



Master Gardeners of Blanco County

Blanco County Master Gardeners March Meetin
"Gardening with Wildlife Seminar"

March 13, 2012

5:30-7:00 pm

Johnson City Methodist Church

Drinks and Dessert: Georgia Carroll-Warren
And Carol Diquilo



Learn how to be animal friendly and have a great garden too!
Wildlife Hotline Specialist Mary-Ann Vega from Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation
in Kendalia, TX will be the key speaker of the evening.

- Open to the public, donations appreciated
- Refreshments will be served—But members may bring snacks
- Announcements will be posted as well as advertised in local newspapers
- Business meeting at 5:30pm, followed by Mary-Ann Vega speaking at 6:00pm.

Reminder: Arts & Crafts Event presented by Carol DiQuilio & Kathy Edquist



Making Seed Paper and Gourd Art

Tuesday, March 27

12 Noon - 3:00pm

Community Center at The Landing, Blanco, TX

- Bring an appetizer to share with the group
- Refreshments will be provided
- The Landing entrance is 2 miles north of Blanco on east side of Hwy 281, look for stone curved wall with large iron gates...no entry code required, follow the MG mtg signs on Hwy 281 and main road through The Landing to Community Center, follow parking signs





February Meeting featured Judy Barrett, founding editor and publisher of *Homegrown: Good Sense Organic Living for Texas*, and previously editor of *The New Garden Journal* and one of the hosts of the public television series, *The New Garden*. She is also the author of several gardening books. Check her out at www.homegrowntexas.com



Landscape Design School at TAMU

Henrietta Smith, Peggy Welch and Mary Nabers went to College Station for two days to learn about landscape design. The school is offered in four parts spread over two years.. based on the text *Stewards of the Land*. We bought books, naturally, and had both lectures and a tour to evaluate landscaping plans in action.



Tuesday was Fat or Shrove Tuesday, so Alan King, local landscaper, was named Grand Marshall of the tour.



One of the homes on the tour.



Registration Open for the State Convention NOW

Registration is now open for the 2012 TMGA Conference. The Bexar County Master Gardeners are looking forward to seeing you at the state conference this year in San Antonio. We have an outstanding group of speakers, hands on sessions and tours lined up for you. The conference will be held at the Norris Conference Center which is conveniently located at Wonderland of the Americas Mall, Interstate 10 and Loop 410. There are many hotels and motels within a 5 mile radius. *(Taken from State email)*

You can get more information and register at: www.2012TMGAconference.org
or www.bexarcountymastergardeners.org.

Sign of Spring

Robins playing in
a rain puddle in
Mary's backyard.

Yea for RAIN!



SUMACS March Plant ID by Chris De Bremaecker, Master Gardener Intern

Scientific Name:

Rhus Aromatica

Common Name:

Aromatic Sumac



1. Family: Anacardiaceae
(Sumac Family)

Description: irregular, spreading, deciduous shrub, 6-12 ft. tall, with velvety twigs and lower branches turned up at the tips

Leaves: Deciduous, compound, glossy, somewhat blue-green, coarsely toothed, trifoliate leaves turn orange, red, purple and yellow in the fall

Flowers: Pale yellowish-white catkin-like flowers April/May

Fruit: dark red berries persist into March

Requirements: dry soils, drought tolerant. From sun to shade

Maintenance: colonizes to form thickets. Fast growing, generally pest and disease free.

Wildlife: Deer browse mine, Winter berries provide food for small animals and birds. Nectar source for adult butterflies.

Comments: aromatic foliage

Scientific Name:

Rhus Lanceolata

Common Name:

Flameleaf Sumac



2. Family: Anacardiaceae
(Sumac Family)

Description: Small deciduous tree usually 20 feet tall, but can reach 30 ft.

Leaves: Pinnately-compound, alternate, with 13-19 lanceolate shaped leaflets turning orange and red in fall

Flowers: 4-6" long panicles of whitish flowers in summer

Fruit: Pyramidal crimson or red fruit clusters in fall

Requirements: Dry soil, alkaline pH. Sun. Tolerates heat and cold and drought. Sounds like Blanco!

Maintenance: Less likely to colonize and sucker when left undisturbed. **Don't baby it!**

Wildlife: Moderate deer resistance. Birds enjoy the berries. Larval host for banded and red-banded Hairstreak.

