



## Master Gardeners of Blanco County

Blanco County Master Gardeners June Meeting

### Texas Hill Country Olive Company Tour

Tuesday June 12, 2012

6:00pm - located in Dripping Springs

The Texas Hill Country Olive Company is a family owned artisanal organic olive orchard located near Dripping Springs in the Texas Hill Country, a perfect environment for growing olive trees and blending extra virgin olive oil from olives that are organically grown, handpicked, and cold pressed. Texas Hill Country Olive Company is focused on developing some of the finest olive oil produced in the United States. They are proud to join the pioneering group of entrepreneurs who are building the olive oil industry in the state of Texas.

*Texas Hill Country Olive Company  
2530 W. Fitzhugh Rd  
Dripping Springs, TX 78620  
512 607-6512  
[www.texashillcountryoliveco.com](http://www.texashillcountryoliveco.com)*

#### Directions:

- From the intersection of 281/290, travel 15 miles east on 290 to McGregor Ln. (For those of you who attended our January meeting, The Lady Bug Place was located on McGregor Ln.)
- Turn left on McGregor Ln, travel north for 4 miles where road will end at Fitzhugh.
- Turn right on Fitzhugh, travel east for 2 miles.
- Texas Hill Country Olive Company will be located on your left. Look for large Tuscan style building. There is a sign located at the parking entrance.

A staff member will provide a lecture and tour of the orchard. Olive oils will be available for tasting and purchase. There will also be wine tasting of local wines for those interested, \$5.00 for 5 samples. A light meal will also be provided after the tour before our monthly meeting.

Please RSVP to Cindy Stomberg at [cindy.stomberg@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.stomberg@gmail.com) or call 830 822-1773.



Hope to see everyone at the June meeting.  
Our July meeting will be at the Wildseed Farm in Fredericksburg on Tuesday  
July 9, 12 Noon.



Leather flower—See the little black beans? Grows only in 5 counties!



Can anyone tell me what this vine is?



