



**March Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March. 19, 2013, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Following the Final Intern Class**

**Hoppe Room, Johnson City**  
**Snacks: Peggy Welch, Cindy Stomberg and Carol Rankin**

**Wear your shirts for a group picture.**

**David Rodriquez will present the class at 1:00**

### **Soil Meeting February 7**

Member and interns met at the Chamber of Commerce Building in Stonewall on Feb. 7 to learn about our own soil and about amending soil successfully. Texas A & M Soil Specialist Mark McFarland was both informative and entertaining in his presentation to those from Blanco, Gillespe, and Kendall Counties.

Those who had sent in soil samples received the results, in some ways predictable, but also specific to how soil had been amended. Dr. McFarland repeatedly stressed the importance of regularly testing soil, as what is added does change it: the soil you treat this year is going to be different next year. He suggested that an Oakfield type soil coring tool is a good investment.

If cost is a factor, McFarland stated, "Fertilizing a smaller area right is better than doing a larger area wrong." The right time to fertilize is when the temperature consistently stays above 60 degrees at night . And too much fertilizer leads to all kinds of problems. He gave us many tips, including that a plant that gets yellow at the bottom indicates low nitrogen.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Remember the plant propagation specialist school in Ft. Worth, April 26-27.**  
**Refer to information sent in Feb. Deadline to register is April 1.**

*GUESS WHO?*



Susan Henrichson



Becky Copeland



Bernadette McFarling



Margaret Becker



Rita LeBert



Brenda Babb



Glenn Bishop



Mike Troutman



Jane Brandenstein

**This is the last time you get a face with a name. Next time you will have to match the person and the name. And at the meeting, following the class, you will have to greet each person by name to welcome each to our group of Master Gardeners.**

**I apologize because I think we have one more intern that I have never photographed. I have had other commitments on class days—I'm sorry!**

**March 2013 Plant ID** by Blanco County Texas Master Gardener **Chris DeBremaecker**

**Common Name:** Texas Mountain Laurel

**Scientific Name:** Sophora  
Secundiflora

**Family:** Fabaceae (Pea)

**Growth characteristic:** Tree, small, upright or multi-trunked, usually around 10 to 20 feet tall.



**Habitat:** Dry, rocky, well-drained limestone (alkaline) soil, but sandy to loamy to clay works also!

**Water Use:** Low, with good drainage

**Drought tolerance:** High

**Cold and Heat tolerant**

**Leaves:** Compound, perennial leaves are dark green in color and are composed of 7-9 leaflets which are each about 2 inches long. Alternate. Pinnate. Leaf margin: entire. Texture is leathery.



**Flowers:** Conspicuous, showy blooms February and March. Purple to bluish in

color with the strong scent of grape bubble gum.

Drooping racemes are 3-7 inches long.



**Fruit:** Red, glossy, poisonous seeds are 2-12 cm round, contained in brown to gray semi-woody seed pods.



**Deer resistance:** High!

**Uses:** Beautiful ornamental. Blooms attract butterflies. Can be trimmed into hedge for privacy.

**Propagation:** Can be grown from scarified seed. Cuttings may root. Is a slow growing plant.

Sources: National Wildflower Research Center's [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org) Plant Database and Gallery accessed 2/23/2013

## Gentlemen and Ladies: Start Your Seedlings!



Henrietta Smith has volunteered to organize the Spring Plant Sale and sends you this message: Get seedlings, cuttings, transplants, divided roots, etc., started, so that they will be big enough to sell and look thriving and healthy by the middle of April. If you have questions, call or email Henrietta.



### ***Minutes of the February Meeting***

By Sec. Karen Casey

The February 12, 2013 meeting was called to order at noon by Carol Rankin, who handed out copies of the 2012 and 2013 master gardener budgets for the members to review and comment upon.

**There are sign up sheets for intern and active member volunteer projects**, and some of the projects that are being worked on were discussed. There is a possibility of starting a community garden in Blanco. We have also ordered a new junior master gardener handbook so that we can expand our outreach to the schools in Blanco and Johnson City. The flowerbeds at 290/281 will be another project for 2013, and Barbara Counts is in charge of this.

**The March meeting date has been changed to March 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. The interns will have their last class on this date, with a program by David Rodriguez from 1-5 PM, and our meeting will follow, with the new master gardeners joining us. Please wear**

**your master gardener shirts, because we will be taking a group picture.**

**Carol Rankin and Diana Blackburn attended the Master Gardener directors' meeting**, and were able to get more information about setting up our website. They also learned that there are changes this year for **specialist training: you now need at least 16 hours of training, and 20 hours of volunteer work**, to be certified as a specialist. Also, in addition to the **\$50 reimbursement toward training costs** from our local treasury, after completing the volunteer hours, you can request an **additional \$50 from the state organization**. Carol asked for two of us to volunteer to be alternate directors, and has requested that all officers attend at least one directors meeting this year.

