

Fabulous Succulents!

Mike and Rosario Douglas know so much about succulents and they shared it with CCMGA at our April meeting. They brought a wonderful collection of plants to display and their photos, taken all over the world, were superb! This program was so interesting...be sure to visit their webpage at <https://thetravelingnaturalist.org>. Right, Rosario prepares for her talk.



At the May meeting... *by Linda Wren*

Please join us May 11 to hear Dale Spoonmore, who is the creator of From Seed to Spoon, an iOS & Android app that helps you grow food. He and his wife converted their urban Oklahoma lawn into gardens to grow food for their family of 6 and he'll be sharing his story of how they did it and what they learned along the way. He'll also be showing how you can use his free app to grow food, manage companion plants, and treat pests in your garden. Come for snacks at 9:30 am with the meeting beginning at 10:00 am.

We Need Mentors!

Sign up to help our incoming master gardeners as they learn their way around phone duty. It is rewarding and fulfills requirements for service hours or education hours. Calendar is online on the website!

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President's Posting

By Laura Eckstein

Hello Master Gardeners,

In spite of the blustery, cold weather we had a very successful garden party. Thanks to Donna Carter for organizing this event. It is a big job and we appreciate all the work you put into it. Thanks to all of you who braved the cold weather and came out to work. Once again Nancy Logan and her team of workers in the green house worked hard and supplied us with beautiful plants to make this the most successful plant sale ever.

There are many things coming up for us. For our next meeting on May 11th we will have Dale Spoonemore speaking to us on Turning Your Lawn into an Urban Garden. The State Master Gardener's convention in June is always a wonderful meeting. We learn a lot and always enjoy the day. Four of our members have invited us to tour their gardens. We always get good ideas from the garden tours.

Remember to send in your recipes to Judy Kautz for the new cookbook. The last one was a success and this one will be also. She will need your recipes by July 1, so she can get them into the new book. I look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting.

Laura Eckstein



Photo Booth

by Carolyn Paul



**A Lady
Bug
in the
Garden**



Garden Gossip

By Rick Ault

Don't you just love the rain! It is greening up the garden so much!

Jody has turned on the drip irrigation system and all leaks etc. seem to be fixed and the system is working fine. The Tropical bed is being installed and I'm sure will be looking good in no time. The greenhouse is now empty of all the plants from the Garden Party sale. Bud is busy re-staining the pergola table and the bridge. So all in all, the garden is shaping up nicely. We had our first potluck lunch after the garden work session on the 24th of April. The food was good as usual and plenty of it. These potlucks occur on the last Tuesday of the month, so come on out and work in the garden and join us for lunch.



Education Update

By Kathi Farley

Education Committee events for May:

- 1) May 5, Saturday, 10-6pm & May 6, Sunday, 11-5pm: May Fair, CCMGA will have an Information Table there.
- 2) May 12, Saturday, 9-3pm: Moore Home Depot, CCMGA will have an Information Table there.
- 3) May 12, Saturday, 10am: Purcell Library, Fred Schneider will be discussing "Backyard Vegetables".
- 4) May 19, Saturday, 10am: Purcell Library, Theresa January will be discussing "Backyard Berry Production".
- 5) May 19, Saturday, 10am: Cleveland County Extension, Classroom C, Brittany Jordan will be discussing and demonstrating "Succulents and Sedums for Container Design".



Spring Home Garden Tour

By Terry Hull

The CCMGA Spring Home Garden Tour will be on Wednesday, June 6, 2018. In the event of inclement weather, the Tour will be on Wednesday, June 13, 2018. Home garden tours are an opportunity for shared learning, a way to show support for our members' gardening efforts and generosity in opening their gardens to us, a chance to commune outdoors while getting to know our brother and sister gardeners, and a fun way to earn continuing education and service credits toward annual master gardener certification. Like the unique personalities of our gardeners, every home garden has something different to offer. Come enjoy and learn from different approaches. A group e-mail with agenda (times, descriptions, locations, driving directions) will be sent out about two weeks before June 6.



April Meeting Minutes

By Carolyn Paul

The meeting was called to order by President Laura Eckstein following an entertaining and informative program on succulents by Rosario and Mike Douglas of the Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society. Members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and approved corrected minutes from the previous month's meeting. Reports were then heard from the various committee heads.

Treasury/Greenhouse (Nancy Logan): Nancy went over the updated budget, which shows a cash balance of \$17,287.70 and surplus funds of \$6823.45. She also reported that things are looking good in the greenhouse--we have a lot of healthy plants ready to be sold at the Garden Party.