Port A dunes and sea vines



Why we go to the beach

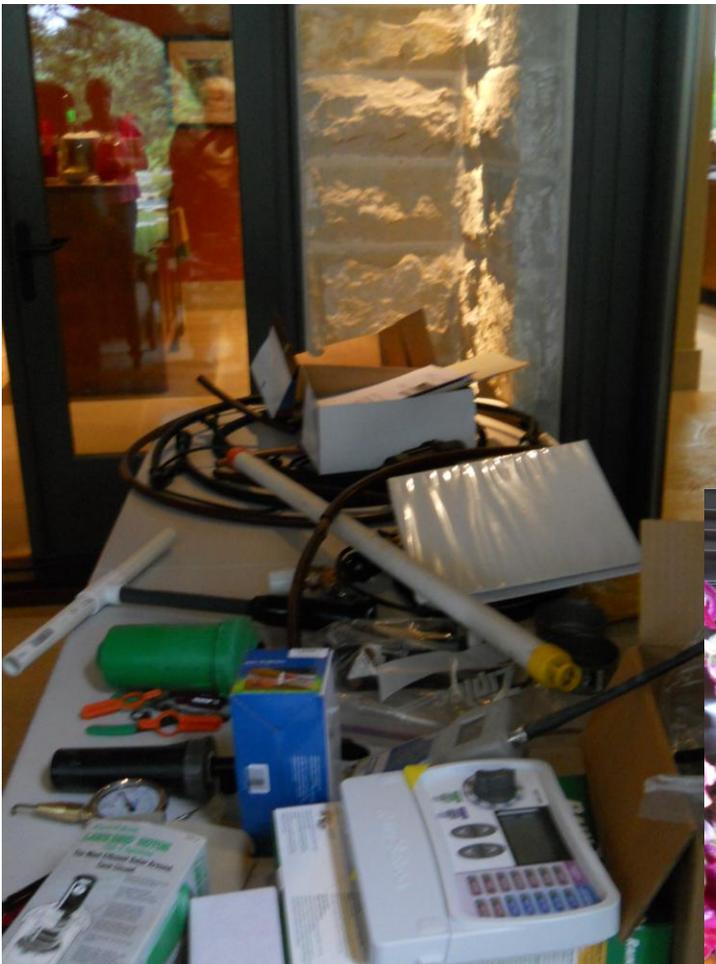


Ron's great back yard leading down to his great garden

Ron Bourland, host and irrigation guru



Tools of the lawn and garden irrigation trade



Ron's barbecue--Yummy



**June 2012 Plant ID** by Blanco County Texas Master Gardener Chris DeBremaecker

**Common Name:** Goldenball Leadtree

**Scientific Name:** *Leucaena Retusa*

**Family:** Fabaceae (Pea )

**Form:** Small, multi-trunked shrub or tree from 12 to 25 feet; stems brittle and can break in strong winds. Open habit allows for other growth underneath them.



**Habitat:** Rocky, limestone, dry canyons, well-drained soil from Edwards Plateau to West Texas and northern Mexico.

**Bark:** Flaky and “cinnamon” colored

**Leaves:** Evergreen (not mine!), alternate, bipinnate, light green, airy. Does not provide dense shade.



**Flowers:** Cheerful, bright yellow, 1 inch puffballs which are fragrant appear from April through fall.



**Fruit:** Long 4-6 inch flattish leguminous seedpods. Plant easy to grow from seeds.



**Requirements:** Good drainage, full sun to part shade, low water usage. Mine endured last year’s drought rebounding with the first rain.

**Maintenance:** Water when establishing, then pretty hardy.

**Wildlife:** “Good browse for cattle”; deer browse on my young ones new growth.

Sources: National Wildflower Research Center’s [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org) Plant Database and Gallery accessed 5/22/2012

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 12:00 p.m.  
Ron Bourland's House, Blanco, Texas

Present: Please see sign-in sheet

We met at the beautiful home of Ron Bourland and were treated to a lunch of brisket, baked beans, and coleslaw, with desserts provided by Carol Rankin (cheesecake and strawberries that were picked from Ron's garden and peach cobbler with ice cream). Yum!

Then we began our meeting:

### Old Business:

Joan Marasek reported that the plant sale last month grossed \$925.76, and netted about \$700 after expenses. Betty Mucha brought 12 plants that did not sell, and they were raffled off to the members present for \$1.00 each.

Jim Meadows gave a report about the state convention, and informed us that the 2013 convention will be held in McAllen in October, and the 2014 convention will be in Midland-Odessa.

Carol Diquilio reported that the Groundwater Conservation project has so far scraped and tilled the yard, and that the concrete pad for the rainwater collection barrel has been poured. She stated that the planting will probably be done in the fall.

JoAnn Fischer reported on the Blanco State Park flower bed work--it is finished! And according to members who have seen it, looks very nice. The bed was planted with native plants, and the names of each plant were written on rocks (donated by Carol Rankin) placed next to each plant.

### New Business:

**Todd Swift presented information about the proposed Firewise Landscaping Training. This two-day training could be held in Johnson City at the Methodist Church or in the Hoppe Room of the annex building, and the proposed dates are 7/20-7/21/2012. The training will be done by the Texas Forest Service, and they require at least 30 class members. Todd estimated that the maximum class size would be 40-50, and said that the class will be offered to the Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists first, with any remaining spaces offered to the public. The cost will be about \$100.**

**Upon completion, the participants will receive certification, and will hopefully be available to educate other groups in our communities who are interested in learning about this training. At Todd's request for volunteers Pat Owens, Peggy Welch, Betty Mucha, Susan Evans, Henrietta Smith, and Cerice Spivey volunteered to be on the planning committee and will meet on 5/11/2012 at 8:30AM at the extension office to begin their work.**

**(You should have received a registration form--If not, call Todd)**

Peggy Welch proposed that the Blanco County Master Gardeners hold a community education event in the Fall and have lectures or presentations on several topics, like plant propagation, rainwater harvesting, and other topics of interest to the community.

### Program:

Ron Bourland, who recently completed landscape irrigation training at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, gave an interesting talk about landscape irrigation--both drip and regular systems. He included information about Texas laws relating to groundwater, and gave everyone a handout about his talk.

