

## The Weeder's Digest

# All About Drip Irrigation



At our March meeting long-time CCMGA member Jim McDaniel presented how to do drip irrigation in your garden either using the existing sprinkler system or just connecting to your garden faucet. This presentation was also posted as a YouTube video on our website and you can access the entire video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVQ4irkz3uE> Many thanks to Lois Cox for creating the video

and posting it!

## A Note From The Editor

*by Elaine Dockray*

Hello Master Gardeners, I hope you and your loved ones are all well. As we continue to publish our "Weeder's Digest" newsletters during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to note that policies and guidance are quickly evolving. While we will strive to ensure that the information published is up-to-date, it is important to watch your emails for changes to policies as they occur. Stay safe and hope to see you soon.

*Elaine*

**The State MG Conference is postponed** until June 2021. This was a difficult decision, but necessary to reduce any risks. Even with an all clear in several weeks, there will still be some risk, and the possibility of the virus spiking again before we have solid solutions to treat or cure it.

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Thank you to Courtney and all the Master Gardeners for working together to accomplish our mission in new and creative ways during these uncertain times. We are striving to continue services in a manner that reflects our members' health and safety as our utmost priority.

The OSU Extension Center has cancelled all activities through April 30, 2020. Lois, Judy and Courtney will be keeping us updated through our website, Facebook page and emails.

Courtney is considering creative ways for members to get education and service hours during this time. If you are aware of resources that may be of benefit to our members, please continue to provide that information to Courtney and she will email that information to all of our members.

*Joan*



## About Being a Master Gardener! *By Courtney DeKalb-Myers*

CCMGA, and all OSU Extension Master Gardener programs, are volunteer and service based organizations. While there is not a paycheck for being a Master Gardener, I hope that you find fulfillment in many aspects of the program. This is a kind reminder that you cannot conduct commercial activity with the Master Gardener title. Do not include the Master Gardener title when promoting your place of business. Do not endorse businesses or products when working in a Master Gardener capacity. This activity is considered improper as an OSU Extension Master Gardener. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. – *Courtney*

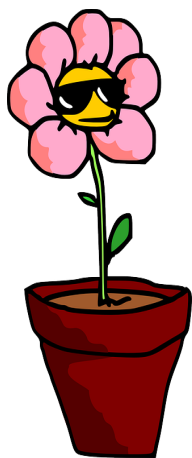


It has come to the point where we must cancel all work in the demo garden. We've received communication from our Stillwater administration that states Extension Volunteers should cease all Extension activities that require them to leave their homes. When we inquired about demo garden work, we were specifically told that all MG demo garden work must be cancelled. This is the case for all MG groups across the state. I know this will be very hard for our group, but we must do as we are directed from the administration. It is truly in our best interest to stay home and be safe.

I greatly appreciate the coordination of the executive committee to work through the new demo garden shift strategy. I also very much appreciate the volunteers who cooperated with the guidelines last week. CCMGA is a passionate group and I enjoy working with you all. The gardens will still be there for us when we return!

In the meantime, we are working on some virtual activities. Stay tuned for more updates.

## Garden Party and Plant Sale Postponed



The Cleveland County Master Gardener Association will delay its April 18, 2020, Garden Party at the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden located at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds. At present, Master Gardeners plan to hold their well-attended annual Garden Party in the Fall of 2020. Stay tuned for further information about the Fall date, children's activities, and gardening demonstrations by checking the Cleveland County Master Gardener Association's Facebook page and website ([www.clevelandcountymastergardeners.org](http://www.clevelandcountymastergardeners.org)).

### **Member Only Appointment-Based Plant Sale**

Nancy and the greenhouse committee worked all day Tuesday and Wednesday so CCMGA members could participate in the plant sale. I heard a lot of positive remarks from people, saying things like "This will be the only place I have to go for plants!". We had a couple hic-cups with some people not wearing face masks, but no major issues. The sale itself was also very successful! The numbers were:

- \$ 6,724 total sales

- ( 1,803) supplies and credit card feeds

- \$ 4,921 net profit

- ( 492) reserve for greenhouse repairs

- \$ 4,429 Adjust Net Profit (last year's net profit was \$ 5,317, only \$888 more)

All I have to say about this is WOOHOO!! Thank you Nancy and greenhouse committee! Thank you to the members who showed up and bought plants! You guys are awesome and I'm thankful we were able to execute the plant sale last week.

