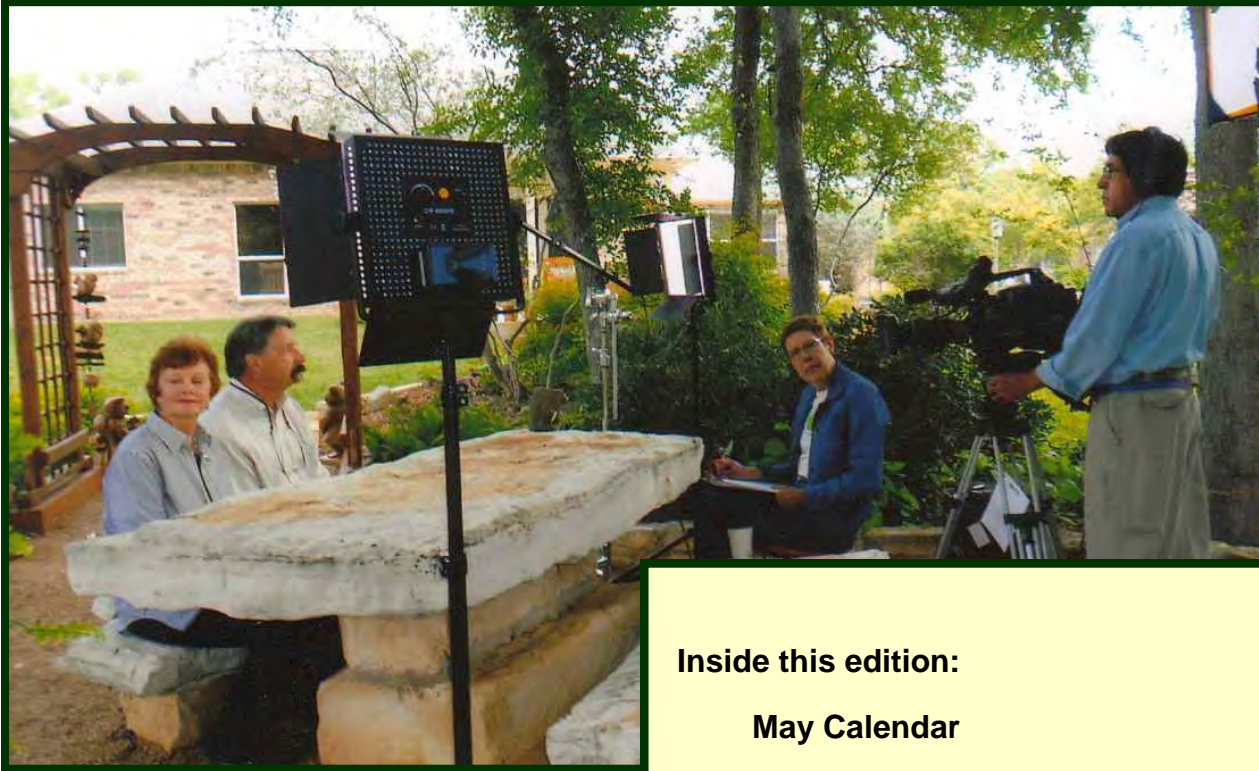


The Blooming Bell

May 2013



**Bell County
Master Gardener
Association**



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Work Day Grounds Committee Meeting Sandwich Wednesday	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 General Meeting: Texas Superstars, 11 am	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Board of Directors Meeting, Installation of Officers and Brunch, 9 am Intern Graduation 1 pm	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Whistle Stop Park Clean Up	30	31	

Photo of Killeen Municipal Court Gardens by Randy Brown.

The President's Corner

"Water, water, everywhere, but not a drop to drink." I don't think we are going to have to concern ourselves with water everywhere. With the drought across Texas and other parts of the US, plus increased population growth just the opposite may be true. As Master Gardeners we have been promoting rainwater harvesting and the planting of drought tolerant and native plants. But, we need to go further in providing information to the public and collecting reliable data as to the changes in behavior and landscape that will increase water conservation.

The Extension Service in Bell County and 21 other counties in Texas are beginning an 18 month to two year program to collect data on water conservation. Eight master gardeners are needed to sign up for this data collection program. The program will begin on June 1st. Those gardeners that are on city water and paying a water bill will be the most beneficial for data collection. At the next meeting, the 40 Gallon Challenge will be presented as part of the Earthkind program. You can

hear the challenge and decide if it is for you. Though you may need to make a few behavioral changes or landscape changes to participate, the data submission is simple. The May meeting on Earthkind plants will be presented by Mary Ann Everett. Our extension agent, Lyle, will present the 40 Gallon Challenge.

