

Seedlings...

Master Gardeners of Blanco County

Next Meeting: February 14, 2012
12:00, Noon

The Landing Clubhouse, Blanco

Program: Judy Barrett

Lunch will be provided.

Directions below



February Blanco County MG Meeting:
Please join us for a Valentines Luncheon followed by a very informative presentation by Judy Barrett on "What Can I Do With My Herbs?"

Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Time: 12:00 Noon

Location: The Landing Community Center
Blanco, TX 78606

- The Landing entrance is located 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

Judy Barrett was the founding editor and publisher of *HOME GROWN: Good Sense Organic Living for Texas*, which was published for 12 years. She was previously the editor of *The New Garden Journal* and one of the hosts of the public television series, *The New Garden*. A long-time organic gardener, Judy writes for various regional and national gardening publications.

She is also the author of several gardening books including *Tomatillos: A Gardener's Dream*, *A Cook's Delight* and *How To Become An Organic Gardener in 7 Easy Steps*. She is now an occasional columnist on gardening for *Edible Austin*, *Acres U.S.A.*, *Harris Old Farmer's Almanac* and other publications.

Learn more about Judy Barrett at www.homegrowntexas.com Judy will have books available for purchase after the meeting.

Reminders:

- We will be taking a group photo at the February mtg...look pretty!
- Lunch will be served...come hungry.
- Please RSVP to cindy.stomberg@gmail.com if you are planning to attend the February meeting or call 830 822-1773
- The March 13th MG meeting will take place at the First United Methodist Church in Johnson City at 5:30 pm. MaryAnn Vega will be speaking on Gardening Co-existing with Wildlife. More details to follow.
- There will also be an Arts & Crafts Afternoon using seedlings and gourds on Tuesday March 27. More details to follow.

Master Gardeners are happier people



Count and Be Counted!

Make sure your local birds are represented in the upcoming Great Backyard Bird Count—they won't count unless YOU do! Save the dates: **the 15th annual GBBC takes place February 17-20**. Everything you need to know to participate is on the website at www.birdcount.org, including downloadable instructions, FAQs, and a how-to video. [Get a regional list](#) of the birds you might see in your area in February so you can brush up on your identification skills ahead of time.

And to attract more birds, here is a recipe for Homemade Suet, SusanEvan's recipe that Kathy Edquist has shared with us.

- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 2 cups quick cook oats
- 2 cups cornmeal
- 1 cup lard
- 1 cup regular flour
- 1/3 cup sugar
- seed mix (optional)



Melt lard and peanut butter over low heat. Stir in remaining ingredients and pour into 9X13 pan or empty (saved) commercial suet containers. Chill or freeze.

Plant ID February 2012: Texas Redbud (*Cercis Canadensis var.texensis*)

by Chris DeBremaecker, TMG intern

Common Name: Texas Redbud

Scientific Name: *Cercis Canadensis var. texensis*

Bark: Gray

Family: *Fabaceae*, Pea Family

Description: Large shrub to small tree, 10-20 feet in height

Leaves: Leaves are heart shaped to kidney shaped, rounded at the tip, slightly wavy on the edges, and glossy, often with some hairiness on the underside, turn gold or red in the fall

Fruit: flat, reddish brown pod up to 4 inches long and pointed at the tip



Flower: Late February through March. Flower color rose purple, in small clusters along the branches, appearing before the leaves



Requirements: Sun: Prefers dappled shade but can take full sun, Soils: Dry, well drained, can be thin, Water: low to medium.

Maintenance: NONE

Wildlife: Flower nectar used by butterflies, bees, moths and insects. Larval host to Hernys Elfin butterfly. Leaves browsed by deer sometimes. Granivorous birds eat its seeds.

Comments: Showy, attractive accent tree.

The Texas redbud is one of 3 *Cercis canadensis* varieties naturally occurring in Texas. The other two are the Eastern Redbud (*Cercis Canadensis var. canadensis*) and the Mexican redbud (*Cercis Canadensis var. mexicana*).



