

Abbey Moore Identifies Plants

CCMGA members welcomed Abby Moore to our July meeting, where she spoke on identifying plants. Abby brought several sample of plants and challenged attendees to identify the parts of the flowers, leaves and stems.



We all learned a great deal about all the stamens, petals, etc.

At the August meeting... by Linda Wren

Speaking in August will be Forest Chapman, owner of Bullfrog Creek Apiary. He has been a beekeeper for several years focusing on naturally keeping honeybees without using harsh commercial chemicals. He is the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Oklahoma State Beekeepers Association, and is the first Certified Naturally Grown Beekeeper in the state. He is also the founder of Sustainable Beekeepers Guild which is a group of beekeepers that focus on providing alternative methods to raise honeybees in the most sustainable ways possible. Come for snacks at 9:30 am with the meeting beginning at 10:00 am.

Don't miss the Cleveland County Fair Sep 7-8. We can also use your help with receiving plants for judging, etc. If you want to help, contact Pres Laura Eckstein!

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President's Posting

By Laura Eckstein

Hello Master Gardeners,

What a busy month this has been! With the highest heat we have experienced in a long time, we continue to get out in the garden and it continues to look beautiful. The wall on the west side of the garden is complete. Tuesday some of us were out there putting things back where they belong. We are back in business.

I want to thank the people who have been coming out to the garden on Saturday mornings to lead the tours. The number of people visiting the garden continues to be very good, in spite of the heat. I have enough volunteers for the August tours. We will need 2 or 3 people for each shift on Sept 7 and 8. During the fair we will have the garden open from 9 to 3, so we will have shifts from 9-12 and 12-3.

Judy Kautz and I will be going to Stillwater on August 26 to present our scholarship. We will take pictures and put them in the newsletter for all to see.

Thank you to Cindy Mullens and Patty Hayes for the great job they did organizing the new student luncheon. We got to meet and greet the new class and provide them with delicious food and beautiful flower arrangements that they took home. Once again Linda Wren and Brenda Williams made beautiful flower arrangements which were raffled off. The garden was open to members of the new class and Jim McDaniel conducted tours for 22 people.

The classroom was packed with 65 people for the class on smudging. Brittany Jordan gave a wonderful presentation. She brought in many different herbs and participants got to make their own smudging sticks.

Try to keep cool and I hope to see all of you at our next meeting which is August 10th.

Laura Eckstein



Education Update

By Kathi Farley

October 13, 10 AM, Classroom C "Composting...It's Dirt!" By Cathy Bowden

November 3 10 AM, Classroom C "Lasagna Style Bulb Planting" by Georjana Mauldin.



Fall Home Garden Tour

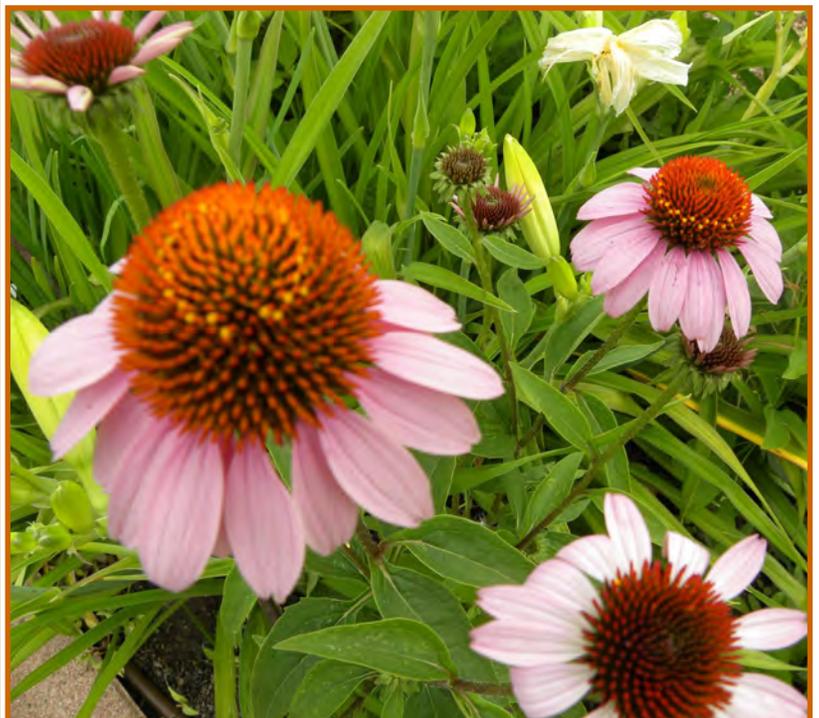
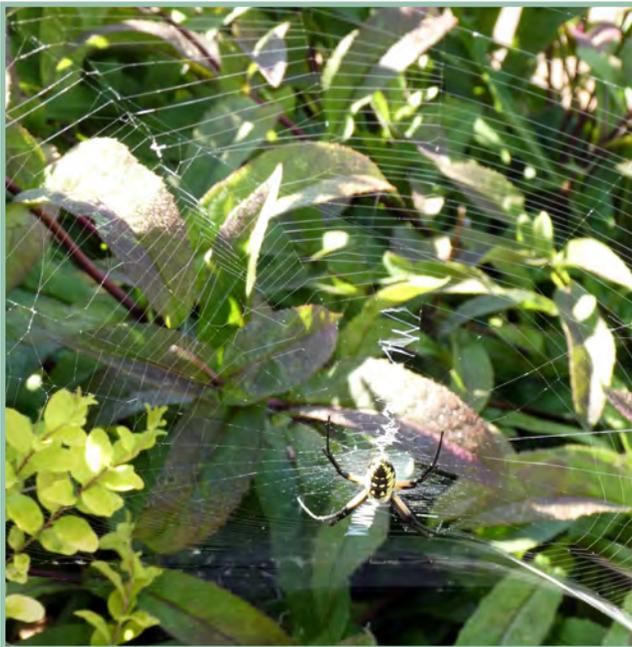
By Terry Hull

