In this issue ...

- In the Vegetable Garden
- Field Crickets
- Gardening Thoughts
- Coming Events

Rare Plants of the Austin Area

Bill Carr
Inside this Issue....

- October Meeting Speaker ..... Page 2
- In the Vegetable Garden ..... Page 3
- Field Crickets ..... Page 5
- Gardening Thoughts ..... Page 6
- Coming Events ..... Page 7
- 2012 TCMGA Board ..... Page 8
- Credits ..... Page 9

October Meeting Speaker — Bill Carr

Some Rare Plants of the Austin Area

An expert on native and endangered plants, Bill Carr will introduce us to newly discovered species, and tell us which local species are found nowhere else on Earth. Bill worked seven years with Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., 15 years with the Nature Conservancy as a botanist, co-authored Rare Plants of Texas (TAMU Press), and now has his own consulting business, Acme Botanical Services. So join us and see a different perspective on our native landscapes from this knowledgeable and entertaining speaker.

Master Gardener Meeting information:
Wednesday, Oct 3, 2012 starting at 7 pm
Zilker Botanical Garden

Fall Plant Exchange at October meeting

The theme for this fall’s plant exchange is “Succulents” and “Drought Resistant Plants.” Other favorites are welcome! Please don’t bring invasive plants, and for those plants that spread rapidly, please label appropriately.

Also, please make sure the plants are in good condition and are properly labeled, or be ready to talk about it. No muddy messes allowed!

Don’t forget to bring extra seeds, cuttings, garden magazines and pots that you’d like to share with other Master Gardeners.

We’ll also need help setting up and cleaning up, so plan to stay a few minute longer, and take home any of your extra plants.
In The Vegetable Garden
by Patty Leander

It is finally here - that slight break in the weather, when the air feels lighter, crisper, and so much more refreshing. This is the time to be a gardener. If you haven’t planted any cool season crops, now is the time. Lettuce, arugula, spinach and other greens are wonderful winter crops that can be planted either in the garden, the landscape or even containers from now until February. Transplants of broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage, pak choi and Chinese cabbage can also be planted this month.

Even though the temperatures have cooled a bit it is still important to monitor these new transplants for moisture until they get established. Some new plantings may wilt as the day heats up, but as the sun sets and the evening temperature drops, plants will perk up. This wilting is normal and can be avoided by providing a little shade covering for the first few weeks.

Vegetable crops will benefit from a fertilizer boost during the fall growing season; sidedress with ½ cup high-nitrogen fertilizer as soon as they start to enlarge. Fertilizer should be scratched into the soil around the perimeter of the plant or along the outer edge of the row, then water in lightly.

Kohlrabi is an interesting vegetable to grow and can be grown from transplants or from seed. The above-ground bulb, which is actually an enlarged stem, can be eaten raw or cooked. Each plant yields one kohlrabi so plant several. Their eating quality is best when harvested small, about 2-3” in diameter. Baby vegetables, including mini kohlrabi, are trendy right now, so harvest them even smaller for a gourmet treat. Not sure what to do with kohlrabi? Try shredding it into slaw, slicing thinly to use in stir-fry, cutting into strips to serve with dip, or cooking and mashing with potatoes.

'Strong Purple Vienna' kohlrabi

Sidedress broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage when the head starts to form.
Watch out for the cabbage looper this time of year as these little pale-green caterpillars can devour a leaf in no time. And they start out so tiny you can hardly see them. Bt or neem oil is a good control, but a good first defense is to hand pick them. That little brown and beige moth that flits around your newly planted cole crops is the mama.

Harlequin bugs can also be a pest in the fall garden, especially on leafy plants like kale, collards and mustard. Monitor your plants for clusters of the distinctive, black and white barrel-shaped eggs. Spinosad products are effective against harlequin bugs, but “search and destroy” is an easy way to keep them in check. If any eggs should escape your eagle eye, hand pick the resulting adults and drop them into soapy water.
Field Crickets
by Wizzy Brown

Field crickets are a common sight around homes in the autumn. These insects are about 1” long, dark brown to black with large hind legs used for jumping. Female crickets have a large sword-like structure, the ovipositor, protruding from the tip of the abdomen. The ovipositor is used to deposit eggs.

Crickets feed on plant material as well as other insects. They can cause damage to seedlings and with large populations be destructive. Males can become a nuisance with their sounds and large masses of dead crickets around doorways or other areas can cause a foul odor.

Field crickets overwinter in the egg stage. Eggs laid in the fall stay deep in the soil during the winter and hatch the following spring.

