Seedlings~

Master Gardeners of Blanco County

February Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013, 12:00, Noon
Hoppe Room, Johnson City
Snacks: Barbara Counts, Joan Marasek
Program: Firewise—Carol Rankin and Betty Mucha

Members who did not attend Firewise training can get training hours from the class presentation.

The 2013 Intern Class is off to a good start. Many of our members have been on hand to welcome the nine members of the new class. There may be another class member added. Susan Hamm taught the class the basics of botany on the first full class day with a very professional presentation. She even smashed an egg in a high tech demonstration.

Others of our chapter will be teaching other classes. Henrietta and Peggy will teach the class on the Jan. 15, showing propagation and pruning techniques. On Tuesday, Feb. 12, Carol Rankin and Betty Mucha, will head up a presentation by those members who attended the Firewise training last July. This should be a MUST for those members who did not receive the training. The next two Feb. meetings will be taught by Ron Bourland followed by Susan Evans and Jim Meadows.

We are always on the lookout for new projects. On Jan 10, Joe Summy showcased an idea for a new project: working with Headstart children to rehabilitate plants. If Todd approves, it may be just the project for some of our members. Remember, we are trained not just to work in our own gardens but also to educate others in gardening.
Here Are Your MG Interns—There will be a TEST!

2013 Master Gardener Class 1-5 pm Location:
AgriLife Extension Building/Hoppe Room on Tuesdays,
Methodist Church Hall on Thursdays.

You may attend for training hours and sign up to bring food for volunteer hours.
Master Gardener Meeting January 8, 2013

The January meeting was called to order by the president, Carol Rankin

The 2013 Master Gardener intern class started later on the same Tuesday, and a schedule of the classes was handed out to all members. The classes will mostly be held at the Hoppe room adjacent to the extension office in Johnson City. The class on February 12 will be Firewise training, and Carol urged all who completed the Firewise training and need further hours to complete their certification, to help with teaching this class. Also, we need to complete a list of community projects that the interns can help with to earn their volunteer hours this year, so contact Carol if you have a suggestion for this list.

The annual plant sale will be held in April, and Karen Casey will contact Johnson City to find out what dates are available for us to use the park, and is in charge of publicity for the event. She will contact several venues for publicity of our events and projects this year, including both newspapers, the Hill Country Sun, the Hill Country Current, both Chambers of Commerce, and PEC for possible inclusion in the events section of the magazine. If you can think of other venues for publicity, call Karen. We are also in need of someone to chair the plant sale.

Carol Rankin will be attending the Directors meeting with Diana Blackburn in February. She is going to gather information about setting up a website for the Blanco County Master Gardeners, and also getting our group information on the state Master Gardener calendar.

Ann Cook asked that everyone send in their volunteer and education hours for 2012.

Carol asked for a volunteer to head the Outreach Committee for 2013. Susan Hamm has a book of program outlines for use by this committee for presentations to groups on a number of topics. Education and outreach are important duties for the Master Gardeners and we need an active committee. Please contact Carol if you would like to help.
Todd Swift explained the soil sampling procedure and the plans for the soil meeting with Dr. McFarland on Thursday February 7th in Stonewall. The sampling kits are available at the extension office, and samples need to be submitted to the extension office before January 14.

The fees are:

Dinner and program $5 for master gardeners

$0 for interns

$20 for general public (includes one soil sample analysis)

Soil Samples $7 for master gardeners

$0 for interns

$10 for additional samples for general public

After our meeting adjourned, the master gardeners and interns introduced themselves to one another, and the first class for the 2013 interns began.

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.

(Would you believe that when I typed in “pot plants” the illustrations that came up were marijuana!)
Common Name: American Smoke Tree
Scientific Name: Cotinus obovatus

Family: Anacardiaceae (Sumac)

Growth characteristic: Tree, small, upright or multi-trunked, usually around 15 feet tall.

Flowers: Conspicuous blooms April and May. Color changes from yellow to pink to purple over time. Inflorescence is 12 inch panicles and flowers are unisexual.

Fruit: Purple to brown seeds are 1/8" inch long, however, few seeds are formed.


Uses: Beautiful ornamental with good fall color. Wood can be used to make yellow dye. Was used in past for fence posts and tool handles.

Habitat: Hillsides, limestone outcrops. Best on north or east facing hills or in protected area of Ashe Juniper. Soil or area must be well-drained.

Water Use: Low

Drought tolerance: High

Cold and Heat tolerant


Sources: National Wildflower Research Center’s www.wildflower.org Plant Database and Gallery accessed 1/15/2013
plants.usda.gov, accessed 1/15/2013
**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—Mary Nabers  
April—Donna Sultemeier  
May—Cindy Stomberg  
June—Carol Rankin  
July—Mary Joyce  
Aug—Karen Casey  
Sept—Betty Mucha  
Oct—  
Nov—  
Dec—

As you can see, there are some blank spaces above. Please call Cindy and sign up for refreshments for the class or a meeting or both so that the same people do not have to bring snacks several times.

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

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<td>Tuesday, Jan 8</td>
<td>Todd Swift</td>
<td>President’s Welcome</td>
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<td>Carol Rankin</td>
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<td>History/Introductions/Manual</td>
<td>Susan Hamm</td>
<td>Botany, Soil Samples</td>
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<td>*Thursday, Jan 10</td>
<td>Susan Hamm</td>
<td>Botany, Return Soil Samples</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Jan 15</td>
<td>Peggy Welch/Henrietta Smith</td>
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<td>*Thursday, Jan 17</td>
<td>Molly Keck</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Jan 22</td>
<td>Robert Edmonson</td>
<td>Trees, Shrubs, etc. Forest Service</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Jan 29</td>
<td>Patricia Michael</td>
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<td>Dr Mark Black</td>
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<td>Thursday, Feb 7</td>
<td>Dr McFarland</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Feb 12</td>
<td>Carol Rankin/Betty Mucha</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Feb 19</td>
<td>Loris Perkins/Ron Bourland</td>
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<td>Water, Rain Water, Irrigation</td>
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<td>Tuesday, Feb 26</td>
<td>Susan Evans/Jim Meadows</td>
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<td>Tuesday, March 5</td>
<td>Dr Stein</td>
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<td>Susan Evans/Susan Hamm</td>
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<td>Tuesday, March 19</td>
<td>David Rodriguez</td>
<td>Horticulture</td>
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<td>Turn in Quiz, Intern Projects</td>
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*Off site meeting, location info will be provided when confirmed.*