If you want to know more before the next meeting, go to: www.40gallonchallenge.org.

April events and activities kept us busy. The Ft. Hood programs were completed, schools were presented programs, a great plant swap and monthly meeting was held, many earth day events took place and the new class had a successful field trip. On top of all of these events, Mary Lew Quesinberry opened her garden to KLRU's Central Texas Gardener crew for taping and a future program (probably to be aired next spring). The yard was in full bloom; Mary Lew is to be thanked and congratulated for representing us with such a beautiful yard. Thank you Mary Lew.



This month, we will install new officers and graduate a new class. Please welcome our new members and thank your new officers for serving on the Board.
.....Laura

Photo of Bell County Master Gardeners Randy Brown and Jerry Lewis at the Rainwater Collection System at the Killeen Municipal Court Gardens by Larry Moehnke.

Quesinberry Garden Has Star Power

- Carol Runyan

The KLRU truck pulled up at David and Mary Lew Quesinberry's home at 8:15 a.m., Monday morning 15 April. They were there to tape the garden for a program which will be broadcast at a later date on Central Texas Gardener, a production of

KLRU - TV, Austin PBS. The familiar voice of Linda Lehmusvirta interviewed David and Mary Lew for about 35 minutes in a picturesque setting in

the garden. Typically the interview will be edited to 8 to 10 minutes. Two photographers accompanied Linda. Their job was to bring the extraordinary beauty of the garden to the viewers' eyes. The ever changing garden is made up of many individual vignettes, each with its own personality. A visitor can sit at a limestone table and enjoy a jazz concert with make believe music, drink in the beauty of bluebonnets and red poppies with splashes of yellow iris and Jerusalem sage, listen to water dripping from their multitiered fountain complete with cranes, or enjoy a good book in the shade of an



Anacacho Orchid tree with the restful sound of wind chimes in the

Continued on next page...



Star Power...continued

background. David and Mary Lew are garden designers par excellence. Mary Lew has an artistic flair, and David can bring ideas to reality. Don't miss this "Star's" opening performance! (You will be notified when the date has been set.)

For more information, consult llehmus-virta@klru.org, klru.org/ctg, klru.org/ctg/blog, or facebook.com/CentralTexasGardener.

Photos by Carol Runyan



Thank You...

Bernie Hurta, Mary Ann Everett and Fran Sheppard for organizing a wonderful work force of 2013 class interns to prepare the "Big Berm" for the Central Texas Gardener yard tour.

We appreciated all their hard work!

Sincerely,

David and Mary Lew Quesinberry



Pat Allen, Teri Gulig, Charlotte Jones, Gail Garner, Melinda Arriola, Mary Beth Bradburn, Terry Bradburn, Jane Strong. Not pictured, Jean McCulloh, Melissa Fletcher.

Photo by Mary Lew Quesinberry

The Butterflies Danced

- Pat Smith

And the butterflies danced
And they fluttered and played to the waltz of the wind
In the brightness of the warming sun, amid the beauty
of God's color palate
Hues of red, yellow, blue, and purple catch their eyes
And the butterflies danced.

A landscape design in the mind's eye of him and her
In tune with the idea and the plan.
Native plants tenderly endeared to the soil
And they grew creating an invitation to the butterflies to
dance.
And the butterflies came and they danced.

Esperanza, planted with hope and a prayer,
Called the butterflies to dance to the waltz of the wind.
The natives of the earth brought forth their delicate
blooms
As the butterflies drink in their delicious nectar.
And the butterflies danced with joy.

He watched from the window of his man cave
Under the shade of Temple's champion oak
And he smiled as he saw the beauty of God's paint-
brush
And he knew, as his heart ached, that soon he would
watch no more...
As the butterflies danced.

Then the cold winds of winter blew to the earth
He loved and he prayed as he watched
The last dance of the butterflies of the season
And said goodbye to God's beauty
And the butterflies danced no more.

And now the bright sun of spring warms the earth
The hues of red, yellow, blue and purple return
The wind sings among the leaves its waltz once again
Today he watches from heaven's window
As the butterflies dance.



Photos by Pat Smith

Plant Sale Success

- Carla Harmon

The Spring Plant Sale was a surprise success, considering the cool weather. There were 52 volunteers who helped all or part

of the day. The number of customers was 434. Our total sales was \$11,478.00. Money spent on plants was \$ 5, 895.00. Net profit on plant sales was approximately \$5,683.00.