Field crickets are primarily outdoor insects, but may occasionally venture indoors. When crickets do come indoors, the may bother residents with their chirping. The males chirp to attract a mate. The sound is created by rubbing their forewings together.

Cricket management is more easily accomplished in the summer when nymphs, who cannot fly, are present. Unfortunately, this usually isn’t when large populations of crickets are discovered.

Before turning to pesticides to manage your cricket problems, try these ideas:

- Turn off lights at night or use yellow bulbs
- Seal cracks & crevices into the structure with sealant
- Remove debris that is stacked near the structure
- Keep lawn & surrounding areas mowed
- Stuff weep-holes with copper mesh

Baits for crickets include active ingredients such as orthoboric acid, hydramethylnon, or propoxur. Perimeter sprays can be used on the outside of the home to keep crickets outdoors. Look for active ingredients like cyfluthrin, permethrin, bifenthrin or carbaryl.
Gardening Thoughts
by Carolyn Williams

Fall arrived at my garden on a Friday afternoon and, over the course of the weekend, proceeded to give me 4” of beautiful rain along with a dip in temperatures. Each year, around this time, I am again reminded that Autumn is my favorite season. This year it also serves to remind me that our upcoming Garden Tour is fast approaching, and my panic attacks are coming at a faster rate of speed!

For all our members who have graciously opened their gardens for our TCMGA tours, please accept a new found respect for your dedication! For me it has certainly been a rollercoaster ride! Yup, breaking my femur bone was not exactly in the overall plan, but gardeners are a tough little group of people, so with lots of help from fellow MG friends, onward I went. A big “thank you” for those of you who came to my garden, hats and trowels in hand, and gave me a gift of manual labor. I cannot express my appreciation enough!!

For any of you who are thinking about...maybe, perhaps, in the Future...opening your garden for our tour, please truly consider doing so. Our gardens are not professionally perfect, not always in gardening “vogue”, but a true expression of our own private gardening knowledge. In my opinion, at the top of a gardener’s scale of merit! It has been a very rewarding experience that I will remember until I am carted away to the retirement home.

Finally, for all of you Master Gardeners who sent me cards, emails, called or brought over food for Michael and I, please know you will always be special in my heart!

Sharing my love of gardening with fellow gardening friends is and will always be a special time in my life.

Happy Gardening!
Carolyn

Photo by Bruce Leander
Planting for Winter Color

Thursday, Oct 18
10am-12pm

Travis County AgriLife Extension Office
1600-B Smith Road
Austin, TX, 78721

Perk up the winter landscape by incorporating the principles learned at this seminar. Understand the best times and conditions required to ensure success with plants and seeds. Bulbs, dramatic vegetables, flowering annuals and perennials, shrubs and trees are all part of the selection mix that will be discussed.

Inside Austin Gardens Tour: Edible Gardens

Saturday, Oct 20
9am-4pm

Help us keep Austin edible and blooming on the 2012 Inside Austin Gardens tour, showcasing 7 gardens where vegetables and ornamentals not only get along, but elevate each other to new heights of design.

Tickets for the tour (all of the gardens) are $15 in advance for a limited time. On the day of the tour, tickets will be $20 (or $5 for individual gardens).

For more information, and to purchase tickets online, go to www.insideaustingardens.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jackie Johnson, President</th>
<th>Past Presidents (Non-voting):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carolyn Williams, Immediate Past</td>
<td>Bill Baldwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Bill Boytim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JaNet Booher, Vice-President for Programs</td>
<td>Susan Cashin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cher Groody, Vice-President for Education</td>
<td>Tommie Clayton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William (Bill) Woodard, Volunteer Coordinator for Projects</td>
<td>Susan Decker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Moline, Co-Volunteer Coordinator for Trainees</td>
<td>Don Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat Mokry, Co-Volunteer Coordinator for Trainees</td>
<td>Manda Rash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Jung, Secretary</td>
<td>Peggy Stewart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tina Landers, Co-Treasurer</td>
<td>Becky Waak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Van Alvarez, Co-Treasurer</td>
<td>Will Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Goodrich, Membership Director</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Giaraffa, Greenhouse Manager</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosalie Russell, Austin Area Garden Council Representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margarine Beaman, State Council Representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Kastl, State Council Representative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ex Officio Member of the Board (Non-voting):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas AgriLife Extension Travis County Horticulture Agent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daphne Richards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1600-B Smith Road, Austin, Texas 78721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>512-854-9600  <a href="mailto:drichards@ag.tamu.edu">drichards@ag.tamu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The End...

Time to Get Gardening!