

## The Weeders' Digest

## Meet Face to Face at April Meeting!

We will plan to meet in-person for our April meeting in the Frye Auditorium, and the date will be April 21st. There will be conversation at 9:30am, our program at 10am, and then a business meeting at 11am. Remember, in accordance with COVID-19 protocols, seats will be spaced out to 6', we will be required to wear masks, and we cannot have any communal food and drink. Also, we cannot have more than 50 people at an event, so Courtney will send out a pre-registration. We'll continue to evaluate COVID-19 numbers and will make the decision to switch back to virtual if things deteriorate. We will record the meeting, by either uploading it to YouTube or doing a Facebook live. More details will follow, but we will make a point to make sure you can join us remotely. **Rahmona Thompson** will present the program at our meeting...she will be speaking on Plant Viruses. It will be great to see everyone!

### Directories

The 2021 CCMGA directories are available to be picked up at the Extension office Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Please wear a face covering when entering the building. Thank you.

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## President's Posting

*By Joan Barker*

Our first in person Master Gardener monthly meeting in over a year is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21. The meeting will also be streamed for those unable to attend. We are looking forward to Rahmona Thompson's presentation on "Plant Viruses." Progress is being made in the Demo Garden. Kathi Farley is still in need of volunteers to be "bedheads."

See you in the garden!

*Joan*



OSU EXTENSION  
MASTER GARDENERS

## 2021 State Extension Master Gardener Continuing Education Virtual Conference June 24-25, 2021

You are invited to the 2021 Extension Master Gardener Continuing Education Conference on June 24-25, 2021 as a virtual event hosted by the Washington County Master Gardeners. They worked hard to put this together in 2020, but due to the pandemic it was postponed. We are now pleased to offer the same wonderful presenters via a virtual platform. This will be an exceptional conference and we hope you will Save the Date and join us in June. Our keynote speaker is Troy Marden, gardener, designer, photographer, speaker, and world traveler (<https://troybarden.com/>). More details to follow in upcoming conference newsletters.



## Treasurer's Report

*By Nancy Logan*

Beginning balance as of February 25, 2021 is \$24,644.10. Income includes \$60 2021 Dues and \$20 Donation for Total Income of \$80.00. Total expenses of \$298.95 for Directories Printed. Balance at March 28, 2021 is \$24,425.15, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \*\$16,028.87 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$1,112.00, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$7,284.28

\* Budgeted expenses total is undergoing many changes right now due to reevaluation of the demo garden needs.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



Good first month back!

Yes, we lost some people to many circumstances, but we also welcome back some we haven't seen in a bit. Welcome back Donna Carter, Jeanne Parker and Kay Holladay! I'm sure there are more. Many beds are looking really good and many still need help. There's always work to be done in and out of beds. Weeds never take a vacation.

There will be a demo garden meeting in the garden (bring your mask) at the west pergola 10am Tuesday April 6th and Friday April 9th. I'm doing both days to try to give opportunities for all to make at least one meeting. I'll catch you up on garden status, bed budgets, future plans, suggestions and ideas.

## Garden Humor

*Submitted By Karen Wolf*



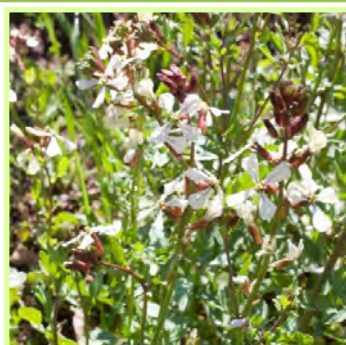
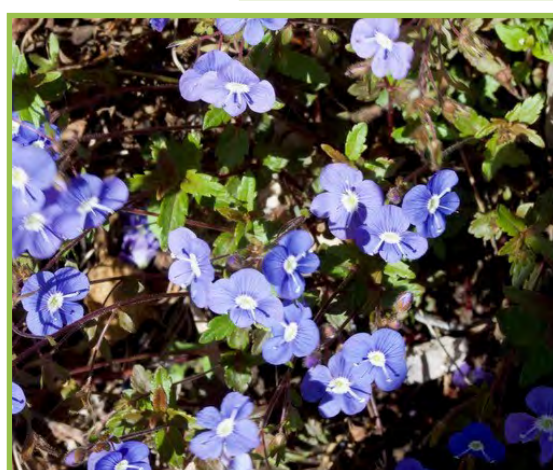
















## Thinking About Dogwoods

As I sat with a warm cup of cocoa and pondered about an article for the newsletter, I shivered at the low temperature and thought of the coming spring. Flowering dogwood trees are one my favorite harbingers of warm weather. When I moved to Oklahoma in 1968, I left the sight of large dogwood trees at my childhood home in Mobile, Alabama. About twenty-five years ago, my dad rooted a white dogwood for me. We planted the dogwood in the front of our small home in Midwest City, and it grew to be as tall as our house with marvelous, thick, blooms. We moved to a new home east of town in 2000, and my husband rooted a new plant from that dogwood. The tree struggled to bear blossoms but managed a few and produced notable fall foliage. In recent springs, it is very showy along with a pink dogwood and red dogwood in my yard. The October ice storm damaged all of them, so I am praying they will still blossom.