### **Greenhouse and the Remaining Plants**

The sales made enough of a dent that all remaining plants are on benches and under the automatic sprinklers. Nancy and I will continue to check on the greenhouse for right now. After this cold snap, we are going to explore the option of an ordering and delivery system. We hope that this will give members who were uncomfortable with coming out for an appointment the opportunity to purchase plants. We will provide updates as we get more concrete plans.

### **Demo Garden**

As I'm sure you're already aware, all activities that require volunteers to leave their homes are suspended, which includes working in the demo garden. This is a direct communication from our administration. Here is an update from Kathi Farley, Demo Garden Coordinator: "Demo garden shut down until further notice. When we return it may have to be on a limited basis as the powers that be allow slow integration back into the work place. Be on the look-out for an email detailing what that will look like. It may be scheduling on the team-up app or something else. We should be able to do more than one workday a week especially if we are spread out. I know it will be like starting over on cleanup, but won't that be fun after being cooped up!"

### **Monthly Meetings**

We have heard back from Justin at the YMCA. He is willing to try something digital, but we're still working out the details. We want him to be comfortable with whatever format he wishes to present in. I can say with some confidence that our May meeting will have to be digitalized as well. We will continue to work through these challenges and bring our members education opportunities.

## CCMGA Updates (continued)

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### Other Education Events

I sent an email out last week with a cancellation of the State Master Gardener Conference in June. It's my understanding that it will be in Bartlesville with the same programs in 2021. I will be moving the MG Advanced Class to a Zoom. This was originally scheduled for May 12th. I've read some research that says people do not like to sit on Zoom for more than an hour, so I'm considering breaking it up into two sessions. I'll also record it for those who are uncomfortable with using Zoom. The Multi-County Learning Lab is scheduled for May 21st. We have not made the decision to cancel this yet. If a decision is made, I will communicate to you all as soon as I know. I'm kind of holding off with the hopes that things will have calmed down by then. Optimistic? Maybe, but we'll see!

### Service Hours

We have received approval from the state to pro-rate service hours as we see necessary. There are plenty of things to worry about right now and getting service hours should not be one of those things. We are also determined to not lose members because they were unable to get service hours during these difficult times. I am proposing the following strategy:

The bulk of service hours are accrued from when the demo garden opens up (beginning of March) to Harvest Feast (beginning of November). That is roughly 35 weeks of the year. For however many weeks the office is closed, we will take that percentage and use that as the pro-rate for service hours. For example, the office has been closed for 4 weeks.  $4/35$  is ~12%. 12% of 20 is ~2.5, so if we were to open next week, then only 17.5 service hours will be required of our members. If that's confusing, let me know. Math is not strength.

### Virtual Garden Tours

While I by no means want to pressure members to get hours during this time, I am working on the virtual garden tours. If you're on the Facebook chat, you've seen the one I did as an example. Lois was awesome and also made one! I hope to create instructions on how to do this by the end of next week. Members can receive service hours for creating one and education hours for watching one. I think it also gives us an opportunity to stay connected during this time of social distancing.

### Education Hours

We cannot prorate the number of education hours, but we can lift the restriction how many hours can be received from television, books, etc. Unless there are strong opinions against this, I would like to go ahead and lift this restriction. Again, we do not want to lose members because they were unable to get hours during these times.

### Wrap-up

I think those are all the updates we have! I appreciate you all very much. If you had told me a month ago that this is where we'd be, I would not have believed you. Things are changing daily and we must roll with the punches. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out. If you feel that I have missed an area that needs updating, let me know!



## March Meeting Minutes

*By Marilyn Solomon*

President Joan Barker called the meeting to order, requested that everyone silence their phones, and led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Nancy Logan) Balance as of January 25, 2020--\$21,559.82. Income was \$521.00 and expenses totaled \$547.19 leaving a cash balance of \$21,543.63 with \$591 reserved for Greenhouse Repairs. Proposed budget not yet reimbursed \$9,160.63 leaving funds of \$11,792.00. The full report in the newsletter stands as printed. The Executive Board recommended approval of the Demo Garden Budget of \$7,905.00 which will leave a balance in the treasury of \$3,887.00. The members approved the recommendation.

**Greenhouse** (Nancy Logan) The greenhouse is overflowing, and we are running out of room. Because of Covid-19 virus we are being flexible with greenhouse work and taking precautions. We may have to postpone the plant sale and/or place plants outside to protect people. There will be a meeting on March 30 to decide.

**Program Committee Report:** (JoAnn Dysart/Jeannie Kline)

March--Jim McDaniel will speak on Drip Irrigation next.

