



April Master Gardeners Association of Blanco County Meeting



Lunch and Learn Spring Picnic
Tuesday April 9, 2013
12:00 Noon @ Arnosky Family Farm



Arnosky Family farm is 100 sprawling acres located between Blanco and Wimberley. They are located at the intersection of Ranch Road 165 and RR 2325, 8 miles east of Blanco or 15 miles west of Wimberley. Address is 13977 RR 2325, Blanco TX 78606

The Arnosky Farm is famous for their cut flowers and bouquets, grown and cut fresh at the farm especially for the market, as well as for their fresh picked vegetables. The nursery, with a wide selection of Texas-hardy plants includes annuals, perennials, herbs, and of course, Blanco Lavender plants. Arnosky Farm supplies vendors throughout Texas.

Agenda:

- Lunch will begin promptly 12 Noon in the Blue Barn
- MG business will be discussed while dining followed by a lecture from Pamela Arnosky
- Following the presentations, we will be free to roam Arnosky Farm Greenhouses and fields.
- We have also been given permission to visit the "Home Farm" located about 2 miles down RR 2325. There are more fields of flowers and produce for viewing.
- There may be additional guests joining our afternoon event

The MG Planning Committee has been looking forward to presenting this event to the MG's. If you would like to bring a snack for our picnic lunch, please contact Cindy Stomberg at cindy.stomberg@gmail.com.

GUESS WHO?



Hint: First Names: Becky, Bernadette, Brenda, Glenn, Jane, Margaret, Mike, Rita, Susan

How Do Your Seedlings Grow?



Henrietta Smith will be giving us information about the Spring Plant Sale—Hopefully, your seedlings, cuttings, etc., are growing and will be ready for April 20 at the city park in Johnson City, a block from the Court House. BE sure to sign up to work.



BUCKEYES

March Plant ID by Chris De Bremaecker,
Master Gardener

Scientific Name:

Ungnadia speciosa, Endl.

Common Name:

Mexican Buckeye

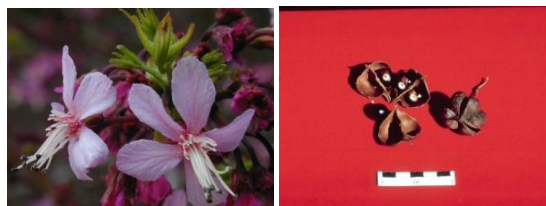
Family: Sapindaceae (Soapberry Family)

Description: Deciduous tree, 8-12 ft. tall, often multi-trunked with grayish to brown



Leaves: Alternate, pinnate, ovate with serrated leaf margins. Leaves up to 12 inches long, with a central axis supporting 2 to 6 paired leaflets and a terminal one; leaflets up to 5 inches long. Leaves turn yellow in fall.

Flowers: Bright pink, fragrant flowers March through June



Fruit: dark brown to black mildly poisonous seeds enclosed in a 3 lobed lightish red-brown capsule

Requirements: rocky soils, drought tolerant. From sun to part shade

Maintenance: Can prune to encourage single trunk. Rapid growing

Wildlife: Deer resistance high. Larval host for Henrys Elfin butterfly

Comments: Not a true buckeye!

Scientific Name:

Aesculus glabra var. *arguta*

Common Name:

Texas Buckeye

Family: Hippocastanaceae (Horse-Chestnut Family)



Description: large shrub/small tree up to 50ft . Often multi-trunked.

Leaves: Deciduous, palmate, compound, glossy, 7-11 pointed leaflets.



Flowers: creamy yellow in clusters, around May.

Fruit:



Requirements: Part shade, sandy, granite or limestone soil. Moist to wet soils. Tolerates heat and cold and drought.

Comments: Great specimen tree. Very drought tolerant according to Jill Nokes. The common name of the genus is suggested by the large, rounded, dark brown seed with a white spot or scar at the base.

Sources: www.wildflower.org/plants accessed 3/16 & 3/24/13
How to Grow Native Plants, Nokes, Jill. UT Press, 2001

Meeting Snacks

April—Volunteers

May—Cindy Stomberg

June—Carol Rankin

July—Mary Joyce

Aug—Karen Casey

Sept—Betty Mucha

Oct—Mary Nabers

Nov—

Dec—Christmas Party

Email or call Cindy to help.

(Volunteer Hours)

Donna

Donna Sultemeier is going to be having chemo, so be sure to let her know that we are thinking about her.

She is one of our most faithful members.