With approximately \$700.00 in sales from products sold, our total net profit was \$6383.00. Not bad for a cold day's work. Thank you all for your help!!!



Living Chair?!

Editor's Note: I saw this on Facebook and couldn't resist showing it to you. Go to <http://pooktre.com/>

Artist Peter Cook, grew this living garden chair using tree shaping methods, primarily training a living tree through constricting the direction of branch growth. The chair took about eight years to grow.



Plant Swapping!

- Terrie Hahn

This Spring's Plant Swap, organized by Bernie Hurta, was extremely well attended. A large variety of different plants, seeds, bulbs and cuttings were swapped amongst MG's. Following the Swap, Lee Harris from Bird Song Lavender Farm in Troy spoke to the group.

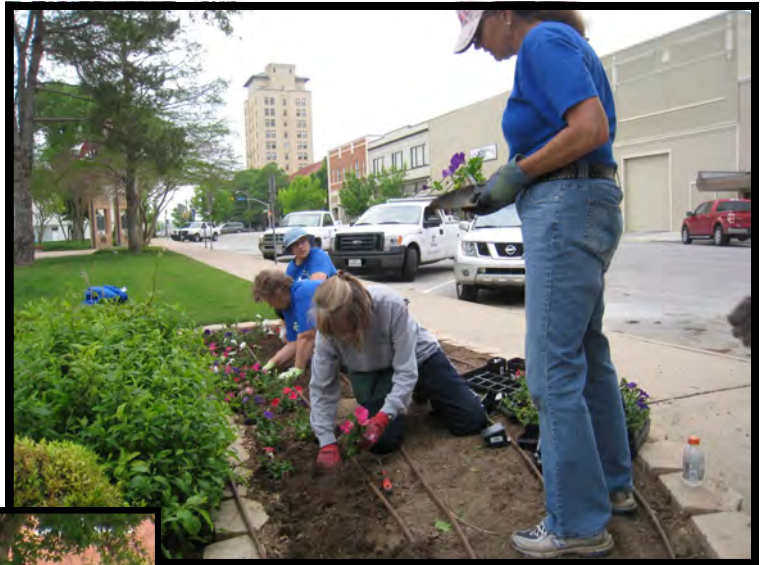


Photos by Randy Brown

MG's Working to Keep Temple Beautiful

- Gail Christian

In the middle of April, Master Gardeners and students got together to help "Keep Temple Beautiful." We planted a large bed on the southeast corner of the municipal building's grounds. We spent 2 hours and planted about 30 flats of petunias. Tuesday we planted the large concrete plant-



ers that are on the street corners in downtown Temple. We planted 56 planters and put a complete flat of petunias in each one. We spent 3 hours on the planters, moving from block to block. The city had already planted the 26 planters on the north side of the square. They have 82 of those large concrete planters downtown. We had about 7 Master Gardeners each day, so it went fast and the weather was nice.



Photos by
Gail Christian

Action at the Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden

- Gail Pierce

The Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden is growing and blooming. The Butterfly Bush has a bird nest, it was noticed while Kathleen Brown and Peg Fleet were trimming and shaping the bush. The joy of gardening is finding the unexpected.



Above: Find Peg? Kudos to Beverly Wickersham. Keeping the garden free of weeds. A never ending battle. Right: Bugs beware Bob Gordon is here!



What's blooming in your yard? Here are a couple of bloomers in the Killeen Community Garden. *What are you growing in your garden?* Killeen Community Garden is growing Pumpkins, cucumbers, cantaloupe, zucchini, yellow acorn and butter-nut squash, tomatoes, cabbage, potatoes, bell, jalapeño & banana peppers, onions and beets. Here are some pictures of the garden.



Earth Day at Fort Hood

- Gail Pierce

Bell County Master Gardener Association participated in the Fort Hood Earth Day on April 18th, which was very exciting. The herb presenters were Kim Pringle for Rosemary, Suzanne Boyer for Mint, Terrie Hahn for Lemon Balm, Basil and Oregano, Donna Estep for Lavender, and I did Dill. There were caterpillars on the dill. This also gave me the opportunity to show herbs can also be host plants. Beverly Hillyard introduced us and kept the kids corralled. The children were very interested in all the herbs, smelling and touching the plants. Donna gave out cotton balls with lavender oil. It was suggested the children put them in their dresser drawer or in a pocket. One little girl said she was going to put it in her brother's sock drawer. Kim gave everyone sprigs of Rosemary. The children were shown what the herbs can be used for; Mint in gum, ice cream, medicinal uses; Oregano and Basil in Italian foods; Lavender in soap and perfumes and it is very relaxing; Dill for pickling pickles and a host plant for butterflies.