The CCMGA Fall Home Garden Tour will be on Thursday, October 4, 2018. In the event of inclement weather, the Tour will be on Thursday, October 11, 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 member-wide e-mail with agenda (times, descriptions, locations, driving directions) will be sent out about two weeks before October 4.



What a great example of a Golden Orb spider we found in the garden last Tuesday! Check out the photos below.

It was terrific to be able to move our hardscape from the greenhouse back to the beds. The gardens are ready for our fair visitors.





Our speaker today was Abby Moore, OU Botany professor and curator of the Bebb Herbarium. She gave an entertaining and informative presentation on plant habitat and identification.

After a short break members proceeded to the business portion of the meeting.

President Laura Eckstein led us in reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes from last month were approved by all present. Judy Kautz brought members up to date on her column in the Norman Transcript, as well as in their supplement, "Buying and Living". Laura asked for volunteers to help with the Garden tours in August and also with the upcoming Fair in September. A clipboard was circulated for members to sign up. The new boundary wall on the west side of the Garden was scheduled to be finished within two weeks but now it turns out it will take longer to complete. Hopefully it will be finished before the Fair begins. Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Master Gardener class, which begins on August 3. We need mentors/lunch companions and also alternate teaching assistants. Jeanne Parker brought up the benefits of the mentor program, which include greater success for the class and helping new class members stay more involved with the program after graduation. The first luncheon for the new class will be August 3rd, the beginning day of class.

Treasurer Report (Nancy Logan):--Our cash balance as of June 25 was \$22,383.00. Funds in excess of budget were \$15,685.21. A full budget report can be obtained from Nancy.

Greenhouse: (Nancy Logan) We are planning to start running two crews in the greenhouse. This will mean more opportunities for members to volunteer and also better coverage for the greenhouse during the winter months. Our winter season will begin at the end of October with a cleanup day. Planting will begin in November when we start perennials for our spring plant sale. We need volunteers for the watering committee and also people to come in and check the heaters daily. Plant sales are our biggest fundraiser so we need all hands on deck for this project. Interested members can contact Nancy or other members of the greenhouse committee.

Program Committee (Linda Wren): Linda was absent and there was no Program news to report.

Garden Party (Donna Carter): This year's Harvest Feast will be early in November. Terri Hull is coordinating the event and we will keep members advised as plans develop.

Special Projects (Julie Johnson): No news to report.

Public Relations (Georjana Mauldin): We need to establish a contact with the Daily Oklahoman. We want to start publishing a list of our classes in the paper, but the contact person for that is on vacation right now. Georjana will get in touch with them when they return. Upcoming classes are being published in the Norman Transcript, so we are getting some publicity locally.