**There is a need for additional help with refreshments for some of the meetings this year—please contact Cindy Stomberg to sign up.**

**The budget for 2013 was approved.** There will be an executive committee meeting to draw up a change to the by-laws to require

advance approval for expenditures of over \$50 (or maybe \$75) from our treasury. This change will be voted on by the members before the change is enacted. Dues for this year have to be in by March 1, so Tricia Timmins will need your dues before February 18.

Karen Casey has submitted articles to the **Johnson City and Blanco newspapers about the landscaping project at the Blanco-Pedernales Groundwater Conservation district office, and would like to submit stories on other projects, so please let her know about your projects** so we can get the word out about our volunteer activities. **Kathy Edquist would like copies of any publications with articles about the master gardeners so that D'Anne Welch can put them in the scrapbook.**

**Betty Mucha is the chairman of the Outreach Committee.** She has a list of all of the specialists in our group, and will be **contacting local organizations to let them know that we can provide presentations.** We have specialists in propagation, rainwater collection, native plants, backyard birds, drip irrigation, firewise planning, and more.

**Betty is also working with Mary Joyce on the garden tours that will be offered in conjunction with our plant sale on April 20.** Please let them know of any gardens or yards in Johnson City that could be included in this tour.

### **Intern Class Snacks**

Tues, 1/22—Barbara Counts  
Tues, 1/29—Mary Joyce & Leona Carleton  
Tues, 2/5—Kathy Edquist, Carol Diquilio & Carol Rankin  
Thurs, 2/7—Cindy Stomberg & Cerise Spivey  
Tues, 2/12—Karen Casey  
Tues, 2/19—  
Tues, 2/26—Susan Evans  
Tues, 3/5  
Tues, 3/12—Susan Hamm  
Tues, 3/19—Carol Rankin & Mary Nabers

### **Meeting Snacks**

Jan—Cerice Spivey & Cindy Stomberg  
Feb—Barbara Counts & Joan Marasek  
Mar—Peggy Welch  
April—Donna Sultemeier  
May—Cindy Stomberg  
June—Carol Rankin  
July—Mary Joyce  
Aug—Karen Casey  
Sept—Betty Mucha  
Oct—Mary Nabers  
Nov—  
Dec—

**Email or call Cindy to fill in those empty spots.**

2013 Master Gardener Class 1-5 pm  
Location: AgriLife Extension Building/Hoppe Room



Tuesday, March 5	Dr Stein	Fruit & Nut Trees
Tuesday, March 12	Susan Evans/Susan Hamm	Native Plants, Quiz
Tuesday, March 19	David Rodriguez	Horticulture Turn in Quiz, Intern Projects

## February Picture Gallery

*Soil School in Stonewall, Feb. 7 with Dr. Mark*

*McFarland, A & M soil specialist*

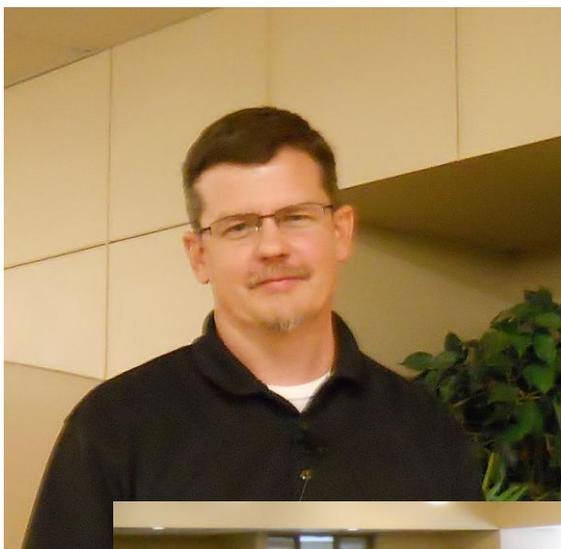
*Both members and interns learned from their soil samples and enjoyed the evening and barbecue.*



*Our two poster girls for how to get a job done: Cindy and Henrietta always volunteer. Here they are helping Carol with drinks. Our group handled food.*

*Landscape Design School,  
Part II, at A & M*

*Instructors: Alan King...*



*..... Barbara Coody and Bill Welch*



*Henrietta, Peggy, and Mary attended along with a  
roomful of other Master Gardeners and Garden Club  
members.*

*Peter Hatch gave a wonderful presentation  
on Mount Vernon and Monticello.*

*See you the 19<sup>th</sup> in Johnson City at  
5:30—but you would enjoy Dr.  
Rodriguez's presentation from 1-5.  
Be sure to start your plants for  
the Spring Sale—April 20.*



*Tom Stephens*