Minutes of the March Meeting

Karen Casey

The master gardeners and the interns from the class of 2013 met in Johnson City at 5:30PM on March 19, 2013. The meeting was called to order by the president, Carol Rankin, and the minutes for February were approved. This meeting was the first volunteer hour for the interns, and we welcome them to our group.

Changes to the Master Gardener bylaws have been proposed, and copies of the changes were handed out for review. The membership will vote on the changes at the April meeting.

A list of volunteer opportunities for members and interns was available and many signed up to help with projects.

Henrietta Smith, the chairwoman for the plant sale, gave an overview of the plans so far. A list was passed around for volunteering to help in 2-hour shifts. The sale will be held on April 20 from 8AM-4PM. We are planning short seminars on rainwater collection, oak wilt, and possibly firewise training. Carol Rankin will have a table for children's activities. Contact Henrietta if you would like to teach a session. Donations of plants need to be at City Park in Johnson City no later than 8AM on the day of the sale, or they can be dropped off at Betty Mucha's before the sale. Please email Henrietta if you have any suggestions or ideas for the plant sale.

Cindy Stomberg has donated a bookshelf for a gardening library in the extension office.

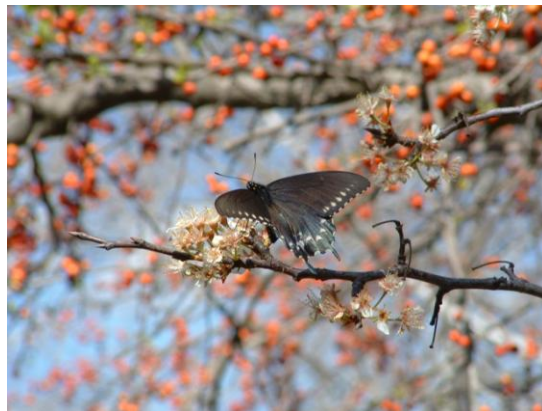
Any donations (or loans) of books will be appreciated.

Todd Swift welcomed the interns, and encouraged us all to send in our volunteer and education hours every month. He has ordered Texas Master Gardener Association ID cards for all members, which can be used for discounts at some outlets.

Olivia's Notes from the Park (A new commentary that our own Olivia Sievers Ross writes for the Friends of the Blanco State Park—Way to Go, Olivia!.)

Spring is starting to show in Blanco State Park! The Mexican Plum *Prunus mexicana* (white flowers) and Redbud *Cercis canadensis* (pink flowers) trees are both trees that flower before putting on leaves. They are starting to bloom and the butterflies are starting to show up. The attached pictures show a butterfly on the white flowers of a Mexican Plum with the red berries of a Possumhaw in the background. Winter meets Spring.

For those concerned about and involved with the invasive flora in the park, the park was able to remove four truck loads of invasives from the park this week. This included Japanese Privet *Ligustrum japonicum*, Brazilian Vervain *Verbena brasiliensis*, and Nandina *Nandina domestica* from the riverbank.



A Pilgrimage: Gardens, Mansions, and Literary Sites

Mary Nabers

My sister and I just returned from a three week pilgrimage through the South. We missed much of the Spring show of flowers, but we were after azaleas and camellias—And we saw them in profusion. We left March 2 because Bellingrath Garden said the azaleas were peaking, and they were gorgeous, but as we turned back toward home, St. Francisville, Louisiana, had magnificent blooms. We saw the best camellias at Middleton Plantation, outside of Charleston, Georgia.



The churchyard at Grace Episcopal Church and Rosedown Plantation.



Here I'm standing in Eudora Welty's front yard with her camellia; unfortunately, the home was closed the day we were there, but the curator said the garden had been smashed by hail the previous week.



Magnolia Plantation was gorgeous, but the gardens were not in full bloom.

One of our landscape design instructors would have had something to say about these "cannonballs.) But he would have liked the ponds. Both are at the Calhoun Mansion in Charleston.





A concrete dolphin poignantly guards an empty lot in the area of Bay St. Louis, the house destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.



At the Courthouse in Monroeville, AL, where Harper Lee and Truman Capote lived — today a museum.

I have probably 1000 more pictures, but these are enough! When I download my other camera, however, I will show you pictures next month of Swiss chard beautifully used with bedding plants. And I fell in love with Collard greens as my favorite vegetable! Who would have thought!

Be sure to be at Arnosky's at noon on the 9th to enjoy lunch, an instructive talk by Pam Arnosky, and a meander through the flower farm. They have tulips galore right now, \$10 a bunch, so you will probably want to take some home as well as some bedding plants.

Don't forget to be potting some plants for our annual Plant Sale, April 20.

Happy Easter—



Happy Gardening!