Gary Slanga did his presentation on snakes, how to deal with them if you stumble upon them in your yard and the benefits of snakes.

Ursula Nanna manned her booth on Marine Litter explaining to the kids how much damage is done to marine life when people dump garbage and litter into the waterways.

Brenda Albro and B.A. McDevitt spoke at their booth about Water Safety.

The Pandemonium Steel Drum Band from Shoemaker High School in Killeen entertained the kids and all of us with their amazing music and fun dancing. It



was a real treat to hear them play.

BCMG's got a mention in the Killeen newspaper and even a picture of our dill and caterpillars! We had 200 children visit the herb table, 100 in the morning session and 100 for the afternoon session. It was a learning experience for the children and for us. I hope we are invited back to Earth Day next year.

Photos by Gail Pierce



News From 2013 Master Gardener Class

Water, Water Everywhere

- Beverly Hillyard

From the poem: *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel T. Coleridge:
Water, water, every where, And all the boards did shrink; Water, water, every where nor any drop to drink.

That is one of the lines I remembered from my 9th grade English class. And it had to do with the importance of water! The April 10th class also focused on the importance of water and our responsibility to conserve it. Thanks to Dirk Aaron and Gary Slanga for their information on water issues and drip irrigation. I learned about the major aquifers in Bell County and the groundwater availability. What really made an impression on me was Gary's presentation on drip irrigation. My husband and I have a vegetable garden that we water by hand. I have convinced him we need to put in a drip irrigation system that would benefit our vegetables and our backs! We know rain water would be best for our plants so we use lake water. Next year's project will be rain barrels to water our garden. Shown here are pictures of our garden. You can't see the plants but maybe next time they will be big enough to see. I am eager to harvest my tomatoes, eggplant and bell peppers (that I started from seed in January). Hopefully, that will be in a future article.



Bastard Cabbage

- Cindy Allen

Did you realize that these beautiful yellow blooms that are gracing our highways this year, are actually an invasive, *Rapistrum rugosum*, nicknamed "bastard cabbage?"

It seems to have been introduced to us through contaminated grass seed. It grows so densely and quickly that it blocks sunlight from our native species! For more information on Bastard Cabbage, go to www.texasinvasives.org



Photos by Beverly Hillyard and Cindy Allen

News From New Class!

Propagating!

- Gail Christian

Carol Runyan gave a demonstration on propagating African violets and begonias. Then Ursula demonstrated propagating cacti and succulents.



New Class Field Trip

- Frances Idoux

A bus load of Master Gardener members, interns, and guests encountered chilly weather but interesting destinations on the class field trip April 24.

First stop was the Central Texas Olive Ranch between Walburg and Granger. At the ranch, Joshua Swofford, who manages the ranch on land that has been in his family since 1870, talked to the



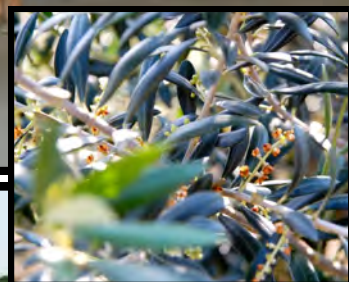
services for producers who want to plant their own groves. They provided samples of their own olive oil, the first bottled in Central Texas. Now they have a press and will begin processing their olives.

Second stop on the trip was the Agrilife Extension Office in Austin, where Travis County Master Gardeners and Extension Agent, Daphne Richards, greeted the group with information and refreshments. TCMG Reeve Hobbie presented a program on drought-resistant perennials for Central Texas, and members pointed out the plants in their demonstration gardens.

The third stop on the trip was John Dromgoole's Natural Gardener nursery. After a brief overview of the garden by S. K. Rosina Newton, Horticulturalist and Education Coordinator, group members were given a sample of his liquid fertilizer and a map, with the invitation to explore the demonstration gardens, the plant selections, and the store. When the group gathered at the bus to return to Belton, John Dromgoole, who has been involved in the advancement of organic gardening and environmental issues for over 30 years, came to speak briefly to the group and invite them to return to visit the nursery.

Photos continued on next page...

