

Texas Master Gardeners of Blanco County

Next Meeting: September 13, 2011
Timmons/Robertson Ranch, Johnson City
Pot Luck (Something cold?)
Program: Propagation with Tricia Timmons

**Directions to Pat & Tricia's place for September 13th meeting
at 2:00 P.M.**

From Johnson City take A. Robinson Road (FM2766) approx. 9 miles to RR 3232. Turn right and go 3 miles to Creekview and turn left. (This road is really bad so drive slowly.)

Take Creekview to MTR Ranch Rd. and turn left. Keep following the main road toward the barn and when you get past the houses you will see our Cook Shack down by the creek. **We have tables & chairs for everyone so just bring plants to propagate, cuttings, pots and your tools. We will have the dirt here.**

From Blanco take 281 North to 290 East toward Austin aprox. 9 miles to RR3232. Go approx. 4 miles to Creekview and turn right. Continue with directions above.

Pictures of our County Fair Projects

Courtesy of Pat Owens

The plant Booth was not full of flowers until later but here it is blank.





The helpers at the booth & table were Mary Joyce Betty Mucha, Carol Rankin, Jim Meadows, Henrietta Smith, Betty's daughter and Pat.

Other photos are the table & the plant exhibit in front of the building



Donna Sultemeier, Kathy Equist, Carol Rankin, Henrietta Smith, David Hamm and Susan Hamm set up the plant exhibit outside.

Help Hummingbirds--Urgent

The Texas drought has left behind parched conditions that could threaten hundreds of thousands of migrating hummingbirds, experts say. Mark Klym, who co-wrote the book "Hummingbirds of Texas," told the Valley Morning Star that the drought has reduced the number of flowers that provide nectar and nutrition for the birds. At least 18 species of hummingbirds are expected to migrate through Texas, especially in the Rio Grande Valley.

Conservationists are urging people to help the birds by putting out stocked feeders during the September-October migration.

Safari to Eden by Mary

The Tanzanian Serengeti is a view of Creation. As you bump along dirt roads rutted from the rainy season, the landscape changes from vast open savannah to rolling hills with kjoepes (islands of rock and trees) to tropical date palms and marshes along the river. And most of the time it is just your party of Land Cruisers and the animals. Giraffes and elephants and zebras and wildebeests and warthogs and Cape buffalo and hyenas and cheetahs and baboons were abundant throughout the drive. Hippos lazed in the pools and crocodiles lurked. Thompson gazelles were everywhere—except when lions or cheetahs or leopards were around.

We saw more lions than I can remember to count, at least 40. We arrived at the camp a mile away from ours to see eleven lionesses leaving their kill right in front of the camp dining tent. A male had arrived to claim the rest of the wildebeest carcass. An elephant munched on tree branches he pulled down right by our tents. Rarely was the landscape empty of wildlife.

We missed the Great Migration, but in the Ngorongoro Crater we saw wildebeests and zebras crossing in front of our vehicle in a line that went as far as we could see on both sides of the road. A group of zebras is known as a "dazzle," and when they run in a group, they do dazzle.

We had to drive around a lion sleeping in the road—and one lay down under one of the Cruisers! We watched a mother lion teach her two cubs to climb a slanted tree—but only one caught on. We watched baby baboons learning to swing in bushes. We watched two young cheetah brothers lick each other's faces. We did see two of the 22 rhinos in the Crater, a mother and baby.

Tanzania is in a drought just as we are. It is dusty, dusty, dusty, just like the ranch at Uvalde when I went there last week.

One lodge where we stayed had a huge vegetable garden and a coffee plantation. We were served freshly picked veggies every day. The food was always good; the people, friendly; the crafts, varied and gorgeous; our guides, wonderful. This is the trip of a lifetime. And traveling with OAT (Overseas Adventure Travel) is part of the trip success as they have only 16 in a group. We always changed around so everyone visited with everyone else. It was a group of professional people who read and traveled and enjoyed people.



The lilac breasted roller, one of the most beautiful birds in the world.



A feather grass that covers the Serengeti.



Dripping Springs Rain Water Revival Saturday October 8

<http://rainwaterrevival.com/>,. The festive day will be filled with informative and entertaining presentations by professionals and users of rainwater, water conservation-related business vendor booths, rainwater system displays, and plenty of experts to provide guidance and services. There will also be food booths, shopping, live music, plus much more!

In its second year, the Rainwater Revival supports the mission to spread the good word about rainwater harvesting and water conservation, the importance of which grows with our ever increasing population

Nominating Committee Proposes Changes

The nominating committee (Jim Meadows, Carol Rankin, and Mary Nabers) has met and in addition to placing names in nomination, will propose two changes in the by-laws:

1. The Secretary will be elected and the newsletter person be appointed, separating the two jobs. The secretary will send a synopsis of the minutes in the newsletter.
2. A Program Committee will be appointed as an additional standing committee to help the Vice-President plan and secure programs and locations.

These two proposals will be presented at the next meeting and voted on in Oct. when new officers are elected.

A Prayer for Rain

Lord,

I have seen your face in Eden,

The world as you created it;

I have felt your presence in the beauty of your earthly kingdom,

In the peace and in the balance;

I have loved your world as it has sprung from your hands throughout ages.

Now I ask you for rain,

For life giving water for the scorched lands

In all parts of the world where your children suffer,

Trees and grass, animals and birds, people.

In your tender mercy, your unchanging love,

Please give us rain to sustain life

And relieve thirst and hunger throughout the world,

Sparing us threat of flood and unbridled storm.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus,

Who walks dusty roads with us and knows our need.

Amen.

Program Plans for the Rest of the Year

Sept. 13, 2 pm—Tricia Timmons with propagating session, location--Timmons ranch

Oct. 11, 7 pm—tba

Nov. 8, 2 pm— Patricia Michael on Permaculture Designing--Blanco First Baptist

Church-- Patricia@PatriciaMichaelDesign.com

<http://www.patriciamichaeldesign.com>

Dec. 13, 7 pm—Holiday Party—Peggy Welch's