Demonstration Garden (Rick Ault): The garden is looking really good. All the plants are in full flower and the fence project is moving along. Tomoko Yoshida is giving up her Tropical Bed. We have a volunteer for half of it, but the other half is still available. Interested people can see Rick. Cathy Bowden needs help on her Rose Garden bed. There's not a lot of work to be done just now, so a volunteer can ease into the job. Also, a volunteer is needed for the Worm Bed. Anyone interested can see Pat Welty any Tuesday morning in the Garden.

Membership: (Jeanne Parker) More volunteers are needed to serve as mentors for the incoming class. Being a mentor and/or lunch companion for people in the new class gives them an opportunity to ask questions and enjoy getting to know members in a social setting. Signup sheets are available today or talk to Jeanne.



July Meeting Minutes (cont.)

By Carolyn Paul

Education: (Kathi Farley) Dale Spoonmore will hold a class on Smart Pots in Classroom C at 10:00 am tomorrow. Sample Smart Pots in a variety of sizes will be on display. Brittany Jordan will hold a Smudging class in Classroom C on August 4 at 10:00 am. Kathi has a new assistant, Fern Garafolo. She will be shadowing Kathi to learn the ropes.

Fundraising: (Alice Humphrey) There was nothing to report at this time.

Hospitality (Cindy Mullens):--We had a very nice selection of refreshments today, thanks to Jackie Engleman, Marilyn Solomon, Linda Fielder, Linda Reed, Alice Humphrey, Fred Schneider, Terri Hull, Judy Kautz, and Pat Arthur. Also thanks to Kay Holder for the lovely flowers. The new student picnic will be at 11:30 am on August 3 in the Extension Dining Room. All food will need to be ready by 10:30. Cathy Bowden is in charge of table decorations. She needs colorful flowers and herbs that will root, like basil and coleus. Teresa January shared that she will be taking produce to Food and Shelter for Friends this Tuesday, so if you have any surplus produce to donate, bring it to the Garden on Tuesday morning.

Old/New Business:--Judy Kautz has returned from Japan and will do a newsletter article on highlights of her trip. The Member Profiles feature for the newsletter is still getting off the ground. Judy will try to find members who are willing to be interviewed for Profile articles. If you are interested, please see Judy. The newsletter also needs more pictures for the photo corner. Recipes are still being accepted for the upcoming cookbook. Dig through your recipes and send some good ones in--just not the same ones you sent last time, please. Our tentative deadline for recipe submission is the end of August. Judy will take the reins as President in January. At that time we will need committee chairs and a slate of officers. Continuity folders will be developed to orient new committee chairs. Laura stressed the importance of the committees and urged members to consider serving. Volunteers are also needed for the Saturday morning Garden tours. An email will be sent out and there is also a signup sheet in circulation. There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned by President Laura Eckstein.

Respectfully submitted, *Carolyn Paul*



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of June 25, is \$22,383.00. Income includes \$50 Gloves Sold; \$40 New Class Picnic Donation; \$2 Nametag Jar; \$23 Donated Plants and \$20 2018 Dues for Total Income of \$135.00. Expense includes \$717.91 Demo Garden; \$30.00 Speaker Honorarium; \$1,000 OSU Scholarship and \$45.23 2018 Greenhouse Seeds for Total Expense of \$1,793.14. Balance at July 25, 2018 is \$20,724.86, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \$4,904.65, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$15,820.21.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*

In my home garden on May 30th to my delight and surprise I saw a huge monarch caterpillar munching on a tropical milkweed plant. The surprise was that this plant was purchased on April 14th from Prairie Wind Nursery. It bloomed right away, in full sun, to my delight.

Jackie Lambert, butterfly enthusiast and former CCMGA member, told me many times that tropical milkweed brought in more monarchs than any other milkweed plant. Since I've tried to grow many different kinds of milkweed without any luck, I ask myself why – when tropical milkweed is very easy to grow.



Have you recently seen any monarch caterpillars in your yard? If so, let me know approximate date and what plant they were munching on. Since April was so cool this year, I doubt if any of us had them then.

Did you know the monarch egg is $\frac{3}{64}$ " high and $\frac{9}{256}$ " wide (1.2 X 0.9 mm) or about the size of a pinhead? The color of this very small egg is bright yellow/orange and very hard to see. The monarch caterpillar grows to 2" (51 mm). It is off white with black-yellow stripes and has 2 most distinguishing features – the one pair of fine black filaments that extend from the front and rear. It is easy to see because of its bigger size.

