



Seedlings~

AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System

Master Gardeners of Blanco County

Blanco County Master Gardeners May Meeting Texas Water Use and Efficient Irrigation Practices

Tuesday May 8, 2012

12:00 Noon @ Ron Bourland Ranch

Ron Bourland will describe and demonstrate best practices in landscape irrigation and illustrate water saving possibilities from those practices. He will distribute handouts of the presentation.



Bourland Ranch
660 Indian Oaks Pass
Blanco, TX 78606

- The Bourland Ranch is located three miles east of Blanco on Highway 165.
- Turn on Indian Oaks Pass, which is marked with a red road sign and only routes south.
- There is a stone entrance on 165 at Indian Oaks Pass, but no gate.
- The house is about half a mile down the private road and you will pass through two more stone entrances. Both gates will be open.
- There will also be a few MG identifications signs on the 165 and Indian Oaks Pass to help MG members locate the meeting.

Assuming the weather is good, we will conduct most of the meeting under the oak trees in the back yard. **Please bring a folding chair.**

Ron will be preparing smoked brisket for sandwiches along with pinto beans, condiments and iced tea. Additional side dishes will also be available from MG's.

Please RSVP to Cindy Stomberg at cindy.stomberg@gmail.com or call 830 822-1773.



April Meeting: Shall We Gather at the River



Following a wonderful pulled pork, salad, and banana pudding supper, members listen to Ranger Mary Alice Partain giving the interesting history of the Blanco State Park, built by young men in the CCC during the Depression. The natural look of stone and timber have been part of the design plan for state parks ever since.



Then members walked down to the Blanco River above the dam before starting along the nature trail up-river. The weather and time of day made the walk grand. Ann Cook and others have done a great deal of the work in the park. And there's more to do volunteers!



Butterflies were enjoying the blossoms on this bush on the river bank. You can see one in the upper left hand corner.

Here we are enjoying the beautiful water of the Blanco River. We are so fortunate to have the river and the Park right here in town.



MAY 2012 PLANT ID

by Blanco County Texas Master Gardener Chris DeBremaecker

COMMON NAME: TEXAS MADRONE

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Arbutus xalapensis*

Family: Ericaceae (Heath or Azalea)

Form: Tree, evergreen, usually multi-trunked, 20 - 30 ft.



Habitat: Endemic to Texas Hill Country west to New Mexico, rare on limestone hills in Austin. Widespread but nowhere abundant.

Locally found: However, many found on Peyton Colony Road in Blanco County!

Bark: Colorful (coppery red, to pink, to whitish) smooth, exfoliating outer bark reveals inner reddish trunk.



Leaves: New leaves are reddish, but more mature ones are dark green with red-tinged undersides, elliptical, alternate, simple, leathery. Blades are up to 3.5 inches long.



Flowers: White, ~2½ inches long, in panicles, in early spring (Feb, March, April)



Fruit: spherical, 1/3 inch, elongate, in clusters 2-3 inches long, red or sometimes golden in color usually contain 1-10 seeds, edible!



Requirements: Well drained soil, medium water needs but dry soil, sun to part shade, grows with limestone, caliche, sandy and various loamy soils.

Maintenance: Protect existing trees from browsing as they are difficult to propagate and transplant.

Wildlife: Deer, cattle & goats are fond of browsing young plants and new foliage. Birds, & mammals love the berries. Nectar enjoyed by insects.

This is a striking ornamental tree. You're lucky if you have one.

Sources: National Wildflower Research Center, www.wildflower.org accessed April 24, 2012, for pictures and information.

Native and Naturalized Woody Plants of Austin & the Hill Country Brother David Lynch, 1981. How to Grow Native Plants Of Texas and the Southwest, by Jill Nokes, 2001.

