

Seedlings...

Master Gardeners of Blanco County

Next Meeting: January 10, 2012
12:00, Noon

Ladybug Brand Center in Dripping Springs

Program: Organic Gardening

Lunch will be provided by the Center.

Directions below

Christmas Party! A good time was had by all! (*Shirley Winslow photos*)





As we begin the New Year, our first MG meeting on January 10, 2012, 12:00 Noon, will be held at the Lady Bug Brand center, located in Dripping Springs, Texas. Lady Bug promotes natural gardening offering products such as fertilizers, mulches, soils and compost for the organic-minded grower. Andy Chidester will be speaking on the topic of Organic Gardening and giving us a tour of the facility, weather permitted. If we do encounter frigid or drizzly conditions, our meeting will be held in their comfortable facility warehouse where we will first conduct our usual monthly MG meeting, break for lunch and then congregate for Andy's lecture.

A few reminders... **Tuesday, January 10, 12 Noon**

Location: Lady Bug Brand Center
160 McGregor Lane,
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
512-858-9090
www.ladybugbrand.com

Directions:

- Take 290 east towards Dripping Springs
- Turn left on McGregor Lane, (about 14 miles from the intersection of Hwy 281 & Hwy 290, Miller Creek RV Park)
- Lady Bug Brand Center on right about 1/8 mile down, look for big yellow sign.

- 1. Lunch will be provided by the Lady Bug Brand Center, so come hungry.**
- 2. Please bring a folding chair. There are a few picnic tables if the weather cooperates to conduct our meeting outside.**
- 3. Wear rain/mud proof footwear, it will most likely be muddy if we are walking around outside.**

And finally...please **RSVP** me at cindy.stomberg@gmail.com if you are planning on attending our January mtg at Lady Bud Brand Center. We need a headcount for lunch planning.

***Our February MG Meeting** will take place February 14, 12 Noon at the The Landing Community Center in Blanco. Lunch will be provided. Judy Barretts will be speaking about what to do with Herbs. Please visit her website at www.homegrowntexas.com.

Happy Gardening,
Cindy Stomberg
830 822-1773

Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.
Peggy Welch's House, Blanco, TX

Present: Please see sign-in sheet

This meeting was held at Peggy Welch's House in Blanco. Diana Blackburn called the meeting at 5:40 p.m. There was no Treasurer or Secretary report.

Old Business:

Jim Medows will order onions tomorrow and will have them at the January meeting. Thank you to Mary for the newsletter. Each of us should also be getting a State newsletter. Go to texasmastergardener.org to sign up for the newsletter.

International MG meeting will be September 7-13, 2013 will be an Alaska cruise, and they will be accepting down payments with pay out plan. Also the State meeting, October 13, 2012, will be in McAllen, Texas. This year the Texas Master Gardener Convention will be in San Antonio, Texas.

Joan Marasek was given praise for getting all the reports and information before deadline.

Pat Owens has extra TMG shirts for sale.

Election of officers: Betty Mucha President; Cindy Stomberg Vice-President; Georgia Carroll-Warren, Secretary; Keith McClellan, Treasurer (although Joan will continue until Keith completes his hours).

New Business:

Betty Mucha started the official business meeting with explanation of the revised Bylaws. Betty read the new bylaws. Jim Meadows motioned to accept the new bylaws and Joanne Fisher seconded. The motion to accept the new bylaws was unanimous.

There will be a committee that will help the Vice President. The committee will help with the speaker arrangements before each meeting. There will also be a refreshment committee. Henrietta did volunteer to do that and she will have \$25.00 allowance from the budget each month to help with refreshments. Henrietta will need two people a month to help with refreshments. Those two will bring drinks and one dessert. A sign-up sheet for refreshments for future meetings was posted for participants.

Betty explained the awards given at the TMG State convention and the different categories our group could qualify or participate, which include the following: Newsletter (inside newsletter include helpful hints for gardening, plant identification for educational purposes; Outstanding Master Gardener; Junior Master Gardener, Beautification of the cities, Fair & Rodeo, Individual awards.

Betty listed all of the award categories again for future consideration:

- Publication
- Graphics

- Mass Media
- Education
- Newsletter
- Website Design
- Individual Awards
- Outstanding Master Gardener
- Educational Exhibits
- Photographs – Must be turned in before February 3rd deadline.

Seven Interns received their Official Master Gardener Badges during the meeting:

1. David Hamm
2. Georgia Carroll-Warren
3. Carol DeQuillio
4. Carol Rankin
5. Karen Casey
6. Cindy Stomberg
7. Kathy Equist

Meeting hours were discussed again. The new meeting hours were decided to be at 5:30 p.m. and or at 12 Noon every other month. Meetings will still be on the second Tuesday of each month.

The meeting adjourned around 6:30 p.m. to everyone's delight to the start of a potluck dinner with an excellent hostess and group company.

Meeting Refreshments:

Unless the meal is provided, as in January and February, members can bring a brown-bag meal to meetings and volunteers will provide dessert and drinks to go with it. If you missed signing up to provide refreshments, call Henrietta.

This month the lunch will be provided by the Ladybug Place Center! Yea, Cindy!

Coming Soon--



Be looking for registration information for the Texas Master Gardener State Convention in San Antonio.

The 2011 meeting was a wonderful learning experience and a good time for all who attended. There are good plants and gardening paraphernalia for sale too. (And shirts and jewelry, etc.)

Plant identification will be a new column each month, featuring native plants in particular. The first article is by Pat Owens, and subsequent articles will be by Pat or Chris DeBremaecker.

Plant ID January 201: Possumhaw (*Ilex decidua*)
by Pat Owens, TMG



Common Names: Possumhaw, Winterberry, Deciduous Yaupon, Deciduous Holly

Scientific Name: *Ilex decidua*

Family: *Aquifoliaceae*, Holly Family

Description: Small to medium size (12-30 feet) Multi-trunk, broad crown tree.

Bark: smooth; pale gray; mottled, slow growth.

Leaves: small oblong; cluster on short spurs, deciduous, not much fall color

Flower: Spring March - May, small white cluster at end of leaf spur.

Fruit: Female tree in fall, Red/ orange usually but can be yellow/ orange

Requirements: Full to half day sun, any soil, good to poor drainage, water moderate.

Maintenance: NONE (My kind of plant)

Local Location: Fence lines, slopes; Blanco County mostly southern half.

Wildlife: Butterflies, Bees; Bob White, Quail and Mockingbirds are among the birds in winter to eat fruit. Cedar waxwings flock to them in early spring.

Comments: These understory trees make great landscaping & accent trees.



Sources: LBJ Wildflower Center, *Texas Native Ornamental Trees* by Native Plant Society of Texas, and *Natives and Naturalized Woody Plants of Austin and The Hill Country* by Brother Daniel Lynch, C.S.C.

*(Note from Mary: When everything else is either gray or green, possumhaw lights up the countryside with its bright berries. And opossums are supposed to eat the berries. Go to <http://opossum.craton.net> and click on **possum poetry**, hilarious parodies to brighten your day.)*

Pamphlet Publication Back on Track

Susan Hamm, Keith McClellan, Betty Mucha and others will meet in January to proceed with work on the publication about plants for Blanco County. The pamphlet will include information on the plant ecosystem when pioneers originally settled here, the geology and geography of the county that affect plant life, and native plants recommended for the county based on soil and water needs. The publication is intended to educate newcomers to the county about landscaping and agricultural choices for small farming in a region that has little deep soil and limited water resources.

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It won't be long!

See you the 10th in
Dripping Springs at noon.