Program Committee (Linda Wren): Linda went over the lineup for our upcoming speakers. In May we will hear from Dale Spoonmore of Seed to Spoon, who overcame health issues by turning his back yard into an urban garden. Dale will share his story and discuss the practical aspects of urban gardening in today's back yard. Our June speaker will be Keith Warren, who will present a program on raising orchids. July is open, but in August beekeeper Forrest Chapman will tell us about maintaining a successful bee colony. There will be no September program due to the Fair; in October Katie Hawk will discuss the Monarch butterfly.

Garden Party (Donna Carter): Donna brought the volunteer signup sheets for the Garden Party for everyone to look at. Volunteers will set up tables in the Demonstration Garden following the meeting. The weather is expected to be chilly but clear for the Garden Party. Awnings will not be used due to possible high winds. Preparations are pretty well complete for the various demonstrations and activities, including face and rock painting, planting succulents, salsa gardening, garlands and more! We will also have live music courtesy of Tracey's husband and friends. We still need more greenery for garland crafting. Volunteers are urged to let Donna know immediately if they still need any other supplies.

Special Projects (Phyllis Blackwell/Julie Johnson): Lawn judging will begin next month for May, June and July. That's all for now--they will keep the group informed on their progress.

Publicity (Georjana Mauldin): Georjana announced that Jim McDaniel has joined the Publicity Committee. Jim will work on marketing projects and provide support for other committee activities.

Demonstration Garden (Rick Ault): Rick was out of town, so Laura reported on his behalf. Tour guides are still needed for the Garden. A booklet is available with information about the different beds to help tour guides. The Garden is looking great--thanks to all the volunteers who worked hard to make that happen! The water leaks on the east side of the garden by the newest pergola are now allegedly fixed. Hopefully that will prove to be so.

Membership (Jeanne Parker): The Master Gardener Desk has three new class members working on Monday, April 23rd and they all need mentors to show them the ropes. There is a signup sheet in the back, please sign your name on your way out after the meeting. There is also a mentor spot that needs to be filled the first week in May.

Education (Kathi Farley): Kathi reported that the T-shirts are on their way at this moment! Those who bought one can pick theirs up after the meeting. The April 15 "Kitchen Herbs" class with Barbara Rafferty is full. The Earth Day celebration is April 2 in Reaves Park and one more person is needed for that event. On April 26 Les Brown will do a Container Gardening class at Bethel Baptist Church. We will have an information table at Norman Home Depot on April 28 from 9:00-3:00. The Association will have an information table at the Mayfair on May 5 and 6 and about 5 people are needed for that. On May 12 there will be an information table at the Home Depot in Moore. We need one more person for that one. Also on the 12th, Fred will do a class on Back Yard Vegetable Gardening at the Purcell Library. On May 19 Thressa will do a class on Backyard Berry Production at the Purcell Library. Both classes are at 10:00 am. Also on May 19, Brittany Jordan will teach a class at the Extension on successful container gardening with succulents. Kathi thanked everyone who signed up today for volunteer slots.



April Meeting Minutes (cont.)

By Carolyn Paul

Fundraising (Alice Humphrey): Alice told the group that we have procured a park bench which will be raffled off at the Garden Party. Raffle tickets will also be sold for the sunflower quilt created by Brenda Williams. The quilt will be raffled off in June. Alice will contact local restaurants about a possible program which would return 10-15% of the check to the Association when members dine at participating restaurants. She will gather more information and report back to the group at next month's meeting.

Hospitality (Cindy Mullens/Patty Hayes): Cindy gratefully acknowledged all the volunteers who brought food for today's meeting, and noted that the food is all gone! Thanks go to Laura Eckstein, Kathy Whittle, Pat Sparks, Thressa Giudice, Carol Craig, Terry Hull and Stephenie Bolyard. Thanks also go out to Tracey Payton Miller, who has generously purchased cups, plates, napkins and cutlery for our meetings.