Scientists have discovered that monarchs have a brain. They do NOT depend only on instinct for life and migration. Wow, can you believe this small insect has a brain?

I'm sure you have heard of the staggering decline in the number of monarchs. Some say a 90% loss in the last 20 years, but the math shows the loss to be 94%. In 1995, there were one billion monarchs. In 2015, there were 56 million or 6% of the numbers from 1995.

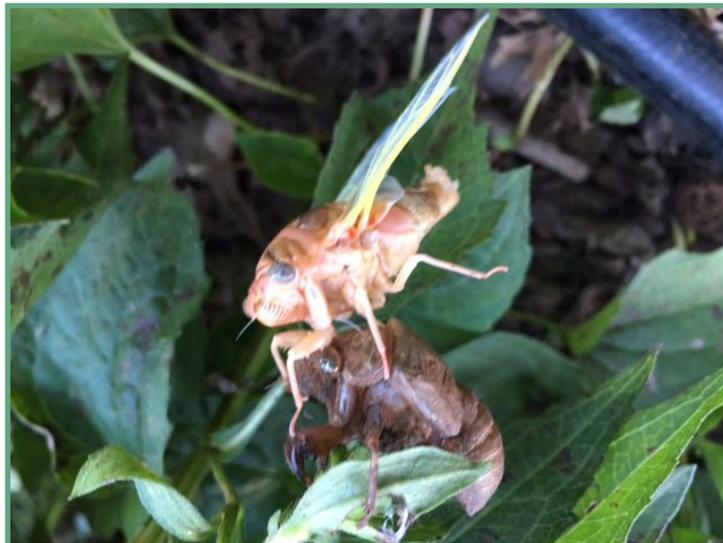
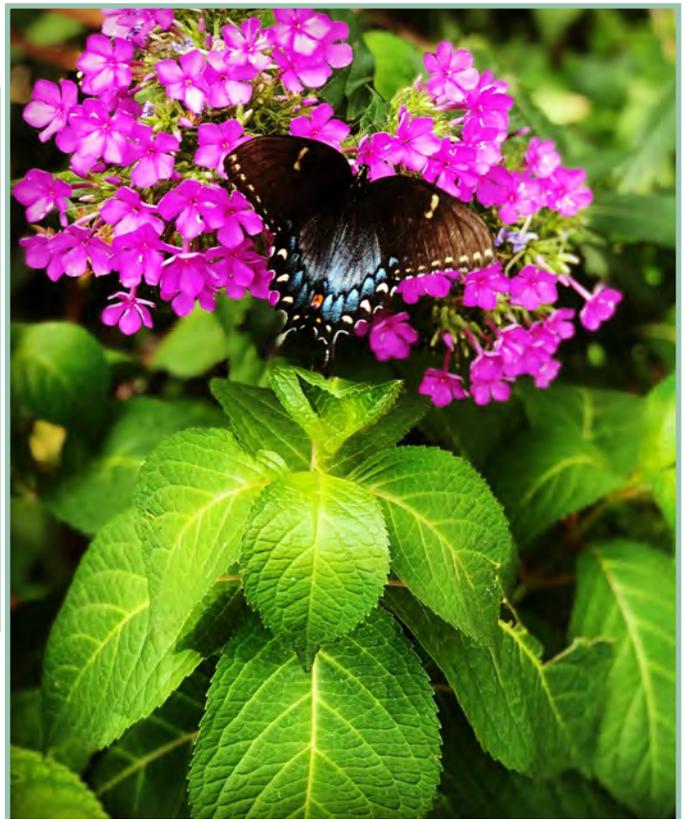
In 1992, Chip Taylor, entomology professor from Kansas University, began the Monarch Watch and started the Monarch Waystation in 2005. In 2008, CCMGA registered for a monarch waystation. At one time, there were over 9,000 registered monarch waystations worldwide. Chip Taylor says we need 9 million monarch waystations to bring back the monarch population. Today there are 7 gardens registered as waystations in Norman (see attached).

What is a monarch waystation? Chip Taylor explained it this way – just as we travel we need gas stations and restaurants along the way – well, so do the monarchs as they migrate or travel.

