 SEEDLINGS

A PUBLICATION OF THE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OF BLANCO COUNTY

***Message from Bernadette***

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! Another year has come to an end!  We met to celebrate the Holiday Season at The Landing.**

**It is with much anticipation that we begin the new year with some new officers and committee chairs.  Alison Garza, our new vice president, has already begun to search for new and interesting programs and speakers for our meetings.**

**Plans for the Plant Sale will be needed before we know it, everyone will need to start their propagations and seeds soon after the new year celebration. Plant Sale will be in April! Mark your calendars! This year the rodeo exhibit will be about our mission and not a selected theme, this was decided during the last rodeo. Since we need folks for the 2017 class, this should be a great way to recruit new members. And then, Gardenscape, things are already in the works for next October. Think about heading this committee, Carol will assist but we'd love to see someone bring their special touch to the event.**

**Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!!**

**Bernadette**

January 2016

Volume 21, Issue 1

JANUARY 12, FIRST MEETING, BLANCO EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1:00 PM

***DID YOU KNOW?***

***The Collin County Master Gardeners Association cordially invites you to come and join us to experience Buds and Bark: Earth-Kind® in the Park May 17-19, 2016.***

2016 Texas Master Gardener Conference
Myers Park & Event Center, McKinney, TX

May 17-19, 2016

 Please bookmark our website, www.ccmgatx.org/txmg2016 for up-to-date information, or follow us on Facebook for up-to-date information. Follow us on Instagram for a preview of the area. We look forward to seeing you in 2016!

 [2016 Speakers](http://www.ccmgatx.org/txmg2016/speakers.aspx)

We are booking notable speakers, developing workshops designed to educate and inspire, and planning events that will make the 2016 Texas Master Gardener Conference a memorable and outstanding experience. You won’t want to miss Amy Stewart, the Drunken Botanist, who has already signed to speak at the conference

<http://www.ccmgatx.org/txmg2016>

**Blanco County Master Gardeners**

**Slate of Officers**

**Bernadette McFarling--President**

**Alison Garza—Vice President**

**Margaret Becker--Secretary**

**Joan Marasek--Treasurer**

**Committees and Project Coordinators (may change)**

**Susan Hamm**

**Joan Marasek**

**Pat Owens**

**Carol Rankin**

**Newsletter Editor**

**Donna Norris**

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Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas are cooperating.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| **January 12, 2016****First Meeting of the New Year!!****Episcopal Church in Blanco –** **1:00pm** | **January 18, 2016****Comal County Master Gardeners****Program invitation**— 6:30**“Starting Your Own Transplants for Spring”\*** |
| **January 8, 15, 22, 28****Associate Certified Entomologist Prep****Course $35****Contact the AgriLife Extension office to register\*Pre registration is required** | **January 23**Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower CenterTree Talk Winter Walk<http://www.wildflower.org/ttww/> |

Note from Lee Franzel, Comal County Master Gardeners

**The Comal Master Gardener monthly meetings are at GVTC Auditorium which is near Hwy 46 and FM 3159 near Smithson Valley High School.  I will give better directions later.  We start at 6:00 with snacks and social.  The program is 6:30 to 7:30 and then a break.  At that time your folks may wish to leave as the business meeting follows, although all are welcome for that too.  We end at 8:30.  The Blanco MGs would be introduced as guests and they’d get a welcome applause.  All MGs get one CE hour for such a program.  I will ask Susan Herr if she would like to come and see where we’ll invite her to speak at a future meeting.  It’s already being talked about.  I’ll get possible dates for you and her.**

**Although we all can grow plants from seeds, my program is full of tips on timing, soil temperature, lighting, soil medium, DIY little containers, hardening the transplants, etc.  Our 2016 class begins that week and our 30 or so new trainees will be invited to attend, so I’m going to try to do a really good job.  There may be a few Powerpoint slides but mostly it’ll be ‘show and tell’ with the equipment and other items.**

**The date is January 18 and I will again say that you all are most welcome to attend.**

**Master Gardener December 2015 Meeting Minutes**

The December 2015 meeting of Blanco County Master Gardeners was called to order by President Bernadette McFarling on December 8, 2015 at 6:05 PM. A thank you was extended to Jane and Dan Brandenstein for once again arranging use of the The Landing’s Clubhouse for our annual Christmas gathering.

November minutes were approved with one correction: Attendance at Gardenscape was corrected to 97 adults rather than 88 as previously reported.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Barbara Counts reported the checking account balance at $4873.07. Barbara also reported that there were only 8 of our books remaining at the AgriLife office, so 25 more will be ordered. Susan Hamm noted that Lee Franzel, who was the speaker at our November meeting, purchased 5 of our books.

**New Business**

 Pat Owens recognized 10 year members: Ann Cook, Susan Evans, Joanne Fischer, Betty Mucha, and Shirley Winslow.

It was announced that all of the 2015 interns have met their volunteer hours requirements and they were welcomed as new members with a round of applause. Carol Rankin stated that each of the class of 2015 was due a $15 refund of class fees/materials and gave them the option of applying this refund toward their 2016 dues of $15. All new members in attendance elected to apply their refund to 2016 dues. Carol also announced that there was one extra red Master Gardener T-shirt, Size Large, available for purchase. See her if you are interested.

New Name Badges – Verbiage on name badges has changed to read Texas A&M Agrilife Extension. If your badge has old verbiage, a new one is recommended. All new members will receive one badge at no charge. Anyone wanting/needing a new/extra one, they will cost approximately $10 each. A sign-up sheet was passed around for those wanting to order a new badge. Ann Cook is contact for name badges.

President Bernadette McFarling called up 2015 officers and presented them with a thank you gift for their service. 2016 officers were also recognized.

County Extension Agent, Chris Wiemers, revealed that Blanco County has been invited to participate in a pilot program aimed at offering Master Gardener Training online. More information will follow at a later date. Chris also commended us on Gardenscape “FUN”damentals 2015 and event Chairman, Carol Rankin, reported that $808 was presented to Blanco High School and the Ag Dept through our efforts.

**Old Business**

Jim Meadows – Tonight is deadline for onion orders/payment.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM. The annual Christmas Pot Luck Feast and gift exchange followed.

Happy New Year!

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Becker, Secretary

From “What’s Buggin’ Ya? By Molly Keck Texas A & M AgriLife Extension publication

 Kissing Bugs and Chagas Disease

If you’ve watched the news lately, you have likely watched a story on kissing bug and disease it transmits: Chagas.

Kissing bugs are large bugs—ranging in length but the most common in Central TX about 1 inch. They are not new to the US, but you are hearing about them, because we are now ooking for them. More and more research is being conducted on these bugs.

Kissing bugs have piercing/sucking mouth-parts and feed on blood of many different animals including birds, lizards, mammals and humans.

Chagas is caused by a parasite called Trypanosoma which is vectored by the kissing bug through their feces. Trypanosoma can enter the body by rubbing the feces into a wound, orally, through blood transfusions or organ transplants and even congenitally.

Dogs are especially at risk to Chagas, likely because they consume the bugs. They also sleep or rest outdoors where kissing bugs may be found.

Kissing bugs like to hide in debris and cracks and crevices. Seal up windows, vents, and other entrances to prevent them from entering the home. Keeping debris cleaned up and wood pies away from the home will also discourage them.

If you are concernec you or your pet was bitten, see a physician or veterinarian for a blood test.

Many insect resemble kissing bugs. To have an insect identified, contact your local extension office.

 

Picture courtesy of kissingbug.tamu.edu

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| Calendar of events/projects | <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=donnanorris1015%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Chicago> |
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