



## Dr. Tracey Payton Miller!

CCMGA's horticulture advisor, Dr. Tracey Payton Miller, shared information about research she performed and used to earn her doctoral degree at our March meeting. Gardeners also honored Dr. Payton Miller with a special congratulatory cake to celebrate her achievements!



### *At the April meeting... by Linda Wren*

Please join us April 13 to hear Mike and Rosario Douglas, who share interests in nature, especially birds. They also enjoy the cultural and historical aspects associated with travel. Mike and Rosario's interest in succulents has grown in the last decade. They have two greenhouses full of succulents to care for. Rosario is the current President, newsletter editor, webpage editor and Facebook administrator for the Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society. Mike and Rosario have a heavily illustrated webpage with information about their travels at <https://thetravelingnaturalist.org> Come for snacks at 9:30 am with the meeting beginning at 10:00 am.

#### **We Need Your Help!**

Plan to come to the Garden Party April 14 and help set up, conduct tours, assist visitors and clean up! Every person is needed in order to make this event a success!

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## President's Posting

*By Laura Eckstein*

Thanks to all of you who donated items for our flea market. We also want to thank Alice Humphrey for organizing this event and to all of our members who worked to set up and man our booth.

Work is in progress to get ready for our garden party. There is still much to be done in the demo garden, so if you can come out and help us on Tuesday mornings.

The trip to the zoo was a great success. We had a wonderful guide who took us through the zoo and told us all about the different plantings. There are some interesting projects under construction including a flower walk. There will be flowering shrubs and perennials along the walk, planted so that there will be something flowering at all times. This is scheduled to be completed by the end of April. Thank you Linda Wren for organizing this trip.

Please attend the presentations given by our members. It takes a lot of time and effort to put these presentations together and we should support those presenters.

While I was on the garden tour I learned that Kathy Kelly will be leaving us early this summer. She will find a Master Gardener group in her new home and we will keep in touch with her. We will miss you Kathy. Good luck to you in your new home.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting April 13.

*Laura Eckstein*



## Photo Booth

*by Judy Kautz*



This is my beautiful weeping peach tree in full bloom. I love it for the lovely color of its blooms, but also for its foliage which is burgundy. It has been planted in my landscape for 3 years and gets more beautiful each year!



We will start regular Demo Garden workdays on March 6, 2018 from 9 AM - 12 noon. We will begin the season with a Garden Potluck Breakfast starting at 8:30 AM on the 6th, weather permitting. Bring something good to eat or drink for breakfast and join the fun.

Our Garden Party will be on April 14, 2018 so that means that there are only 6 garden workdays to get everything in shape. While Nancy and many others are hard at work in the greenhouse, we can use all the help available in the Demo Garden to weed beds, plant new items and lay down mulch etc. So even if you don't have a bed to be responsible for on a regular basis, you have a place in the garden. Thanks in advance for any time and help you can provide.



Upcoming Education Committee needs:

- ◆ April 7, 2 – 4 PM: CCMGA Information Table at Central Norman Library “Garden Party, Gray Street, Norman.
- ◆ April 22, 11 AM – 5 PM: CCMGA Information Table at Norman Earth Day, Reaves Park, Norman.
- ◆ April 28, 9 AM – 3 PM: CCMGA Information Table at Home Depot, Norman.
- ◆ May 6, 10 AM – 6 PM: CCMGA Information Table at May Fair, Andrews Park, Norman
- ◆ May 7. 11 AM – 5 PM: CCMGA Information Table at May Fair, Andrews Park, Norman
- ◆ May 12, 9 AM – 3 PM: CCMGA Information Table, Home Depot, Moore
- ◆ May 19, 10 AM: CCMGA Presentation “Backyard Berry Production”, Purcell Library, Presenter: Theresa January
- ◆ May 19, 10 AM: Container Succulents, Classroom C, Presenter: Brit-tany Jordan



## March Meeting Minutes

*By Carolyn Paul*

The meeting was called to order following Tracey Payton-Miller's entertaining presentation on her dissertation topic comparing different types of biological controls for aphids. After the pledge was recited, corrected minutes from last month's meeting were submitted and approved by acclamation. President Laura Eckstein presented Tracey with a gift from the Association to congratulate her for successfully defending her dissertation. Laura also shared with the group that Tracey's fact sheet on aphids won an award! After a brief discussion of general business, the various committee heads shared their reports.