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.
The Blanco State Park, Blanco, Texas

Present: Please see sign-in sheet

The gathering started with the Interpretive Ranger, Mary Alice Partain presenting a thorough history of Blanco State Park. Mary Alice provided vintage photographs of the men and different locations of the park in its creation. A picnic dinner of pulled pork sandwiches, grits casserole, coleslaw, with banana pudding and ice tea was served during the presentation.

President Betty Mucha started the meeting after the park presentation with request for any revisions on the newsletter or minutes from the last meeting. No revisions were suggested. No other old business presented.

Betty discussed the next fundraiser for the Blanco County Texas Master Gardener which is on Saturday, April 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the City of Johnson City Park on 290. The fundraiser will be a potted plant sale with crafts for kids by Carol Rankin and a rain water collection demonstration table provided by Peggy Welch and Pat Owen as well. Betty talked about selling bottled water for \$1.00. Musical entertainment was talked about for the fundraiser with several names and performances suggested. Betty said there will be 3 other vendors with 2 being non-profit.

Set-up for the fundraiser will be the night before and Betty said the morning shift is covered but will need help for afternoon break down of the fundraiser. A designated place to drop plants off in Blanco was discussed with numerous suggestions. Ann Cook came to the rescue with volunteering her house as a drop-off point. Ann suggested calling her before starting over to her house. Betty Mucha said to bring plants to her house as well in Johnson City.

Discussions for additional supplies for the fundraiser were as follows:

Tables requested: Peggy Welch and Carol DiQuilio will bring tables. And Susan Hamm suggested borrowing tables from the Housing Authority Garden Project as well.

Tomato Plants needed for the sale.

The Master Gardener Banner: Cindy Stomberg will bring.

Completion of set up for the fundraiser will start at 8 a.m. on April 28. Helium balloons will be used as well as signs in town will be placed.

A special sign making party for the fundraiser is set for Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at 11 a.m. at Carol Rankin's house. Signs will be made on plywood, please bring paint and poly brushes. Bring a snack to share. Call Carol Rankin for more details.

New Business:

Betty Mucha was approached by the Blanco Library wanting advice from the Master Gardener group on landscaping around sign. Betty requested for volunteers.

Ann Cook reminded the group of the Blanco State Park Project. Ann requested volunteers as well.

Interns graduating as certified Texas Master Gardeners of Blanco County and receiving their name badges:

Ron Bourland

D'Anne Welch

Olivia Ross

Chris DeBremaecker

Ann Cook announced that Keith McClellan made all of his volunteer hours and is now certified as a Texas Master Gardener as well. A rounding applause for Keith and the rest of the pinned graduating group was well received.

Betty reminded everyone to look for the advertisements she has put in the local papers regarding the fundraiser.

Meeting was adjourned by 5:40 p.m. The Interpretive Ranger, Mary Alice Partain, also provided information booklets for the group to take home and volunteered to guide the group on a trail walk through the park.

Minutes prepared by: Georgia Carroll-Warren



From Mary:

These Blue Curly Top were at our ranch in Uvalde, and I didn't remember ever seeing them before except in pictures. But when I came back to Blanco, I had a big patch of them in the wild part of my yard. They are so beautiful—and unusual looking, too. I will have a ton of seeds if anyone wants them. They are going to seed now.

Spring Plant Sale

Last Saturday, May 28, most of Blanco County Master Gardeners were involved in the plant sale, either bringing plants or working at the booth or both. It was a good sale—We made money and customers left happy. Pictures of the event are on the next page. Those labeled **GM** are courtesy of Glenn Miller.

Who lost a pair of glasses? Betty has them.



Pat and Peggy sold apparatus for making rain barrel drip basins, here to the 4-H lady who sold the horse manure.



We had a great spot under the shady oak trees— with a great breeze. (GM)



Our president and her helpers--here Ann and Joann—(GM) get a round of applause for organizing the sale, which was very successful. Below is Betty with D'Ann,Joan, and Carol. And we had music! (GM)



Carol DeQuilio's colorful booth.



