

HELPING MOTHER NATURE

By Gayle Covington

We have lived at our home in Rowlett for almost 30 years. Our kitchen needs remodeling, the 80's popcorn ceiling needs scraping off, and all the bathrooms need updating. I have promised my husband for 2 years that I would start on this project but instead the deck was rebuilt, a wonderful stone outdoor living area with a fireplace was added, and I am currently fertilizing my trees and shrubs, tending to my vegetable garden and planting, flowers, flowers, and more flowers. I love my home but my backyard is where my heart is.

If you came by for a visit, and the winds were not 60 miles an hour (what is going on!?) you would see, birds, pesky squirrels, bees, butterflies, lizards, hummingbirds, and a couple of frogs that share our swimming pool.

Early spring at our house begins with the feeding frenzy of the masked yellow birds, waxwings, on berries from our hollies and nandinas. The next event, before and spring flowers are planted, happens when the same hollies bloom small white flowers, and hundreds of bees arrive with random butterflies.

In March, our Texas mountain laurels bloom beautiful blue flowers that smell like grape kool-aid and attract, not only me, but butterflies, bees and hummingbird moths. I love these little winged wonders. They'll feast on ajuga blooms and won't even notice me when I sit down right next to them. Our little flying friends continue feeding all summer thanks to lantana, pentas, and profusion zinnias.

I've justified my procrastination on remodeling with helping Mother Nature. How can I even think about starting inside projects until these little guys have been fed and are off pollinating the neighborhood? My favorite part of the day is sitting quietly outside in a rocking chair admiring my yard and watching the process taking place. (NO I AM NOT GRANNY GRUNT!)

I just made a decision Joe---Remodeling starts in the fall. Wish me luck!

Gayle and Joe Covington are the owners of Covington's Nursery & Landscape Company on Liberty Grove Road in Rowlett.