April—Gardener Fitness

May-Rahmona Thompson-Dead White Guys and Botanical Names

June-Adam Sarmiento-Eco Gardening Nuts & Bolts

July-David Hillock-Shrubs

August-Tim Vermillion-Trees (feedback requested from members)

October-Jeanne Parker-Pet Friendly Gardens (feedback requested from members)

January-Rick Ault-Scandinavian garden tour

Working on a tour of the Myriad Gardens

Terry Hull requested Norman residents to email Rick Forester about the Norman Dangerous Tree ordinance.

**Special Events:** (Terry Hull/Vada Edwards) The Garden Party and Plant sale are a go but will probably be delayed because of Covid-19.

**Special Projects:** (Julie Johnson/Phyllis Blackwell) No report

**Public Relations:** (Judy Kautz) She thanked people for submitting newsletter info such as photos and encouraged them to continue doing so. She is monitoring the number of people looking at the Garden Party poster on-line, and so far, 30,000 have looked. She also mentioned the party in her Norman Transcript article.

**Newsletter:** (Elaine Dockray) No report. Newsletter items must be submitted before the 25th of each month.

**Demo Garden Committee:** (Kathi Farley) The student bed partnering program is working well. The students only contact the "Bed Head" if they are coming to the garden on a workday. Beds are full of Henbit. There will be rain the next few days so next Tuesday workday will probably be cancelled. Joan and Kathi are cleaning the shed on Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

**Education:** (Linda Fielder) On March 28 Valerie will be at Marcum's from 10-2 and needs 2 more people. Fred will speak on Native Plants at the Norman Central Library on April 4 at 10:00 a.m. Other programs scheduled are:

Mar 24- Information table Home Depot

Mar 28- Mariah Menzie: Bees

Apr 19-Info Table Reeves Park (Earth Day)

May 23- Lori Coats: Herbs

June 20-Molly Monaghan: Mosaic Stones

July 18-Rahmona Thompson: Sex in the Flower Bed

Aug 22- Sandy Schwinn: Backyard Monarch Way Stations

Sep—No Speakers

Oct 23-Carolyn McCabe: Orchids

We will possibly have info table at the Farmer's Market





## March Meeting Minutes (continued)

**Membership:** (Rahmona Thompson) There are now 116 members of CCMGA.

**Fundraising:** (Molly Monaghan/Brenda Williams) We will have a Master-Gardeners-only raffle in which Courtney will donate 4 hours of her expertise in the raffle-winners garden. Tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and will be sold March and April with the drawing at the May meeting.

**Hospitality:** (Cindy Mullens/Patty Hayes) They thanked Courtney for being proactive in planning the meeting. Cindy thanked the following people for refreshments today: Nancy Logan, Thressa Guidice, Kathy Whittle, Julie Johnson, and Evan Taylor

**Member Home Tours:** (Barbara Rafferty) No report.

**Old Business:** Cathy Bowden thanked everyone for their continued support of the Styrofoam project. They have reached a goal of 500 bags.

**New Business:** Tomoko Yoshida said that this year is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and maybe people who participated in the first-year activities could be interviewed by a newspaper reporter. There is a permaculture workshop now through October. Fred Schneider said that he learned Bill Ferris, owner of Prairie Winds Nursery, will no longer be selling wholesale but will operate a nursery and be at the Norman Farmer's Market. Marilyn Stewart will have native plants at the Farmer's Market and has an on-line catalog at Wild Things Nursery. Rahmona works with the Native Plant Society and will speak at OSU/OKC on April 2 at 7:00 p.m. about her trip to Bamberg. She is on the Color Oklahoma Board that uses money raised for seeds for public land. One can join their Facebook by invitation and can say their favorite native plant is Indian Paintbrush or Indian Blanket.

Sam Graefe is on the Cleveland County Conservation District Board and they have an urban and suburban outreach to identify people with land needs—NCRS.

**Courtney's Comments:** She bought a new microphone for CCMGA. She urged common sense to deal with Covid-19. The 2020 Master Gardener class is open.

**President's Comments:** (Joan Barker) Our next meeting will be on Good Friday

**Dates to remember:**

April 18—Spring Garden Party/Plant Sale

April 19—Earth Day Festival

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, *Marilyn Solomon*



## Treasurer's Report

*By Nancy Logan*

Beginning balance as of February 25, 2019 is \$21,543.63. Income includes \$60 2020 Dues for Total Income of \$60.00. Expenses were \$404.95 Greenhouse Supplies; \$1353 Plant Label Stands; \$57.99 Donation Boxes and \$308.85 Member Directories for Total Expenses of \$2,124.79. Balance at March 25, 2020 is \$19,478.84, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \$14,933.84 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$591, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$3,954.00.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



## IHOP Hot Cakes

Gloria Pitzer

### Ingredients

- 2 Cups 7-UP
- 2 Medium size eggs
- 3 Cups Biscuit Mix

Blend all ingredients until smooth. Let batter stand 10 minutes before using. Allow  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup batter for each 5 inch round pancake.

