Master gardeners will provide inspiration and share their gardening knowledge at their fall garden tour on September 18, from 9-4. On the tour are the gardens of Louann Hight, Diane Calderwood, Mary Ann Everett, Gy and Violet Okeson and Ursula Nanna. Each garden is unique and displays the personality of the owner. Some gardens are quiet, green havens with shady places to sit. See water features, sunny xeriscapes, beautiful wind sculptures, butterfly attracting plants, Earth Kind roses, native and adapted plants, colorful garden buildings, and whimsical garden art, which make these, gardens pleasant places to visit. Many also have rainwater-harvesting systems. A large country garden and a square -foot garden will demonstrate different methods of growing vegetables in relation to the amount of space available.

Two public gardens are also on the tour. The demonstration gardens at the Texas Agrilife Extension Office in Belton exhibit raised vegetable gardens, pocket gardens, an herb garden and a street-side garden with various kinds of turf grasses, EarthKind roses, and native plants. The Killeen Municipal Court Community Garden features a "farm" area where vegetables are grown for the various food kitchens and food centers in the Bell County area. It contains trellised beds, square-foot beds, and raised beds that demonstrate a variety of gardening ideas. The large succulent bed contains a beautiful display of "low maintenance" cacti and grasses. EarthKind roses, as well as trees that are native or adaptive to the area are used as planting material. The latest project involves the construction of raised beds adjacent to the farm area that is reserved for vining crops such as pumpkins and other crops that require a large space for productive growth. There is a composting area is in place as well as a rainwater harvesting demonstration.

For more information or a brochure about the tour visit the Master Gardener web site: bell-tx.tamu.edu or call the AgriLife Extension Office at 254-933-5305.

In the photo:
We all need inspiration and how- to advice to help make our home landscape the functional and fun place we desire. Touring the public and private gardens of Bell County Master Gardeners allows us to “Smell the flowers” and learn which types of plantings will do best in our own garden.