Treasury/Greenhouse (Nancy Logan): Nancy told the group that the greenhouse plants are getting off to a good start but right now she and Tom are the only people coming by to check on the smooth operation of the fans, heaters and sprinklers. She is coming in every other day to check on these systems, and it's getting to be too much for her. More volunteers are needed! If we had enough volunteers, each person would only have to do the checks one day a week. Teresa January added that without sufficient volunteer support, Nancy will get "burned out" and not want to do the job anymore and then where would we be? Let's not find out--

Program Committee (Linda Wren): Rosario and Mike Douglas from the Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society will be our speakers for April. In May, Dale Spoonmore from Seed to Spoon will discuss turning your yard into an urban garden. In June, the Association will hear from beekeeper Forrest Chapman about the art and science of maintaining a successful bee colony. The Zoo Tour is still scheduled for 10:00 on Friday, March 23rd. Members who want to attend will meet at the extension at 9:00 to carpool to the Zoo. If the weather cooperates, there will be about 100,000 tulips in bloom so the show should be spectacular. Cost is \$8 and comfortable walking shoes are recommended for the two-hour tour. Scooters will also be available to rent. Linda will send out a group email with all the pertinent details.

Garden Party (Donna Carter): Donna distributed flyers for the Garden Party and gave a description of the classes scheduled so far. These include: Creating Live Plant Garlands with Rosemary and other herbs, Inviting Pollinators to Your Garden, Salsa Gardening in a Pot, and Correct Planting of Succulents. Ongoing demonstrations will include Square Foot Gardening, Creating a Worm Farm, Making a Rain Garden, and Composting. Members were encouraged to distribute flyers for maximum visibility to promote the Garden Party. Helpers are still needed in several areas even though the signup sheets appear almost full. If you are not sure what you might have signed up for, check with Cherry or Donna. This will be a great event and a wonderful time for everybody in the community including kids, families and of course Master Gardeners!

Publicity (Georjana Mauldin): Georjana reported that publicity is running "like a well-oiled machine" to general acclaim. Other than that, no news to report.

Demonstration Garden (Rick Ault): Rick shared that our first workday in the garden had a fair turnout and also some good food! After discussion with Jody it was agreed that we should wait to turn on the water for the Garden until after the last freeze. Garden workdays will be every Tuesday from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm and the garden crew needs all the help it can get. There are only 5 Tuesdays left until the Garden Party and plenty of weeding and cleaning up needs to be done to make the garden look nice for the festivities. Teresa added that bT is back in stock from our retailers. She has ordered a good supply for the greenhouse and will leave information on the back table for any interested parties.



## March Meeting Minutes (cont.)

By Carolyn Paul

Membership (Jeanne Parker): Jeanne reported that the desk duty signup calendar is completely filled through May, but only two spots are filled in for June. If anyone can spare four hours a week or even once a month, it would go a long way toward getting that calendar filled up! Signups can be completed online through the Master Gardeners' website.

Education (Kathy Farley): Kathy is taking another T-shirt order. Design and color will be the same as previously. The order period will last until March 24th, so get yours in while there's still time! Short sleeve Ts will be \$10 and long sleeve Ts will be \$20. There will be six information tables at various locations over the next two months and almost all the volunteer slots are filled in. Thanks to everyone who signed up to volunteer! Two classes are coming up and will be taught by new teachers from the latest class! Rahmona Thompson will do a class at 10:00 am on March 24 in Classroom C called "Grass By Any Other Name" covering a wealth of information about the characteristics of grasses and which types perform well in Oklahoma. Information about these classes is available on the Master Gardener website. Linda Rafferty will hold a class on Kitchen Herb Gardening at the Westside Library on April 15 from 2:00-4:00 pm. Next month she will present a class on hands on Gardening for Children.

Fundraising (Alice Humphrey): Alice reported on the progress of the Flea Market. People donated quite a variety of items including camping gear and all kinds of dishes, cookware and other household items. She reminded members of their upcoming shifts for the remainder of the event.

Hospitality (Cindy Mullens): Cindy gave a big shout out to the people who bring the delicious refreshments for our meetings. Thanks for this month goes to Kathy Farley, Celeste Stonecipher, Sandy Rinehart, Les Brown, Teresa January, Pat Sparks and Sonya Fallgatter.

