



November Meeting
Wild Boar Farms Lecture & Tour
Tuesday, November 13, 2012, 1pm
Located 9 miles East of Fredericksburg on Hwy 290

Wild Boar Farm is an Organic Farm Market and Peach Orchard open to the public providing fresh fruits and vegetables grown locally. Additional produce is available that is grown throughout different Texas regions.

- Organic Vegetables
- Canned jams and jellies, pies, breads and cook
- Peach Orchard
- Homemade peach ice-cream



Daniel Bacon, plant physiologist, has offered the MG's of Blanco County the opportunity to tour the Peach Orchard as he lectures about the operation of the facility. The lecture/tour will begin at 1 pm followed by our monthly meeting. MG's will provide drink and snack during the meeting.

Directions:
Hwy 290 and Luckenbach Road
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
(830) 990-8187
Located 9 miles East of Fredericksburg on Hwy 290

Things to Consider from Peggy Welch

- I. **Christmas Planning** is on us. I have a small problem: we are doing some major work in our house and do not expect to be through by the December Master Gardener Meeting/Christmas Party. I wonder if someone else could have the party at their house this year. By next year we should be in good shape. I hope this can be addressed at the November meeting.

II. Educational Seminar Concern

Also at the November meeting please discuss how we can have a better turn out for the Spring Education Seminar. I was disappointed we only had one person sign up. Pat Owens made lots of flyers and placed ads in the paper. What else could we do? Should we consider changing the season or the day? Should we work in conjunction with another event?

October Meeting Notes

Master Gardeners of Blanco County met at the Land Art Garden Center for a tasty lunch of fajitas in the pavilion, surrounded by wonderful plants. The meal was followed by an informative program about using native or adapted plants effectively. One of the partners, Sherri Pfenninger, introduced James Plyler, who came to the Hill Country to meet new people and help them choose native plants to make beautiful landscapes.

Plyler showed various grasses that can be used to good effect, with Indian grass being particularly appealing when in flower. He then moved on to perennials, such as penstemoms, the four nerve daisy, and the chocolate flower, which really does smell like chocolate. Gregg's dalea is a silvery sprawling ground cover that looks good in a hanging basket. He showed us a silver leafed mountain laurel and said that the wooly butterfly bush with its silver leaves and orange flowers may replace the cenizo or Texas sage. Texas sotol is also a good choice for our area.

A short business meeting was held after the program, with the Treasurer announcing a balance of \$4956.00. President Mucha reminded members that they can be reimbursed \$50.00 for attending classes. Peggy Welch asked for volunteers to help with the Fall Educational Seminar, Oct. 20.

Nominations for officers for 2013 followed with the following slate being elected:

President.....Carol Rankin
Vice-President....Cindy Stomburg
Secretary.....Karen Casey
Treasurer.....Tricia Timmons

The meeting adjourned and members enjoyed the nursery and greenhouse.

Master Gardeners at Work



David and Susan Hamm
With Carol Rankin, Georgia
Warren, and Carol DeQuilo –All
working hard on the gazebo and
wildflower plot-to-be at the
Groundwater Conservation
Headquarters



Firewise Presentation to Students

Betty Mucha, Mary Joyce, Carol Rankin, and Mary Nabers presented their Firewise power-point program to 20 Johnson City Discovery students on Oct. 23. Discovery is an after-school enrichment program for 3rd through 5th graders. The students were an excellent audience, participating with many questions and comments.

Plant ID November 2012: Texas Gayfeather, *Liatris Mucronata*
by Chris DeBremaecker, Texas Master Gardener, Blanco County

Common Name: Texas Gayfeather,
Blazing Star

Scientific Name: *Liatris Mucronata*

Family: Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Description: Perennial herb 1-3 feet in height. Stems are unbranched and stiff.



Leaves: Deciduous, narrow leaves become smaller and smaller higher up the stem.

Fruit: Spreads by clumps and self-seeds in sandy soils



Flowers: Purple, densely packed flowers grace the upper part of the tall stems August through December. Look on hillsides now for beautiful swaths of purple from this plant.

Requirements: Sun to part shade.

Soils: Dry, well drained, can be thin limestone soils, rocky, sandy, or gravelly.

Water: low

Maintenance: None

Wildlife: Used by butterflies and native bees.

Comments: Good choice to bring color to a dry landscape. Minimal deer resistance.

Propagation: either via seeds or spreading clumps.

Sources: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center including photos.

http://www.wildflower.org/gallery/species.php?id_plant=LIMU

accessed 10/23/2012

The entrance to
LandArt Garden
Center



Henrietta and Carol (Notice that
the plants are surrounded with
Firewise hardscape)

The Pavilion in which we ate and had the
program and business meeting





James Plyler, a botanist, showed us grasses and native plants that are beautiful and thrive in the Hill County.



And then we shopped!