General News Judy Kautz put out a call for submissions to the newsletter. Photos and articles would be very welcome. Elaine's deadline is the 25th of each month so members, don't hesitate to get those pictures and stories about our activities and outings to her before then! We would also love to have a feature on our Member of the Month if we could get people to volunteer to be featured and answer a few short gardening questions. If you're interested, get in touch with Judy. Judy also shared that she has several Master Gardener shirt patches for sale for only \$3.00. Cookbook recipes are still needed so please get those in soon so we can get the cookbook together. We're extending the deadline to July. The last cookbook was so wonderful, so let's do it again! Anyone who may want to buy the last cookbook--we still have a few copies left for \$10.00. Tomorrow there will be a sign in the Garden which will list all the activities for the Garden Party. Maps will also be provided for the various activities. Terry Hull announced that the Home Garden Tour will take place June 6 with a backup rain date of June 13. Many thanks to Vada Edwards, Barbara Tunney, Patty Hayes, and Tom Walker for sharing their gardens. Announcements about the tour will run in our upcoming newsletters. We will also do a mass email. Terry thanked Kathy Kelley for her help in organizing the tour and expressed the hope that she can fill Kathy's capable shoes. Tracey thanked the new class members for their contribution to the Garden in the form of an attractive new bed. Laura then addressed the group regarding complaints she has received about a "problem person" in our organization who has been rude to other members, including new members, and the public over the last few months. She reminded everyone to be aware of how they interact with others and always be patient and kind. The Association wants to encourage new members and give them positive attention so they will want to remain with us. Laura urged the group to let people know their efforts are appreciated even when they make mistakes. She shared her view that the Demonstration Garden isn't really there for just us members, but rather for the entire community. We should all practice good stewardship and be thoughtful, kind and courteous to everyone we encounter. Julia Linger asked members to be proactive and dispose of any trash they see near the building during her absence. Messy visitors carelessly dropping their trash has been a problem. Also, she took the opportunity to correct any impression that she is overly territorial. All she asks is that new members don't overwater the beds. Help with the beds is very much wanted and appreciated--just please don't overwater. But pulling weeds is great! Linda Wren and Brenda Williams donated two new trash cans for the Garden. A drawing for pretty potted succulents was held--lucky winners were Pat Welty, Mary Bruce, and Stephenie Bolyard. There was no other business and Laura adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted, *Carolyn Paul*



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of March 25, is \$17,287.70. Income includes \$40 Dues 2018; \$7,264 Garden Party Plant Sales; \$65 Gloves Sold; \$5 Garden Books; \$12 Visors & Patches; \$17.50 Garden Party Donations and \$382.26 T-Shirt Orders for Total Income of \$7,785.76. Expense includes \$107.50 Greenhouse Supplies; \$241.50 GP Resale Plants ; \$69.11 Demo Garden; \$95.38 Flea Market Sales Tax; \$30 Speaker Honorarium; \$143.42 Credit Card Fees and \$382.26 T-Shirt Order for Total Expense of \$1,069.17. Balance at April 25, 2018 is \$24,004.29, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \$9,395.08, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$14,609.21.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*

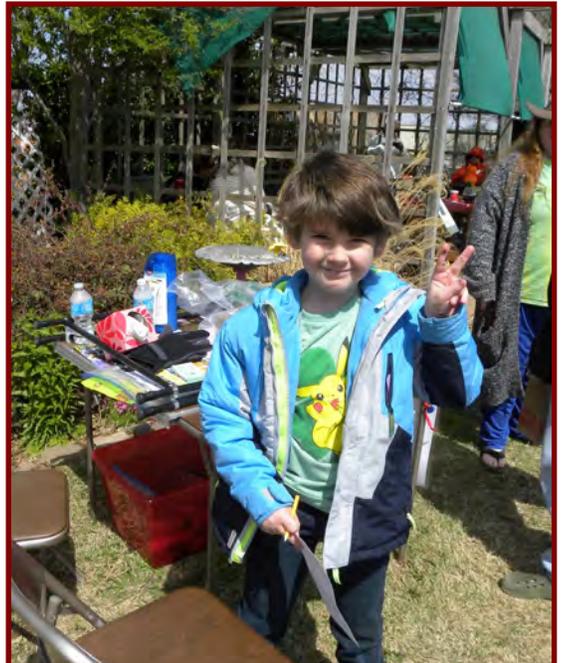


Garden Party

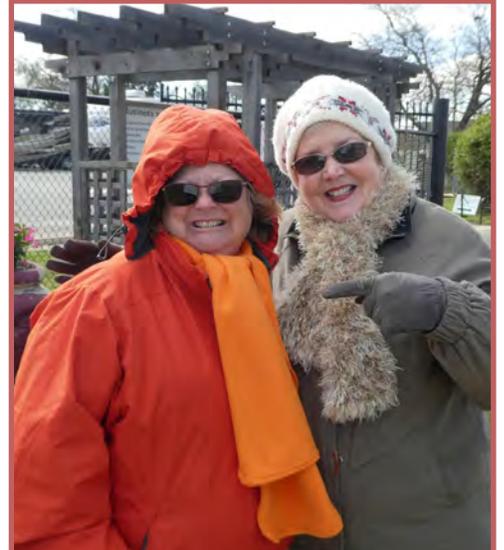


Greenhouse Crew















Crock Pot Chicken Breasts in Gravy

Master Cook

Ingredients

8 chicken breast halves, boned and skinned
 1 envelope (4 T.) dry onion soup mix
 1 can (10 3/4 oz.) cream of mushroom soup

Arrange chicken breasts in the bottom of a slow cooker. Sprinkle dry onion soup mix over the chicken. Spread undiluted canned soup over all. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours.

