

Seedlings~

Master Gardener Association of Blanco County

July 9, 2013 Meeting

Johnson City First Methodist Church

5:00-8:00 PM

Preserving the Harvest

Kathy Edquist and Carol Rankin--

the Canning Queens

Refreshments: Mary Joyce and Leona Carlton

Kathy says: Carol Rankin and I will be doing a canning demonstration. Hopefully, many of us have an abundance of fresh fruit and veggies we'd like to preserve for use later in the year. We can talk about freezing or other means of preservation, but I am a water bath canner. That is what I plan on demonstrating. Carol uses a pressure cooker. I will have some products to use as door prizes and will bring the recipes for those as well as other recipe books. Bring some index cards so you can copy the recipes you want. "Seasoned canners" can bring copies of their favorite recipes for pickles, jams, jellies, etc., to share with the group.

Minutes of Meeting June 11, 2013 (from Carol R. via Henrietta)

Meeting was held at Diane Matthews home after a tour of her gardens. Meeting was called to order by president, Carol Rankin. Meetings from the May meetings stand approved as read.

Cindy Stomberg reported that the July meeting will be held in the evening with crafts or canning. Details to follow.

Trish Timmins reported that \$113.25 was raised at the Lady Bug Tomato Festival, bring our total cash on hand to \$5120.75.

Jim Meadows is heading the children's pot painting and seed planting at the Stonewall Peach Jamboree on June 22. Volunteers to help are Carol Rankin, Pat Owens and Karen Casey.

Johnson City will be starting a farmers market in the fall and spring. Master Gardeners can participate in an educational capacity. The next meeting to discuss this will be at 6:00 p.m. on June 30.

Georgia has been putting information on our web site and everyone was encouraged to check it out at txmg.org/blanco. Send anything you would like to see included to Georgia.

Margaret Becker is the 1st intern to complete her 50 volunteer hours. She will get her

membership card next meeting.

D'Anne Welch volunteered to be the chairperson for the fair booth. Betty Mucha volunteered to help. Susan Hamm will be in charge of the planting at the entrance.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Lavender Festival Volunteers

Master Gardeners were busy at the Lavender Festival the first week-end in June. Members worked in many capacities: at the information booth, in the Friends of the State Park booth, and at the Imagine Lavender Farm.

More Gorgeous New Stamps: The Post Office has done it again!

Beautiful stamps to celebrate the quincentennial of the first Spanish exploration of Florida. Early settlers named the area for its lush vegetation.

June Meeting: Diane Matthews' Gardens

On the outskirts of Fredericksburg, Diane Matthews' home is landscaped in multiple garden areas, each planted so that some part of it will be lovely at any time of year. In June she has both gorgeous blooms and deep, cool shady areas.

The Peachy Peach Jamboree: A number of our members helped with the youth booth in Stonewall, a very popular place.

A good time was had by all! And future gardeners learned that it is OK to play in the dirt!



Margaret, I think, as Jim surveys the situation

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

Common Name: Damianita
Scientific Name: Chrysactinia mexicana

Family: Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Form: Mounded, bushy, low growing 1-2 ft
perennial shrub.



Habitat: Caliche or limestone outcrops or well-draining sand or loam

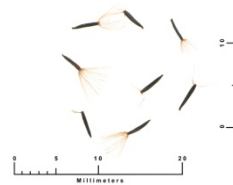
Leaves: Leaves crowded on the twigs, dark green, up to 3/8 inch long by 1/16 inch or less wide, covered with green to black glandular dots visible under a 10x hand lens. Leaves are also aromatic.



Flowers: Vivid yellow, fragrant composite flowers about 1 inch across bloom cheerfully from April through September.



Seeds: Collect from dry flower heads in the fall to sow in the spring. 1/8th inch long



Requirements: Excellent drainage, sun, dry conditions.

Maintenance: Very drought tolerant. Prune if you want to shape the plant. Older plants can take on a gnarly appearance.

Wildlife: Provides cover, nesting site, and nectar to insects along with high deer resistance!

Uses: Excellent as a border plant or ground cover in challenging hot areas. Used more for its flower qualities than its shrub attribute.

Sources: National Wildflower Research Center's www.wildflower.org Plant Database and Gallery accessed 6/28/2013

Blanco Fair Time

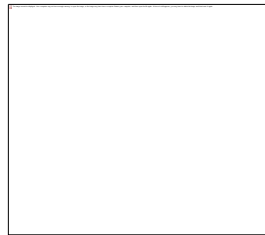
Bring ideas for the booth at the Fair in August. Suggestions and volunteers are needed. This is the time we can show off to the whole county. This is the time we can recruit interns for the next class by having a first class booth. We have a reputation for a super booth.



See you in Johnson City on the 9th at the Methodist Church for **“Anyone Can Can!”**

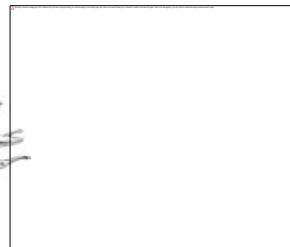
When you come to the meeting, bring some of your excess fruit and vegetables to share and bring your favorite recipes for freezing or preserving. Bring some index cards for

copying recipes from the experts.



There will be yummy door

zes!!!



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