My fellow Master Gardeners, the monarchs need our help. Plant some easy to grow tropical milkweed, some nectar plants that bloom at different times of the season, and why not register your garden as a monarch waystation. It is said that it takes a village to raise a child, but it also takes all of us to raise a monarch.



Above and right, Pat Arthur submitted these photos of splendor in the garden, and a delightful swallowtail on her standing phlox.



Above Cicada after shedding its nymph exoskeleton. Kay Holder says, "it's amazing what you will see in your garden if you just look."



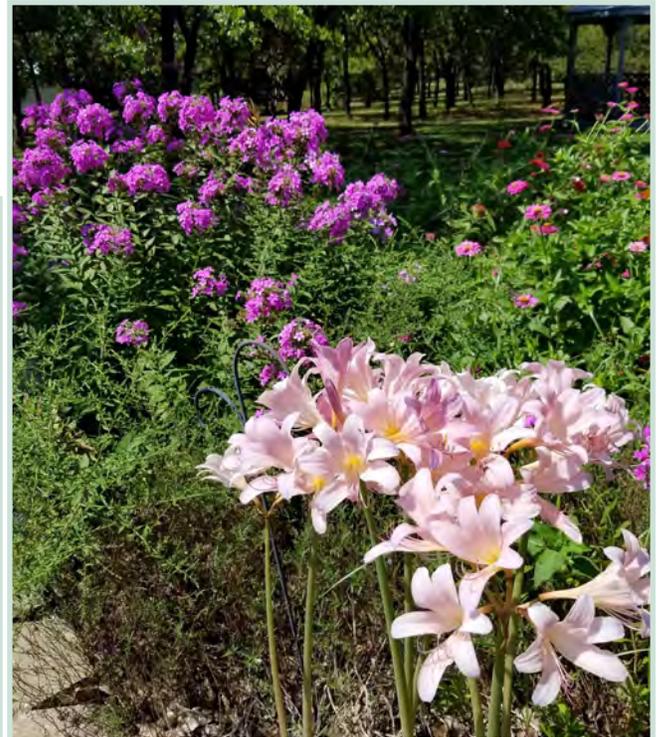
Photo Booth



Carolyn Paul found this black swallowtail in her garden and captured some wonderful photos.



Below and right, Judy Kautz found her Naked Lady lilies in bloom!





Jalapeno Peppers, Pickled

Master Cook

Ingredients

2 pounds jalapenos
1 1/2 cups apple cider vinegar
1 1/2 cups white vinegar
3 cups water
3 tablespoons salt

Remove the stems from the jalapeno peppers.

Slice the jalapenos to make rings about 1/8 to 1/4 inches thick. Leave the seeds in.

Add the jalapenos to a pot and add enough liquid to cover the peppers.

Bring the mixture to a boil and then place in glass jars or an airtight container.

The pickled jalapenos will keep in the refrigerator for up to a few months.

Tater Tot Breakfast Casserole

Marilyn Solomon

Ingredients

1—16 oz bag frozen Tater Tot
1 T olive oil
1 lb spicy bulk breakfast sausage
1 med onion, finely diced
1 cup milk
1/2 cup half and half
1/4 t seasoned salt
4 large eggs + 3/4 c egg beaters
1 red bell pepper, finely diced
1 green bell pepper, finely diced
2 c grated Cheddar cheese
1 c grated pepper jack cheese
Kosher salt and ground pepper

Spray 9 x 13 in baking dish with Pam and line up tater tots in dish.

Add oil to large skillet over med heat. Add sausage and onion and cook, breaking up sausage with a wooden spoon until browned and cooked through, 8-10 minutes. Set aside to cool slightly; then sprinkle sausage over tater tots.

In a large bowl, mix milk, half and half, salt, eggs, peppers, half of both cheese and salt and pepper. Pour over the tots and sausage mixture, and then top with remainder of the cheese. Cover with foil and refrigerate overnight. Bake covered in a preheated 350 degree oven for about 25 minutes. Remove foil and continue to bake until the cheese is brown and bubbly and the casserole is cooked through, another 20-35 minutes. Cut into squares and serve.

Notes: Substitute 1 jar pimentos and 1—4 oz can green chiles for the red pepper. Other cheese may be used...mozzarella is good.

This is the breakfast casserole Marilyn brought to the June meeting for snacks!

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.