For a heavier pancake, add  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup more biscuit mix to the batter.

Notes: These taste just like restaurant pancakes! The original recipe called for putting the ingredients in the order listed into a blender and blending on high speed for 1 minute until smooth, but I just use a wire whisk and get a wonderful result!

Serves 5

## Easy No-Bake Peanut Butter Bars

by Judy Kautz

### Ingredients

- 1 cup salted butter (melted)
- 2 cups Keebler graham cracker crumbs
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup brown sugar
- $1\frac{3}{4}$  cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup peanut butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. vanilla
- 1 (11 oz) bag milk chocolate chips

Combine all ingredients, except chocolate chips in a medium sized bowl. Stir until the mixture is smooth and creamy. Pour peanut butter mixture into a 9x13 pan. Melt chocolate chips in the microwave (at 50% power) for 1-2

minutes. Stir chocolate and pour over the peanut butter mixture. Spread chocolate with a spatula. To even out chocolate, tap pan on the counter. Refrigerate bars for one hour. Cut while bars are still cool. Enjoy!







### Lemon Mixed Berry Muffins

by *Evan Taylor*

#### Ingredients

##### Muffins:

3 cups (426g) unbleached all-purpose flour  
1 tablespoon baking flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon table salt  
10 tablespoons (140g) unsalted butter, softened  
1 cup (173g) granulated sugar, less one tbsp  
1 teaspoon grated lemon zest  
2 large eggs  
1 1/2 cups (340g) plain yogurt  
1 1/2 cups mixed frozen berries  
1 tablespoon (9 g) unbleached all-purpose flour

##### Topping:

4 tablespoons (56g) butter  
1/2 cup (92g) granulated sugar  
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon

1. Prepare your muffin tins by spraying with oil and dusting with flour. You will need more than one 12-muffin tin if your tin is standard size.

2. Adjust oven rack to lower middle position and heat oven to 375 degrees.

3. Mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in medium bowl and set aside.

4. Take out frozen fruit and cut up larger fruit (i.e. strawberries) into thumb sized pieces. Let sit.

5. Beat butter and sugar in stand mixer until light and fluffy (~2 minutes). Add lemon zest to sugar-butter mixture. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in 1/2 of dry ingredients. Beat in 1/3 of yogurt. Beat in remaining dry ingredients in two batches, alternating with yogurt, until

incorporated. Remove the bowl from the mixer and toss in frozen fruit and fold until combined. The dough may be quite stiff so use your muscles.

6. With an ice cream scoop, divide the batter evenly into the muffin tins. Bake until muffins are golden brown - about 25-30 minutes. Set on wire rack to cool slightly (5 minutes).

7. Meanwhile, melt butter in microwave in small bowl. Place sugar and cinnamon in another small bowl. Remove the muffins while they are still hot from the tins and dip their tops into the butter and then into the sugar/cinnamon mixture. Serve warm.

Makes 18 regular sized muffins or 12 large muffins.

This recipe was requested at the March meeting.

**Notes:** This is my variation on the Cook's Illustrated recipe Lemon Blueberry Muffins. I like the flavor of strawberries and raspberries in addition to the blueberries. I also used a regular 12-muffin tin and a 6-muffin tin and rotated the pans half way through the baking process. Also, if you are blueberry muffin fan then ask me about the Blueberry Swirl recipe from the same source - it uses a homemade blueberry jam which makes the muffins burst with berry flavor.

## Upcoming Events

The "Upcoming Events" section of the newsletter will be temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Gardening events have either been cancelled or are being rescheduled for later in the year. As events are rescheduled, we will resume publishing "Upcoming Events" in the newsletter.



### Photo Booth

Cindy Mullins and Patty Hayes sent the photo (right) with these comments: Our CCMGA volunteers always offer up an array of tasty treats for our monthly meetings including this expertly decorated, entirely edible cake — even the rocks - made by Rick Ault's wife, Kathy Ault. Also, below is a photo of the layout of the meeting room location change due to the Coronavirus.



## MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Oklahoma State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, State and Local Governments Co-operating. 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.

The CCMGA newsletter is published as an educational service by the Cleveland County Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, 601 East Robinson, Norman, OK 73071-6616  
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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](mailto:rdsefd@aol.com)

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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).