

Highland Lakes Master Gardener Association – 2013 Certification Program
“THE YEAR OF THE HUMMINGBIRD”
Study Syllabus on Sustainable Gardening

Feb 5 Orientation: Becoming a Master Gardener

“Introduction to the Association – Members of the Board and Program Mentors” – Ray Buchanan
“The Certification Process” – Wade Hibler, Ray Buchanan, Becky Rodriquez, and Bob Caruthers
“Introduction of Participants” – Ray Buchanan

“Break” – Bob Caruthers

“Selected Community Service Opportunities”:

Lawn and Garden Show – Val Klaudt and Paula Montandon

Burnet Farmers Market – Lavona Fry

Burnet County Fair – Rose Lackey

Helping Center – Karen Wilkins and Pete Smith

Burnet Middle School Greenhouse – Suzanne Labry

“How to Prepare Your Soil and Water Samples” – Wade Hibler

Location and Time: First United Methodist Church, 1101 Bluebonnet Dr., Marble Falls;
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Feb 19 Nature and Sustainable Gardening

“Introduction of Participants” – Ray, Becky, Bob

“Ethics and Principles of Sustainable Gardening” – Ray

“The Rocks We Take for Granite”: Geology of the Hill Country – Frank Caramanica, Geologist

TURN IN WATER AND SOIL SAMPLES

Location and Time: Methodist Church in MF; 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Readings – Handout: “Geology of Texas” from Master Naturalist Handbook

Feb 26 Weather and Water in the Hill Country

“Weather in the Hill Country: Characteristics and Trends” – Monte Oaks,
National Weather Service

“Where is the Water in the Hill Country and How is it Used and Managed – Bill Luedecke,
Region K Water Council

“Rainwater Harvesting and Garden Irrigation” – Beth Mortenson, Master Gardener and Water
Specialist

Location and Time: Methodist Church in MF; 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Readings: Ch 1, pp. 34-38; Ch 2, pp. 25-30; Ch 3, pp. 6-8; and Ch 8, pp. 14-18

Mar 5 Creatures in the Garden

“Bees and Other Insects as Pollinators and Pests” – Kim Bacon, Entomologist

“Color in Motion: Butterflies in the Hill Country” – Robert Yantis, Master Gardener

“Hummingbirds: The Gardener’s Delight” – Judy Bloomquist, Master Naturalist

Location and Time: Methodist Church in MF; 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Readings: Ch 4, pp. 1-23 and Ch 8, pp. 26-29

Mar 12 Soils and Trees in the Garden

“Soil Composition and Soil Amendments” – Jessica Robertson, Owner, Backbone Valley
Nursery

“Trees in the Hill Country” plus tour – Ben Robertson, Owner, Backbone Valley
Nursery

Location and Time: Backbone Valley Nursery, 4201 FM 1980, Marble Falls, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Readings: Soil = Ch 2, pp. 1-25 and Ch 8, pp. 18-23; Trees = Ch 7, pp. 13-21

Mar 19 Plant Taxonomy –

:Name the Parts, Learn Their Functions, Use Keys to Identify Plants” Flo Oxley, LBJ
Wildflower Center and Austin Community College

Location and Time: Methodist Church in MF; **8:00 – 12:00 noon**

Readings: Ch 1, pp. 1-11, 21-24, 32-34, and 38-44

BROWN BAG LUNCH TOGETHER: mid-program evaluation; then – attend HLMGA monthly meeting at 3:00 for introductions to the Association by Mentors

Mar 26 Native, Adaptive, and Invasive Plants and the Wildscape

“Native, Adaptive, and Invasive: Are the Good Beautiful and the Bad Ugly?” and Tour –
Minnette Marr, LBJ Wildflower Center

Location: Blanco United Methodist Church, 61 Pecan St. and Blanco State Park

“Texas Wildscape Wildlife Habitat Demonstration Site” - Sheryl Smith-Rogers

Location: 1021 9th St, Blanco

Time: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Readings: Ch 4, pp. 24-54

Ap 2 Vegetables in the Community Garden and at Home

“New Points on Space and Seeds in Vegetable Gardens” - Patty Leander, Texas Gardener Magazine

“New Ideas and Innovations in Vegetable Gardens” - Wade Hibler, Burnet County Extension Agent

Location and Time: Methodist Church in MF; 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Readings: Ch 6, pp. 1-82

Ap 9 Landscape Design

“Principles and Practices of Earth-Kind Landscape Design” with interactive practice

Sheryl and Robert Yantis, Master Gardeners and Earth-Kind Specialists

Location and Time: Methodist Church in MF; 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Ap 16 Plants, Architecture, and Landscape Design for Water Conservation

“Tour of Botanical Garden in San Antonio: Special Fokcus on Identifying WaterSaver Plants”
Docent, SAWS

“Learning and Sharing at SAWS WaterSaver Locations” in the Garden, the Class Members

Location and Time: San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston @ New Braunfels Ave, San
Antonio; Meet at Church, 8:00 a.m., Association carpool drivers to San Antonio:

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; return by 5:00 p.m.

Readings: Ch 7, pp. 42-64

Ap 23 Plant Products and Propagation:

“Growing and Harvesting Nuts and Fruit: Grafting Practice” – Wade Hibler, County Extension
Agent

“TheGreenhouse and Propagation” – Rose Lackey, Master Gardener

Location and Time: Rose Lackey’s Ranch, 5064 FM 243 East, Bertram, 1:00- 5:00 p.m.

Readings: Plant Products = Ch 5, pp. 1-48; Plant Propagation = Ch 1, pp. 12-20 and 24-32

Ap 30 Holistic Ranch/Landscape Design: Putting It All Together:

“Tour of Vegetable Gardens, Rainwater Harvesting, Native Plants, Landscape Design” - Ed and
Sue Lilley, Master Gardeners and Stewart Lilley, Organic Gardener

Location and Time: Lilley Ranch, 889 CR 3040, Lampasas, meet at 8:45 a.m. at Church for
Carpool to Lampasas, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., return by 3:00 p.m.

Readings: Ch 8, pp. 1-14 and 23-26

May 7 Celebration of Graduation Party

“Tour of Stonebridge Gardens: Accomplishing the Outstanding” – Sylvia Williams, Master
Gardener

Location and Time: Williams’ Ranch, 1708 E. FM 243, Bertram, 10:00 – 12:00 noon