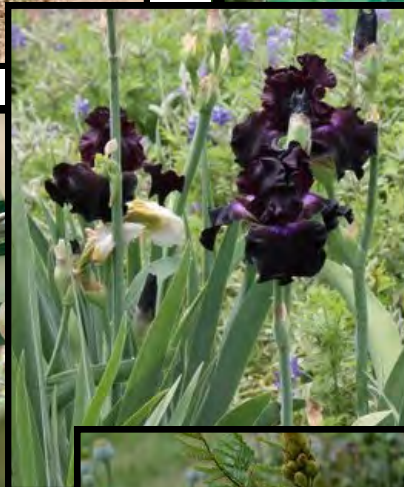
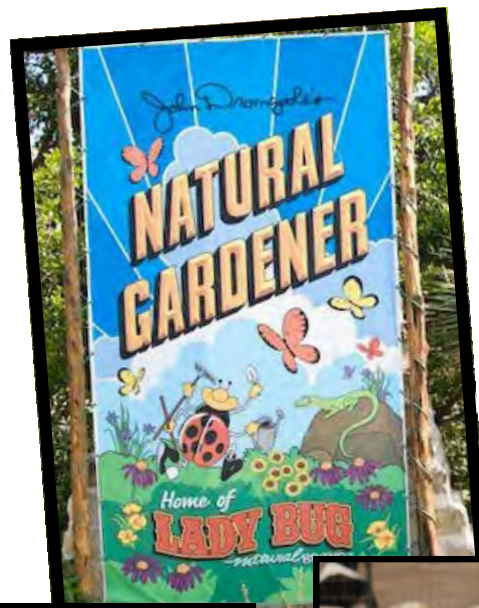
group about olive trees and olive oil. They have planted 23,000 Arbequina, Koroneiki and Arbosana varieties on land east of Walberg and are planning to add 50,000 more. In addition to managing their own orchard, they also offer consulting



Field Trip...continued



Field Trip...continued



Photos by
Randy Brown
and Frances
Idoux

Q & A

Editor's note: Let's learn from one another. Submit your questions and answers to me at moom-pie45@hotmail.com or call me at 512-863-9837.

Last month's question from:

- Cindy Allen

I need help identifying this little tree behind my house in Morgan's Point.

One of my friends would like help identifying the small tree or large shrub at the bottom of this page, also found in Morgan's Point.

And the answer is:

- Gail Christian

The Shrub below is a ***Viburnum rufidulum Raf.*** Rusty blackhaw viburnum, Rusty blackhaw, Southern blackhaw, Downy viburnum



I think the picture below is a Wax Leaf Ligustrum. Very invasive.



This Month's Question:

- Terrie Hahn

We have several of these shrubs in our yard in bloom right now. They smell sweet like a honeysuckle, but I can't find any honeysuckle flower pictures that look like this. The one that is near some plants that I put in last spring, hence more water, has doubled in size. It is now about 5 feet tall. And now their leaves are turning yellow. They look so familiar, I'm sure that I should know what they are, but my mind has lost that bit of info!



Announcements

May Monthly Meeting

- Bernie Hurta

The program for the May 8th monthly meeting will be "Texas Superstar Plants" with our Mary Ann Everett. The meeting starts at 11 am and social time is at 10:30.

Other Events

If you like lavender, don't forget the Birdsong Lavender Farm event on May 24th, 25th, from 9 to 5, and 11 to 4 on the 26th. Mr. Lee Harris gave us a won-

derful program on growing lavender at our April monthly meeting. If you would like to get in touch with the Birdsong Lavender Farm, the email address is: birdsonglf@earthlink.net.

Dates to remember:

May 8th-Monthly Meeting, 11 am, Social, 10:30 am

May 22nd-Board of Directors Meeting, Installation of Officers, & Brunch, 9 am.