Cleveland County Extension Master Gardener Training Schedule 2018

August 3 Week 1	Basic Botany Lunch provided by CCMGA	<i>Dr. Rahmona Thompson, Professor of Botany and Vascular Plant Taxonomy, ret. Editor, Flora Oklahoma Class of 2017</i>
August 17 Week 2	Turfgrass	<i>Dr. Dennis Martin, OSU Professor & Turfgrass Extension and Research Specialist</i>
August 24 Week 3	Basics of Soil Science	<i>Dr. Hailin Zhang, OSU Regents Professor & Director of Soil, Water, and Forage Analytical Laboratory</i>
August 31 Week 4	Pesticide Safety & Education	<i>Charles Luper, OSU Extension Associate, Pesticide Safety and Education Program</i>
	Water Conservation in the Lawn & Garden	<i>Dr. Justin Quetone Moss, OSU Associate Professor & Water Center Director</i>
September 7 Week 5	Vegetable Gardening	<i>Julia Laughlin, Horticulturist, Oklahoma County OSU Extension</i>
September 14 Week 6	Entomology	<i>Dr. Eric Rebek, OSU Extension Horticultural Entomologist, Associate Professor of Entomology</i>
September 21 Week 7	Herbaceous Ornamentals	<i>David Hillock, OSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist & State Master Gardener Coordinator</i>
September 28 Week 8	Plant Diseases	<i>Jen Olson, OSU Plant Disease & Insect Diagnostic Lab</i>
October 5 Week 9	Planting & Care of Woody Plants	<i>Mariah Menzle, Certified Arborist, The Tree Wizard, Norman, OK, Class of 2017</i>
October 19 Week 10	Fruit & Pecans	<i>Becky Carroll, OSU Extension Assistant, Fruit Crops & Pecans</i>
October 26 Week 11	Plant Detective	<i>David Hillock, OSU Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist & State Master Gardener Coordinator</i>
November 2 Week 12	Final Exam	<i>Morning Only 9:30 am-11:30 pm</i>

9:30 am - 10:00 am	Quiz over previous week's material
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	Class (short break around 11:00am)
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Class (short break around 2:00pm)



Upcoming Events

August 10, 10 AM: CCMGA Meeting, Classroom.

August 16, 6 – 8 PM: 21st Century Gardening – Strategies for Sustainability. Myriad Gardens 2nd Floor Conference Room and Garden Grounds. The next generation of thinking for an age-old practice has arrived. As modern gardening strategies evolve to meet technological advances, local urban farmer Dale Spoonmore has been successfully blending the two for the last half decade. Since the launch of his self-designed smartphone app, Dale has been demonstrating the keys to sustainable living through sustenance gardening. Learn how you can also positively affect tomorrow's future by reaping the benefits from your own garden today. Register by August 14. \$12.

August 16, 6 – 8 PM: Summer Flowers Workshop. Will Rogers Gardens, 3600 NW 36th St., OKC. Learn about seasonal and easy to create bouquets for your home. \$25 per person. Register at okc.gov/parksignup by searching keyword 14473.

August 18, 8:30 – 10 AM: Take the Heat Tour. Will Rogers Gardens, 3600 NW 36th St., OKC. Tour the gardens to see what plants could thrive in your own flower beds next summer. Register for the free tour at okc.gov/parksignup by searching keyword 14476.

August 18, 4 – 5 PM: Green Fire Documentary. Martin Nature Center, 5000 W. Memorial Road, OKC. Documentary about Aldo Leopold, one of the earliest leaders in conservation. Register for the free showing at okc.gov/parksignup by searching keyword 14487.

August 23, 9 AM to August 25, 4 PM – Oklahoma County Free Fair. State Fair Park, Oklahoma City.

August 25, 10 – 11 AM: Weekly Walking Tour at Myriad Gardens. South Lobby and Gardens. Free. Walk-ups Welcome.

September 6 – 9: Cleveland County Free Fair. Cleveland County Fairgrounds.

September 29, 10 AM – 2 PM: GardenFest and Mum Sale. OSU Botanic Garden. Stillwater, OK. Join us in the garden for an educational and festive day of presentations, guided tours, children's activities, food and music. GardenFest also kicks off our famous Mum sale!

October 12, 10 AM: CCMGA Meeting, Classroom.

October 13: Garden Tours for Connoisseurs. Sponsored by Oklahoma Horticultural Society.



How nice to see Patty Cummings back at our July meeting! Here she is catching up with Theresa January and Patricia Welty.

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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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.