(I've used 12 breasts, 2 packages dry onion soup mix and 2 cans cream of mushroom soup for a crowd.)

For CROCK POT BEEF IN MUSHROOM GRAVY use 2 to 2 1/2 pounds boneless round steak

cut into serving size pieces. The recipe for this beef version called for combining the dry soup mix with the canned soup before pouring over the meat.

Per Serving (excluding unknown items): 333 Calories; 18g Fat (50.0% calories from fat); 40g Protein; 0g Carbohydrate; 0g Dietary Fiber; 124mg Cholesterol; 122mg Sodium. Exchanges: 6 Lean Meat.

Serves 6

Unforgettable Chicken Casserole

Judy Kautz

Ingredients

3 cups chopped cooked chicken
 1 1/4 cups finely chopped celery
 1 1/2 cups cooked vegetables
 1 cup (4 oz) shredded Cheddar cheese
 1 cup sour cream
 1 cup mayonnaise
 1 (4-oz) can water chestnuts, drained and chopped
 1 (10-3/4-oz) can cream of chicken soup
 1/2 cup slivered almonds
 1 (6-oz) can French-fried onion rings

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Coat a 9- x 13-inch baking dish with cooking spray.

In a large bowl, stir together chicken, celery, cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, water chestnuts, soup, and almonds. Spoon into prepared baking dish. Bake, uncovered, for 30 minutes.

Sprinkle onion rings evenly over top and bake 5 more minutes, or until bubbly around edges. Let stand 5 to 10 minutes before serving.

Serves 8

Note: This is one of the tastiest casseroles I have ever prepared and very fast to assemble. It can be lightened by using light sour cream and cheese and reduced fat soup. It is absolutely yummy and freezes well.

We will try to feature seasonal recipes and many of your own recipes in the Recipe Box through the year. Send us your recipes at rdsefd@aol.com.



Upcoming Events

May 11, 10 AM: CCMGA Meeting, Classroom.

May 12, 11 AM - Noon: Growing a Bouquet Garden. Commonwealth Urban Farms of OKC, 3310 N. Ollie, Oklahoma City

May 12, 9 AM - ?: Tri County Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale. Tri County Master Gardeners are having our annual Plant Sale and garden related items sale on May 12th at 9am. The address is 14001 Acme Road, Shawnee Ok. There will be a Food Truck available.

May 19, 9 AM – 3 PM: Festival in the Park, Will Rogers Park Senior Activity Center, 3501 Pat Murphy Drive, Oklahoma City. Sponsored by Oklahoma City Council of Garden Clubs

May 26, 10 – 11 AM: Gardens Walking Tour. South Lobby and Garden Grounds, Myriad Botanical Gardens, 301 W. Reno, OKC.

June 16, 9 AM—5 PM and June 17, 9 AM—4 PM: Central Oklahoma Cactus & Succulent Society Annual 2018 Show and Sale. Will Rogers Exhibition Center 3400 NW 36th St.

June 16, 9 AM – noon: Oklahoma Gardeners Association Garden Garage Sale. The Urban Mission, 3737 N. Portland, Oklahoma City. Garden related only items for sale. Open to the public.

June 21-22: 2018 State Extension Master Gardener Continuing Education Conference, OUR LAND, OUR HERITAGE, OUR FUTURE, Muskogee, OK. **Register by June 1** at <http://www.hortla.okstate.edu/research-and-outreach/programs/OK-master-gardener/mg-conference>.

Right, Vada's irises;
below left, door
prize winners; be-
low right, Kathi
Farley's new bench!



MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Oklahoma State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, State and Local Governments Cooperating. The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, national origin, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status. OCES provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

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Submit suggested articles for the newsletter not later than the **25th of each month** to Editor Elaine Dockray at rdsefd@aol.com

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Newsletter Publisher: Judy Kautz



For More Information Check out the updated Horticulture and Master Gardener sections on the Cleveland County Extension Office website. The address is www.oces.okstate.edu/cleveland.