



Seedlings~

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Master Gardener Association of Blanco County 2013 June Meeting

Garden Tour 11:00am & Lunch/Mtg. 1:00pm

Tuesday June 11, 2013
Fredericksburg, TX



Master Gardener Diane Matthews has invited the Master Gardener Association of Blanco County to tour her extraordinary home gardens in Fredericksburg. As we explore the grounds, Diane will provide us with a personal narrative of how it all began. Following the garden tour, we will gather at the Fredericksburg Herb Farm for our monthly meeting and lunch.

Diane Matthew's Home
1690 Middle Creek Rd
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

- Garden Tour begins at 11:00am.
- Please make arrangements to contact other Master Gardeners for carpooling.
- Directions to the Matthews home:
 - From downtown Fbg at corner of Main St (290) and Llano Hwy (16 N), turn right at corner of Chase Bank and Wheeler's Restaurant
 - Proceed N. on Llano Hwy (16 N) to KNEESE ROAD (about 2.4 miles)--just past Stoneridge Development on Left.
 - Turn Left on KNEESE RD. and follow for 1.6 miles to low water crossing over Palo Alto Creek
 - IMMEDIATELY after crossing creek bear RIGHT for Middle Creek Road (there is a tall sign there). Open fields on both sides of road and .5 mile at the top of hill on LEFT is 1690 Middle Creek. There is a green mailbox with 1690 printed on it on right side and two signs on electric gate immediately on left reading Meadow Hill Farm.
 - Turn left into driveway or park outside the gate on roadside (prob. better to do that)
 - If gate is not open, enter gate code 1234 on gate control keyboard. Gate will open and stay open for 15 seconds while you enter.
 - Please call [830-997-3342](tel:830-997-3342) if further directions are needed.

Fredericksburg Herb Farm
405 Whitney
Fredericksburg, TX 78624
www.fredericksburgherbfarm.com
www.facebook.com/HerbFarm

- Lunch reservation is 1pm at the Farm Haus Bistro located on Fredericksburg Herb Farm property.
- We will conduct the monthly meeting while lunch is being prepared.
- Directions to Fredericksburg Herb Farm:
 - Travel back to 290 (Main Street) in Fredericksburg, turn right
 - One block up, turn left on Milam
 - Four blocks down turn right on Whitney. The Herb Farm will be on the left.



Lavender Festival Volunteers

Master Gardeners will be busy at the Lavender Festival the first week-end in June. Many opportunities are available for those who want to volunteer to help the festival to be a community wide success. (It's a great way to earn some hours)

1. Ann Cook needs volunteers to help in the Friends of the Blanco State Park.

Volunteers are still needed for the booth at this year's Lavender Festival. The festival runs Friday June 7 from noon to six, Saturday, June 8 from 9:00 to 5:00 and Sunday, June 9 from 10:00 to 4:00.

Volunteers are especially needed on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon but all times are open. Also, if you have any items related to nature (bird houses, bird feeders, note cards, decorative potted plants etc.) that you would like to donate to sell in the booth, all contributions are welcome and appreciated. **Email Ann Cook with the times you would like to volunteer.**

2. Bernadette McFarling has invited Master Gardeners to have a Firewise booth at

her lavender farm during the festival. Pat Owens and Mary Nabers are heading up that area. Those who need Firewise hours are especially urged to sign up, but interns and others are also welcomed to volunteer. We will have the booth at Bernadette's as well as information at her booth on the Square, in the Court House (where Bill Ludecke is speaking again), and in the Chamber of Commerce information booth. **Please email Pat Owens to sign up.**

Directions to Bernadette's Farm: On the east side of Hwy.281 about two miles south of the junction with 290. Look for signs and a big lavender flag.

There will be a training-coordination session late in May (maybe the 31st?) where you will learn about the Big Picture. Try to sign up somewhere as Blanco has learned to depend on the Master Gardeners of Blanco County.

The Minutes of the May Meeting

Karen Casey



The Master Gardener monthly meeting was held at Ron Bourland's ranch on May 14. After a wonderful dinner, the meeting was called to order by Carol Rankin and the minutes from last month approved. Our June meeting will be a garden tour at Diane Matthew's home near Fredericksburg, and the members agreed to meet for lunch first--details of where and when will be coming soon.

Our plant sale was very successful, thanks to many members' time and plants, and Henrietta's leadership.

Carol Rankin handed out membership cards (good for discounts at some nurseries) and business cards for us to use.

We have many opportunities for volunteering at this time including the lavender festival the weekend of June 7-9, the Lady Bug tomato festival in Dripping Springs on June 8, and the groundwater conservation district garden. Jim Meadows is asking for volunteers to work at the extension office answering phones and

gardening questions in 4-hour shifts. Let him know if you can help. Jim also said that the Stonewall Peach Festival wants us to participate again with a children's booth on June 22

Diana Blackburn gave an overview of the directors' meeting in May, and encouraged all members to attend a meeting Georgia Carroll-Warren and Carol Rankin are starting to put content on our new website, and

Georgia will be our webmaster. The address is <http://txmg.org/blanco>. They plan to put the plant identification sections in our newsletters on the site, as well as our outreach information. If you would like to have pictures or information included, please email it to Georgia at crrllwrn@yahoo.com.

After the meeting was adjourned, Ron Bourland gave us a talk about his garden and orchards. He has had to replant 150 tomato plants 3 times this spring because of the late freezes we've had this year, and has lost most of his cucumbers and squash to beetles. It's been a tough year for gardeners so far!

Afterwards, we all walked around the garden and orchard. Ron has 50 fruit trees, each with it's own drip irrigation, and is growing peaches, pears, plums, apples pecans, figs, apricots, and almonds. Wow! It's a beautiful ranch, and it's great to be invited over to see it.

Carol and Glenn look for strawberries



Ron shows off his garden and fruit trees.

June 2013 Plant ID by Blanco County Texas

Master Gardener Chris DeBremaecker

Common Name: Sycamore-Leaf Snowbell

Scientific Name: *Styrax Platanifolius*

Family: Styracaceae (Snowball Family)

Growth characteristic: Shrub or small tree
6-12 feet.



Habitat: Rich soils along streams on limestone

Water Use: Medium

Drought tolerance: Medium

Light: part shade

Leaves: Deciduous green Leaves broadly ovate to almost circular, up to 4 inches long, with smooth margins and a broad tip, or with a terminal lobe and a lateral one on each side of it, and a lobed to rounded base.



Flowers: 5 white petals up to 5/8 inch long, suggesting little bells, opening in April and May



Fruit:

a rounded capsule about 3/8 inch in diameter, with a short tip, the base covered with a remnant (calyx) of the flower.

Uses: Beautiful flowers.

It is a rare and endangered plant, but is being propagated at Selah!

Can't wait to find the right spot to plant mine!

Sources: National Wildflower Research Center's www.wildflower.org Plant Database and Gallery accessed 5/24/2013 and virtually cut and pasted from page!

*Dear Friends,
I'm sorry about the irregular formatting—I have a new computer and it is not behaving! I'm sending now before it gets totally messed up again!*

Mary