Siobhan Barton stated on The Tree Center Plant Supply Company website "There are over 50 species within the Cornus, or Dogwood, genus. These species vary wildly, from shrubs to deciduous temperate trees and evergreens. One of the most common species, and the one about which you have most likely heard, is the Flowering Dogwood. The state tree of Virginia, the Flowering Dogwood has conspicuous white to light yellow flowers that offer magnificent blooms in spring.

### Quick Tips

Sunlight – Plant in a partially sunny area with some minimal access to afternoon shade. Dappled shade, or partial filtered sun through a taller tree, can work.

Soil – Plant in well-drained, moist soil that is not overly wet. Although adaptable to many soil types, Dogwoods prefer slightly acidic loam.

Water – The shallow roots of the Dogwood run the risk of drying out. Water the tree at least twice a week in most areas and more during dry spells.

Pruning – Pruning is minimal; remove dead or broken branches in late winter, and prune lightly to maintain the tree's shape."

I am sharing a dogwood poem that I wrote in 1994 and a spring photo indicative of the blooms and a fall foliage photo.

### The Dogwood

Tiny white heads peek  
from gay-green shrouds  
and sniff the air for hints  
of sunshine and warmer days.  
Each delicate petal creeps out  
as ruby red cardinals visit.  
Now boldly splaying pink centers  
and sunshine stamens,  
dogwood blossoms burst forth.  
and dare winter's icy breath.  
to return





## To Weed or Not to Weed

by *Rahmona Thompson*

Claren Kidd sat down near my bed with a question. "What are we going to do about the weeds in the paths?" While this is a common reframe, a year of limited access to the demonstration gardens had allowed the weeds to completely obscure some paths. Hand weeding looked like a monumental task. Because I walk on the OU campus, solarization came to mind as they had just uncovered several beds. They had covered their beds with a light-colored plastic held in place by bags of mulch. Claren and I decided that because of the amount of traffic between beds, we needed a thick mil plastic. Also, there were plenty of concrete pavers and edging blocks we could use to hold the plastic in place. We also thought we could try some free cardboard and see which was most effective.

Now if you research solarization, OSU Fact Sheet EPP-7640, says to use thin clear plastic to burn out soil borne diseases. The plastic edges are to be buried. This solarization process should take place for four to six weeks in the hottest part of the summer.

David Hillock in the March 2021 Beaver County Extension Agriculture Newsletter recommends the use of black plastic, newspaper or cardboard to remove the weeds to create a new vegetable garden. He also states the soil should be wet before being covered.

So what we have done, with assistance from Pat Welty and Jody Marcussen, is tackle the path on the south west corner of the demonstration garden. This portion of path was selected because healthy [i.e., overwhelming] crop of Bermuda grass there. Translucent whitish plastic tarp (25 ft by 10 ft by 6 mil) was purchased from a big box store. [Plastic drop cloth is about 1 mil in thickness.] On Friday, March 19, the soil was wet due to the recent rains. The tarp was unrolled for its length. It was cut down to fit the width of the first part of the path. Then on Tuesday, March 30, the second portion of the path was watered. The remaining length of the tarp was unrolled over the path. Then cardboard was used to supplement the wider portions of the path. Cardboard alone was then used along the sides of Pat's blueberry bed.

How long is this process going to take, we are not sure. Bermuda is tenacious. But the second part of the path has less Bermuda than the first part. So, when you are in this area,

walk carefully; no tripping allowed. Finally, please help us monitor the progress of this test. We may want to replicate or modify it for other areas of the demonstration gardens.







## Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie

Plaza San Antonio Hotel

Servings: 12

*There are tons of recipes for Chocolate Peanut Butter Pie and they're all different. This one, however, is the ULTIMATE! It is the cadillac of Chocolate Peanut Butter Pies. Calories equal 1052 . . . per SERVING!*

2 c graham cracker crumbs  
1/2 c honey-roasted peanuts, chopped fine  
1/4 c sugar  
2/3 c melted butter

2 c heavy cream  
1/2 c (1 stick) butter  
16 oz semisweet chocolate chips

16 oz cream cheese  
2 c peanut butter  
1 c powdered sugar  
1/2 c chopped peanuts

**Crust:** Mix graham cracker crumbs, honey-roasted peanuts, sugar and melted butter, and press into a 10" springform pan.

Combine cream and butter in a heavy saucepan over medium-high heat. Cook until boiling and remove from heat. Add chocolate chips to mixture and stir until melted. Pour half the chocolate cream into pie crust and refrigerate until firm, about 2 to 2 1/2 hours. Refrigerate and reserve remaining chocolate cream.

Combine cream cheese, peanut butter and powdered sugar, mixing until smooth. Spread on top of chocolate layer.

Drizzle remaining chocolate cream on top and sprinkle with chopped peanuts. Refrigerate 6 to 8 hours before serving. Serves 12. Per serving: 1,052 calories.