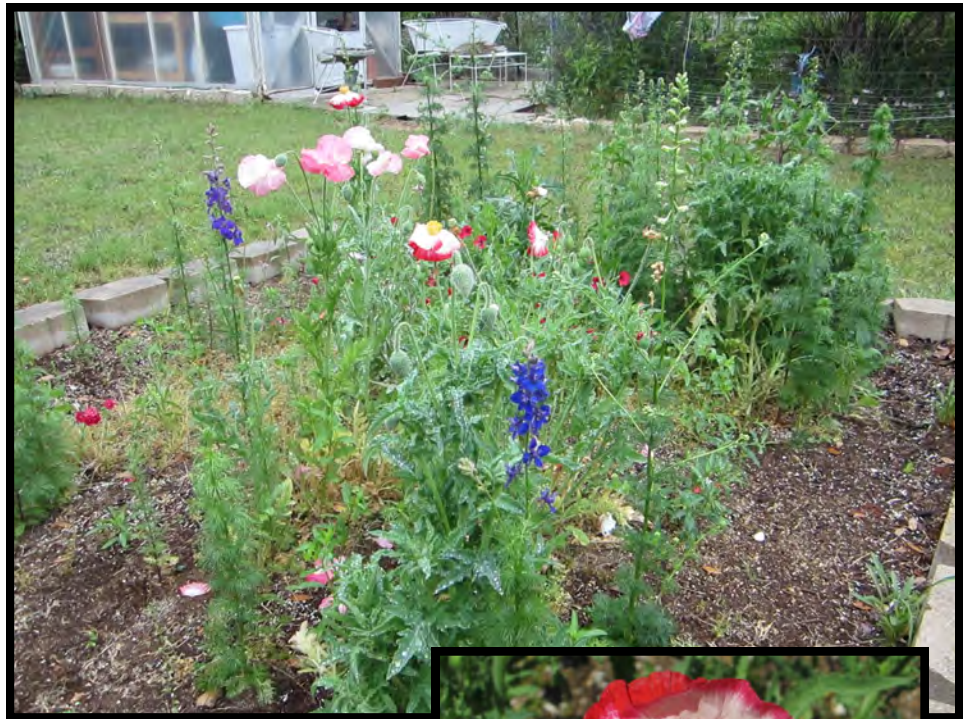
May 22nd-Intern Graduation, 1 pm.

May 29th-Whistle Stop Park Clean-up- Kathy Patterson

What's Happening in Your Yard?

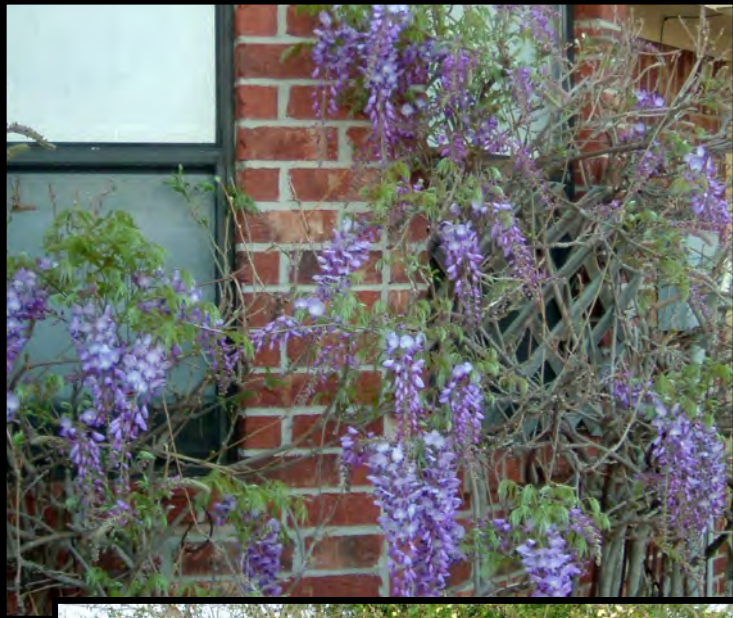
- Annette Ensing

On our trip to Wildseed Farms last year, I bought a bag of the Texas/Okla mix. I built an 8' square trial bed that received plenty of sun and no sprinkler water. Following his instructions, I seeded the bed in late November (so it wouldn't dry out with the heat), and watered it for 5 days, and left it to fend for itself. This spring so far I have African daisy, baby blue eyes, corn poppy, cornflower, scarlet flax, showy primrose, spurred snapdragon and rocket larkspur in bloom, with buds on more. The corn poppy was so unusual I had to get a picture. What fun to look out my window at a daily surprise!



What's Happening in Your Yard?

- Bernie Hurta



These are photos of my yard including wild-flowers, Wisteria, Lady Banks Rose, and Bradford Pear in Bloom.



What's Happening in Your Yard?

- Randy Brown

These photos are from a recent trip up to the Dallas Arboretum for "Dallas Blooms."



Officers and Directors 2011- 2012

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First Vice President	Bernie Hurta
Second Vice President	Jerry Lewis
Recording Secretary	Myra Crenshaw
Corresponding Secretary	Peg Fleet
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JMG	Pearl Fellingham
New Class	Fran Sheppard
Outreach	Don Gold
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Greenhouse	Mel Myers
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