Comments: Often forms thickets. Berries soaked in water make lemony drink.

Scientific Name:

Rhus Virens

Common Name: Evergreen

Sumac



3. Family: Anacardiaceae (Sumac Family)

1.

Description: shrub or small tree, from 8-12 ft. in height with spreading branches.

Leaves: shiny, virtually evergreen, pinnate, alternate 2-5 1/2" long, 5-9 elliptic leaflets/stem. New leaves reddish.

Flowers: only female plants produce flowers and berries. The 5-petaled, inconspicuous greenish or white flowers grow in clusters 1-2 inches long at the end of stout branches.

Fruit: red, covered with fine hair

Requirements: Rocky, dry hillsides. Sun, part shade.

Maintenance: Virtually none. Fast-growing, disease-free, drought tolerant.

Wildlife: Berries make good wildlife plant. Deer will browse when young

Comments: Can make a good hedge. Not true evergreen.

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 12 Noon
The Landing Community Center

Present: Please see sign-in sheet

This meeting was held at the Landing Community Center in Blanco. The Master Gardener Group came together to take a picture outside of the Landing Community Center, the photo will be submitted to this year's convention. The photographer was Dave Stomberg, Vice-President Cindy Stomberg's husband. Betty Mucha called the meeting open around 1:00 p.m., after the group was treated to lunch with soup, salad, mini quiches, dessert, and tea prepared and provided by Vice-President Cindy Stomberg and the refreshment committee.

Old Business:

No old business was presented.

New Business:

Betty Mucha informed the group that Keith McClellan will not be the treasurer and Joan Marasek will continue by official group vote. Donna Sultemeier moved to keep Joan as treasurer and Joanne Fischer seconded the vote. The vote to keep Joan Marasek as Treasurer was unanimous.

Betty Mucha distributed the budget for 2012. Betty informed the group the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce is not sponsoring the Wildflower Days this year which is a good fundraiser for our group. Other suggestions of possible fundraising events were discussed including Markets Days in Blanco, and the Car show in Johnson City. The group decided to table the fundraiser event discussion but advised the group to start your seedlings for a plant sale in the near future.

While discussing the budget, a motion was moved by Peggy Welch to join the Blanco Chamber of Commerce. Henrietta Smith seconded the motion. The vote to join the Blanco Chamber of Commerce was unanimous.

Jim Meadows asked for a volunteer to work at the Agri-Life office while he is out of town at the end of March and April. Contact Jim if interested in filling in on those Thursdays.

Ann Cook spoke regarding hours. Ann asks everyone to please get your hours in timely. You may count one hour for volunteer time and one hour for education time for meetings each month. No travel time will be allowed for monthly meetings.

D'Anne Welch, Historian, and Olivia Ross have been re-organizing and repairing the old scrapbook while creating a new scrapbook for the group. Also, Olivia Ross and Cindy Stomberg have been developing a Master Gardener website which will be accessible on the Agri-Life website.

Joanne Fischer is organizing a demonstration garden, landscaping the raised bed just inside the Blanco State Park. Joanne discussed the need for funding and volunteers for this project. Carol Schlachter moved to give \$300 to fund the Blanco State Park Project. Ann Cook seconded the motion. The vote to fund the Blanco State Park Project was unanimous. If interested in volunteering to help with the landscaping and the raised beds, please contact Joanne Fischer by email.

The next meeting will be an evening meeting, 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 13, 2012. The topic is "Gardening with Wildlife Seminar" with speaker Mary-Ann Vega from the Wildlife Rescue and Rehab in Kendalia. This meeting will be at the Methodist Church in Johnson City and may be open to the public.

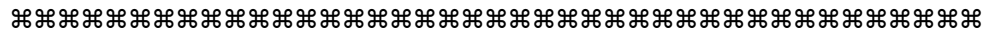
Cindy Stomberg then announced the guest speaker Judy Barrett. Judy Barrett has authored numerous books on herbs and organic growing as well as the creator/editor of "Homegrown Texas" magazine and website. The website is:

www.homegrowntexas.com

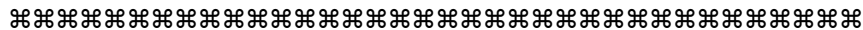
Judy Barrett discussed herb and gardening with the group.

Minutes prepared by: Georgia Carroll-Warren

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