The Mexican redbud is shorter and more compact in Texas than the others and is more likely to have multiple trunks. Its leaves tend to be darker, glossier, smaller, and slightly ruffled along the margins. It also tends to be the most drought tolerant of the 3 species native to Texas.

Sources: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center including photos. Tree photo via NPSOT; Leaves and fruit photo by Sally and Andy Wasowski; Flower photo by Joseph A Marcus

Meeting Refreshments:

Unless the meal is provided, as in January and February, members can bring a brown-bag meal to meetings and volunteers will provide dessert and drinks to go with it. If you missed signing up to provide refreshments, call Henrietta.

This month the lunch will be provided. Yea, Cindy!

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.bexarcounymastergardeners.org.

Pamphlet Publication Back on Track

Susan Hamm, Keith McClellan, Betty Mucha and met on January 13 to proceed with work on the publication about plants for Blanco County. Betty Mucha will take the work already done and organize it for publication, with Keith proofing and editing.



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January Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 12 Noon
Lady Bug Warehouse, Dripping Springs, TX

Present: Please see sign-in sheet

This meeting was held at the Lady Bug Warehouse in Dripping Springs. Betty Mucha called the meeting at 12 Noon.

Old Business:

Minutes Correction - \$25 a month for refreshments- only discussed. Pat Owens moved to refill the refreshment box as needed and submit ticket for reimbursement. Peggy Welch seconded the motion. The vote to refill refreshment box as needed and submit ticket for reimbursement was unanimous and was passed.

There was an extra gift left at the Christmas party. The group decided to raffle the gift off. Tickets will be \$1.00.

Dues are \$15.00 and are due now.

New Business:

Betty Mucha introduced D'Ann Welch as the Historian for our Master Gardener Group.

Susan Hamm suggested someone from the group write articles of what we learn at the meetings for the newspaper, like a publicist, which would give the volunteer publicist hours towards maintaining the TMG certification.

The Master Gardeners were reminded to never endorse a product.

The next meeting will be a day meeting, 12 Noon, Tuesday, February 14, 2011 and Judy Barrett will be the speaker. Betty announced that was a good time to get a group picture, to be submitted for Outstanding Association at the next TMG Convention.

Ann Cook spoke regarding hours. You cannot count the Christmas party as advance training hours. Also, Ann asks everyone to please get your hours in timely. She announced there were 300 hours of advance training, and over 2000 hours of volunteer hours accumulated by our group over Year 2011. Ann asked the group to reconsider travel time inclusion to and from the meetings because of the hour count not fair for everyone in group. Only travel time can be counted toward volunteering.

Mary Nabers moved to exclude the travel time to meetings and include travel time to volunteer destinations. Donna Sultemeier seconded. The motion was passed unanimously by the group.

Ann advised the group that advanced Master Gardeners need 6 hours Education and 12 hours Volunteer work to maintain their certification.

Jim Meadows asked for a volunteer to work at the Agri-life office while he is at the stock show. Ron Bourland volunteered. Jim told the group that he ordered the onions and should have been delivered by now. He will let everyone know as soon as they arrive. He predicts the onion sets are \$2.80 a bunch.

The group discussed when suggesting a gardening tip to add a reference, to base it on scientific evidence, such as plant identification, listing the sources. You can also suggest a gardening tip by adding a disclaimer "in my opinion as an experienced gardener".

Cindy Stomberg commended her Vice President Committee: Kathy Edquist, Carol DiQuilio, and Karen Casey. Cindy listed a few of the future speakers and activities for the upcoming meetings.

The meeting adjourned to lunch provided by the Lady Bug Office: Beans soup, salad, bread and tea. Andy, of the Lady Bug Company, spoke to the group regarding Lady Bug products and uses for each product.

Georgia Warren

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See you at noon
Valentine's Day at the Landing