## Styrofoam Recycling Goes Citywide!

Here's a newsflash for all our Green Master Gardeners who have helped the styrofoam recycling program grow and grow!! Please share the information below throughout your networks and save the date on your calendars!

### FAST FACTS:

WHO: Churches Caring for Creation

WHAT: Earth Day \*Citywide\* Styrofoam Recycling event

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church, 555 S. University (parking lot across University from the church)

WHEN: April 17 from 9:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The Green Team at University Lutheran Church and St. Michael's Episcopal along with other churches in the Churches Caring for Creation coalition will host a citywide styrofoam recycling event in the parking lot of First Presbyterian Church, 555 S. University on Saturday, April 17 from 9-3:00 p.m. (Please pray for a no-wind day!) This will replicate the event sponsored by the City of Norman 11/2/19 at Lloyd Noble parking lot where we collected 192 bags of foam and 75 boxes. All foam must be "clean, Clean, CLEAN!"

HOW: We will create a "drive-thru and drop-off" pattern, will have a workstation for cleaning any soiled foam, and a bagging area. All supplies will be furnished. We need a total of about 25 volunteers combined from all the churches involved. Master Gardeners are invited to volunteer. If you're interested, let me know. We will do four 2-hour shifts: 8 -10:00 (helping to set up). 10 - Noon 11:00 - 1:00 1:00 - 3:00 (helping to take down).

PLEASE SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EVENT WITH OTHERS through mailing lists, meeting announcements, word of mouth, and however you see fit. We don't anticipate purchasing any advertising for this, so the success of it may well depend on how well we publicize it!!

Any suggestions for other media are welcomed. Let's celebrate Earth Day (4/22) in a big way this year and join with millions around the world to be better stewards of the Earth! Cathy Bowden, Chair, Environmental Stewardship Team, cate46@yahoo.com, C. 405-831-2025, H. 405-447-8289.



The Styro-Station at University Lutheran was slammed one recent week with cooler boxes, packaging foam and food service goods! All items are processed and packed into clear bags for our recycler.





## Oklahoma Gardening School (Continued)

**April 13, 10 AM – Noon: Landscape Design for Water Conservation.** Native plant expert Adam Sarmiento will lead a class in landscape design for water conservation. Take a deep dive into the desired plant selections to make your Oklahoma lawn and landscape more resilient, weather-resistant, and pollinator-friendly. Registration required at [squeezeeverydrop.com](https://squeezeeverydrop.com).

**April 17, 9 AM – 2 PM: Earth-Kind Workshop.** Will Rogers Exhibition Hall, 3400 NW 36<sup>th</sup> St., Oklahoma City. Event will follow current CDC and City of OKC COVID-19 guidelines. A virtual option will be available. Celebrate Earth Month by learning simple steps to improve your lawn and landscape. Gardening experts will discuss composting, soil health, water smart plants, and building a better garden that will thrive in Oklahoma. Registration is required. Visit the workshop and events calendar at [squeezeeverydrop.com](https://squeezeeverydrop.com).

**April 18, 11 AM – 5 PM: Last Day for the Public to Enter Crystal Bridge.** For the first time in its 30-plus year history, the Crystal Bridge Conservatory in Myriad Botanical Gardens will undergo a complete renovation of its interior spaces. Among the many upgrades designed to enhance visitor experience are new path layouts, educational exhibits, improved ADA accessibility and a new gift shop.

Additional features of the \$9.7 million project include improvements to the Conservatory's interior aging infrastructure, a more diverse plant collection with both permanent and rotating exhibits, as well as new and enhanced water elements, circulation paths, and sitting areas. A second level terrace feature will overlook the conservatory and add much-needed educational programming and venue space. Improved accessibility, including an elevator, will enable people for all ages and physical abilities to fully enjoy the space.

*Reopening Scheduled for Late 2022*

**April 24, 10 AM: Guided Walking Tour.** Myriad Botanical Gardens, Oklahoma City. FREE – registration required. Register at <https://oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com>.

Expand your knowledge of Oklahoma plants and find inspiration for your own garden with an educational walking tour, led by one of our knowledgeable horticultural staff. Although geared towards adults, children and leashed dogs are welcome.

**May 8, 9 AM – 4 PM: Oklahoma City Flower and Garden Festival.** Myriad Botanical Gardens. This fun-filled event features local vendors who will be set up on the west side of the Gardens next to Mo's Carousel and the Children's Garden. The annual festival features an abundance of plants and more sure to brighten up anyone's home. Visitors will find Oklahoma-grown herbs, perennials, annuals, native plants, culinary herbs, vegetable plants, flowers, produce, pottery, jewelry, wine, succulents, ornamental grasses, milkweed, pollinator plants, wildlife habitat and more.

**May 15, 10 – 11 AM: Creating a Monarch Waystation.** Myriad Gardens, OKC. Learn how to build your own waystation from the ground up, including planning and design, sourcing host and nectar plants, garden maintenance, and certification. Participants will head home with one host plant and one nectar plant. Register at Myriad Gardens website.





## 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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**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](http://www.oces.okstate.edu/cleveland).