General News: Kathy Kelley shared information about two events to be held on the OU campus. East Point Academy for Peace will present a public lecture on the power of love to disrupt injustice on March 13 from 7:00-9:00 pm in Gaylord Auditorium (395 W. Lindsey) and will also conduct a workshop March 14 on strategies for social change. The workshop will be from 3:00-5:00 pm in the Zarrow Community Room, 700 Elm. East Point Peace Academy is dedicated to fostering a culture of peace through training and education in the practice of nonviolence and conflict resolution. Flyers are available in the back for people to look at. Georjana announced that the Norman Quilt Guild will be having a day of sewing and quilting demonstrations at the Norman Library called "This IS Your Grandmother's Quilt" and invited everyone to stop by. The event will take place on Saturday, March 10 from 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Nancy Logan reminded members that new Directories are available and also that several people need to pay their dues! Laura reminded everyone that we have more nitrile gardening gloves for sale. They are strong, light and flexible. Buy some! Discussion was concluded and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, *Carolyn Paul*



## Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of February 25, is \$17,260.18. Income includes \$280 Dues 2018; \$1,090 Flea Market Sales; \$55 Gloves Sold; \$5 Garden Key Replaced; \$2 Nametag Jar and \$100 Donation for Total Income of \$1,532.00. Expense includes \$921.96 Greenhouse Supplies; \$105.68 Quilt Raffle Materials; \$192.70 Demo Garden; \$194.14 Directories Printed and \$90 Flea Market Booth Rental for Total Expense of \$1,504.48. Balance at March 25, 2018 is \$17,287.70, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \$10,464.25, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$6,823.45. Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



Spring symbolizes renewal and new beginnings, and for gardeners an opportunity to beautify our landscapes. Spring brings a blank canvas that you can beautify with a fresh palette of colors. For flower lovers, two of the best floral varieties for your yard are irises and daylilies.

Irises, with their colors and gray-green foliage, can certainly put on a colorful show in our spring gardens! They are hardy, long-lived perennials that are easy to grow, need a minimum of care, and tolerate a variety of conditions. Producing graceful flowers in a wide range of shapes, sizes and colors, they are a superb addition to bring color to your garden.

There are four types of irises – beardless, crested, bulb, and the most common type here in Oklahoma, the bearded iris. The bearded iris has 6 petals, 3 upright and 3 that hang down; they also have a fuzzy line, the beard, which runs down the middle of the lower petals.



The bearded iris is extremely hardy, living through severe droughts and frigid temperatures, and they are ideal for the beginning gardener. Their sword-shaped leaves are evergreen in warm climates, and here in Oklahoma, the leaves do stay green all winter. Most iris plants grow 2-3 feet tall and they usually bloom in the May-June timeframe. Some varieties bloom again in the fall. Colors available are endless, and new varieties are introduced each year, so you have many choices.

Another type of iris that is also popular here is the Siberian iris. Hardy as oaks, Siberian irises form very handsome clumps of grass-like foliage with a host of blooms rising on elegantly thin stems. The flowers are smaller than the Bearded iris blooms, but once they're gone, the foliage of this group remains a highlight in the garden all season long, as decorative as almost any ornamental grass. Siberian iris' hardiness and longevity are also big plusses. Once established, they will grace a garden for generations. Common colors include classic blue, purple and yellow flowers from this elegant group. They can be planted in spring or fall.

Irises do not grow from bulbs, but from thick roots called rhizomes, which grow slightly below the surface of the ground. Although they prefer full sun, they will also tolerate part shade conditions, as long as they get some sunshine each day. They can be planted in triangles, clumps or borders, alone or with other flowers; in fact, they make a great background for lower-growing plants and flowers.

The best time to plant irises is late summer or early fall, but they can be transplanted, divided or moved at any time, as long as they are not in bloom. Before replanting, it is a good idea to cut leaves into a fan shape to about one third of their full height. One benefit is that rhizomes planted this year should bloom next spring, so you won't have to wait to long for those lovely blooms. However, it is a good idea to mulch your plants the first season after planting. Apply a light mulch of straw, leaves or evergreens after the first freeze and the weather turns cold. After the first year, your plants should do just fine without mulch.



## Garden Guru (cont.)

Daylilies are also very easy to grow, and among the most beautiful flowers to grace our Oklahoma yards. Since they bloom later than irises, they offer an opportunity for continuous color in your garden, and many will continue to produce a magnificent show in our gardens all summer long. They would make a great addition to any yard for color and beauty.



Daylilies originate from underground bulbs and produce large, showy blooms that come in a rainbow of colors. They are perennials and are named for the fact that each individual flower generally only blooms for one day. Of course, there are exceptions to this! Daylilies are versatile and durable, and they offer gardeners a wide variety of heights, flower forms, and interesting foliage. They prefer an organic, well-drained soil and grow best in full sun, but they will tolerate light shade. Mulching is a good idea, since it keeps the soil cooler, conserves moisture and keeps down those pesky and unsightly weeds. Bulbs may also be grown as pot plants; in the garden, they have a variety of uses – as foundation plantings, as borders, in front of shrubs, or in groups for a mass of color. They are ideal plants for the beginning or experienced gardener.

