



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Master Gardener Association of Blanco County
2013 May Meeting

Fruit Tree 101
Tuesday May 14, 2013
5:30pm @ Ron Bourland Ranch



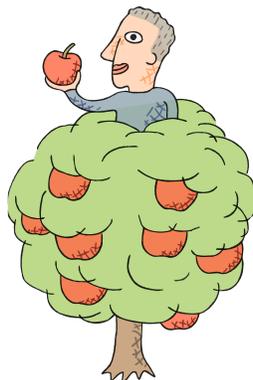
Master Gardener Ron Bourland will discuss fruit tree orchard planning and planting. We will tour the Bourland orchard and gardens after our regular monthly meeting. A BBQ brisket dinner will be provided from MG volunteers during the evening.

Please join us for this educational event at the following location:

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.
- Call (830) 822-1773 if you need further information.
- Please bring a folding chair.

(Hint: Indian Oaks is right after the construction site on 165, trailer on the corner.)



Minutes of April 9 Meeting

Karen Casey

The April Master Gardener meeting was held at noon at the Arnosky Family Farm's big blue barn. Carol Rankin called the meeting to order, and the minutes from the March meeting were approved. With small changes in wording, the **changes to the bylaws proposed at the last meeting were approved.**

Carol Rankin announced that she has established a **web site for the Blanco County Master Gardeners** at <http://txmg.org/blanco>. Carol Rankin, Karen Casey, and Georgia Carroll-Warren will be maintaining the site.

Sign-up sheets for all the volunteer opportunities were at the meeting, and all members and interns were encouraged to sign up for activities.

Chris DeBremaecker is going to set up a **FireWise table at the Johnson City Volunteer Fire Department fish fry on Saturday May 11**, and invites any FireWise certified master gardeners to join her for volunteer hours.

Todd Swift has ordered business cards for the master gardeners.

Susan Hamm asked for volunteers to help her with a butterfly garden at the Johnson City library.

Cindy Stomberg reported that **Susan Hamm's book** should be available for buyers at the plant sale on April 20. **Amazon** will carry the book, and it will also be available on the AgriLife website.

Karen Casey has submitted the picture of the intern class to the newspapers, and is working on an article and flyer to advertise the plant sale.

Henrietta Smith asked that we label all plants that we are donating for the sale.

Pamela Arnosky gave a talk about the trials and tribulations that accompany a cut flower business in the Hill Country. She and her husband started their farm in 1990, with "12 acres and a chain saw", and now have a thriving nursery that has been featured in Southern Living and the PEC magazine. At first, they sold bedding plants to nurseries, and then started selling cut flowers at a tent on South Lamar in Austin. Now, the Arnoskys cultivate 10 acres and sell to 60-70 retail outlets. Their flowers are beautiful, and they always sell out. Pamela talked about the need for changes in the guest worker program in this country, so that workers from other countries can find jobs, and farms and other agricultural businesses can find employees. The Arnoskys use drip irrigation, and no pre-emergent herbicides. They have just bought a second farm in Minnesota, and hope to soon be raising peonies in Minnesota as well as sunflowers in Texas. When asked how they add nitrogen to their soil, Pamela answered that they amend with cottonseed meal, which has 4-6% nitrogen, and also lots of micro-nutrients. Pamela advised that science and art are both important when you have a small farm, and both are needed to succeed.

After the talk, we walked the roads to see the fields of flowers and greenhouses, and then drove to the home gardens, where some of us collected bouquets of reject flowers from the trash bin, and visited with the resident turkey and baby goats.

MG April Plant Sale

On April 20, Henrietta headed up the Master Gardener Plant Sale in the City Park in Johnson City. Patricia Timmons reports that our profit was \$893.01! Henrietta says, "I have no idea how many plants we had, but it takes several at \$1, \$2, \$ to make that amount." The first shift set up 5 eight foot tables filled with plants and covering the ground under them.



In addition to plants, rain barrels were sold, along with wildlife water kits, seed paper note cards, and yard art-dragonflies. YCAP sold water and sodas. The Cat Coalition also set up a booth. There were at least 20 Master Gardeners and interns that worked.

Mini seminars were given by Betty Mucha/Chris Debreamacher for firewise; Ron Bourland explained Oak Wilt; Pat Owens demonstrated how to create a wildlife watering system and sold kits.

Thanks to everyone who contributed and who worked.



Lavender Festival Volunteers

Master Gardeners will be busy at the Lavender Festival the first week-end in June. v 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)

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

Volunteers are still needed for The Friends of Blanco State Park 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 the organization for 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 Mary Nabers 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.

3. Other lavender farms and booths also offer opportunities for us to work and help the community with the Lavender Festival.

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.

Gorgeous New Stamps



These are the new stamps at the PO! They are almost too pretty to use to use to pay bills. They would be gorgeous in art projects. For those of you who still use stamps, hurry down to get some.

News from Blanco State Park by Olivia

Invasive Removal:

Thanks to our hardworking volunteers, in the month of April over 50 volunteer hours yielded 3 truckloads of invasives. This was made up of mostly Bastard Cabbage, Malta Star-Thistle, and Japanese Privet.



Native Plants:
In the height of Spring, a wide variety of wildflowers can be found throughout the park. In addition to the colorful wildflowers, you should also look for the Wafer Ash *Ptelea trifoliata* and the Roughleaf Dogwood *Cornus drummondii*



flowering throughout the park. (see attached pics)

The native White Avens *Geum canadense* is often found in native professional landscapes but it is even more exciting when found in the wild. There are a few stands naturally occurring on the lower section of the Caswell Nature Trail. (see attached pic)



Southern dewberry *Rubus trivialis* is almost ripe! (see attached pic)

Endemic to Edwards
Leatherflower *Clematis*
trail about 2/3 of the very exciting that we park since it only occurs is very difficult to find in month, the vine was



Plateau, Tx: Look for Scarlet *texensis* on the upper section of the way through. (see attached pic) It is have this beautiful *Clematis* in the in 7 counties in the United States! It the park and when last seen this small and only had three flowers on it.



Plant Sale Dies

By Pat Owens



See you at Ron's for Barbecue at 5:30 on the 14th!