

~ Bluebonnet Master Gardeners ~

The Blooming News

April, 2015

VOL. #1 ISSUE #10



Letter from the President

A big thank you to Renee and Charlene for their excellent work on the plant sale. It was a big success despite the gloomy weather. Thank you also to all the members who came and helped and to those who helped with cleanup. The plants were beautiful as usual, with some unusual plants for sale. We had more plants than before, and have some left for sales coming up this weekend in Sealy. The citywide garage sale will have some of the leftover plants from the sale as well as an auction at Renee's place. Some may go to garden areas as well. If we have some left, we will have them available at the general meeting for those who couldn't make the sale.

The next meeting will be our graduation of our 2015 interns and will be at Concordia on the 28th. Board meeting will be at 8:30 am with the social at 10:00 and the general

meeting at 10:30. This will also be a pot luck lunch, so bring those goodies.

We have begun to put the times for work on our projects on the website under the programs tab where the programs are listed. Times are subject to change if the weather is bad, so contact your project leader if you have a question.

We are also updating the Texas Master Gardener Volunteer website to include the projects on the calendar. You can also find other members info there to call as needed. If you need help with putting in hours or negotiating the website, please call or email our volunteer coordinators, Deb Pruitt, 979-251-9691, debp911@yahoo.com or Martha Neva at 979-732-6116 or marthaneva@yahoo.com. They are computer savvy and willing to help.

We have purchased picture boards for all 4 counties to use for any programs or to take to seminars for publicity display. Kara was kind enough to order them for us, and we will have them to take to each county at the meeting. We have also purchased a digital frame and will set it up at the meeting for all to see how you like it. Unfortunately, not all the pictures we have are clear enough to enlarge so we will be taking more. See you at the meeting!
Faye Beery

Earth laughs in flowers.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, 'Hamarreya'

Passion Vine

Passion flower is a herbaceous vine which can travel from 12 to 36ft from the family Passifloraceae. Flowers range from ½ in to 6 inches across. It is also known as Maypop because the large berries pop when smashed. It spreads easily by root suckers. It is thought to come from South America and Mexico and is widely distributed in the Southeast from Florida to Texas. It will survive in zones 7-10 and will freeze in the winter, but will return the next spring. Spanish explorers gave it the name Passion vine due to the 10 petal like parts representing the disciples of Jesus, the 5 stamens the wounds Jesus received; the knob-like stigmas the nails: the fringe the crown of thorns. The three-lobed, deciduous leaves are dark green above and whitish below. The fruit is a large, orange-yellow berry with edible pulp.

The plant likes full sun, but will grow in the shade, with well- drained soil. It needs scant fertilizer, usually 2 times per year, spring and fall.

Hybrids of this beautiful vine include a white and a red variety without the famous fringe. Logee's flower catalogue includes a Passion Flower collection of purple, red and white.

Source: wildflower.org and gardening knowhow.com, Logee's plants for home and garden.



*One of the most delightful things
about a garden is the anticipation it
provides. W.E. Johns
The Passing Show*



Pronounced Salvia gwar uh NYE tik uh. This plant is also known as Brazilian Sage and is a perennial, herbaceous aromatic plant with spires of dark purple, almost black sepals, and blue flowers. It is native to Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina. It prefers rich, well-drained soil and some shade from the hot summer sun. It is a hummingbird and butterfly magnet and is a good plant to plant in a garden where pollinators are wanted. This salvia can grow to 6ft, with a 3-5 ft spread.

It can spread by the roots and may be propagated by division, or cuttings or seeds. It does like watering at least once a week and doesn't like to be excessively dry, although it is considered to be drought tolerant. Fertilize 1-2 times per year, in the spring.

This is one of the plants we have for sale at our plant sales, and last I looked, there were some left. You can contact Renee or Charlene if you want one, and perhaps they can save one for you if they are still available. They look good planted with the garden with red salvias and a white salvia that we also had for sale at the plant sale. Enjoy!
Source: davesgarde.com; rainside.com

Salvia Guaranitica



A pink variety called Wendy's Wish.

Handwritten text in cursive script, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is mostly illegible but appears to contain phrases like 'You say you', 'stop look', and 'even even people'.

April 2015

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*I have a garden of my own,
But so with roses overgrown,
And lilies, that you would it guess
To be a little wilderness.*

*Andrew Marvell—'The Nymph Complaining for the Death
of her Faun'*

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