The daylily varies in height from 6 inches to 6 feet, and many varieties are available at local nurseries or garden centers. If you select varieties that bloom at different times, you can have flowers through the summer, and the colors are glorious – red, pink, orange, yellow, purple, cream and every shade in between. You should plant your tubers just below the surface of the soil, preferably now and also in late summer, but they may be planted at almost any time of the year. Ideal spacing is 18 to 24 inches apart, but this also depends on the variety and size of the mature plant, so be sure to look at the planting directions on the package. Apply a light ring of fertilizer around each plant 3 or 4 times during the growing season. During bloom time you may also want to add bone meal, using no more than 3 pounds for a 5 x 10 foot area. Mix it thoroughly into the soil for an added source of nitrogen to promote plant growth for the next year.

A favorite daylily that is drought-tolerant and resistant to pests is the Stella de Oro daylily, which can be as small as 8 inches high or as tall as 5 feet. The bright-yellow blooms vary in diameter from 2 to 8 inches, and they are wonderful as border plants in a perennial garden bed. There are many other varieties available at your local garden center, and the sky is the limit on your choices of colors!

Consider planting both irises and daylilies in your landscape this spring to beautify your yard for the coming months. These two beautiful perennials are easy to grow, do well in Oklahoma, and they will return to beautify your landscape year after year! Paint your spring with color – plant irises and daylilies!





## Balsamic-Browned Butter Asparagus

Master Cook

### Ingredients

2 pounds fresh asparagus  
1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil -  
or olive oil flavored cooking spray  
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/8 teaspoon cracked black pepper  
2 tablespoons butter  
2 teaspoons soy sauce  
1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar

Snap off and discard tough ends of asparagus.

Arrange asparagus evenly on a lightly greased 15 X 10 inch jelly-roll pan. Drizzle with olive oil (or coat with cooking spray) and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Toss to coat. Bake asparagus at 400 F. for 15 minutes or just until tender.

Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, 4 minutes or until butter is lightly browned and has a nutty aroma. Remove from heat; stir in soy sauce and balsamic vinegar. Drizzle over asparagus, tossing to coat. Serve immediately.

Source: "Southern Living magazine", Copyright 2005

Per Serving (excluding unknown items):  
108 Calories; 8g Fat (57.3% calories from fat); 4g Protein; 9g Carbohydrate; 4g Dietary Fiber; 12mg Cholesterol; 282mg Sodium. Exchanges: 0 Grain (Starch); 1 1/2 Vegetable; 0 Fruit; 1 1/2 Fat.

Serves 5



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](mailto:rdsefd@aol.com).



## Upcoming Events

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**April 13, 10 AM:** CCMGA Meeting, Classroom.

**April 14:** Cleveland County Master Gardeners' Garden Party and Plant Sale, CCMGA Demonstration Garden.

**April 15, 2 PM:** "Kitchen Herbs" by Barbara Raffety, Norman Westside Library

**April 19-21 and April 27-28:** OSU-OKC Spring Plant Sale, Weekdays, 10 AM—3 PM, Saturdays, 8 AM—1 PM

**April 21, 10 AM – noon:** Earth Day Celebration. Great Lawn at Myriad Botanical Gardens

**April 28, 10 – 11 AM:** Gardens Walking Tour. Myriad Gardens, 301 W. Reno, OKC, meet in S. Lobby.

**April 28, 9 AM – 1 PM:** Oklahoma Gardeners' Association Annual Plant Sale: Urban Mission, 3737 N. Portland, Oklahoma City

**April 28, 11 AM to Noon:** How to Start Growing Food. Commonwealth Urban Farms of OKC, 3310 N. Ollie, Oklahoma City

**May 5, 9 AM – 4 PM:** **OKC Garden Fest.** Myriad Botanical Gardens, 301 W. Reno, OKC.

**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 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

**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.. Free admission and hourly drawings for prizes. More information: 405-737-1831 or [catibud@cox.net](mailto:catibud@cox.net). Thousands of succulents for sale. Also pottery, books, potting soil & other items. Members will be available to answer your questions.

Our greenhouse is ready for the big sale at the Garden Party April 14! Way to go, Greenhouse Committee!



## 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).