



The Weeders' Digest

Congrats New Master Gardeners!



In November we welcomed newly graduated Master Gardeners (pictured above) into Cleveland County! Fourteen new gardeners received their certificates, having completed the required classes and service hours to qualify as Cleveland County Master Gardeners. Congratulations!

Join us on December 8th!

Please join us for our annual Holiday gathering for food, fun and fellowship! We socialize at 9, have a brief business meeting at 9:30, play Dirty Santa at 10 and potluck at 11! All the details are on page 7! Don't miss the fun!

It's Time for Dues and Hours!

Your hours for 2017 and dues for 2018 are now due, and can be paid in December or by the January meeting! Dues are \$20 and can be paid in cash or check to Nancy Logan, Treasurer.

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President's Posting

By Jeanne Parker

The Harvest Feast was once again a big success thanks to all the Master Gardeners who participated. It takes a lot of hands to bring an event for over 100 people together. Thank you Donna Carter and Thressa Guidice, Special Events, and to all those who helped make this event successful. Thanks to the wonderful cooks and those who helped set up and clean up.

Congratulations to our 14 new Master Gardeners; let's all welcome them and encourage them to participate in our organization. We also added two new honorary members: Bill Farris of Prairie Wind Nursery, who has donated plants and discounted plants to make our Garden Parties very successful, and Randy Edward, Vada Edward's husband, who has always been there to lend a hand especially with the heavy work.

A Big Congratulations to Theresa January who received the Distinguished Service Award for 2017. Theresa has been a Master Gardener since 2005. During that time she served as President twice, has been the committee chairperson for the demo garden for the past two years, has grown and delivered hundreds of pounds of vegetables to Food for Friend, and countless other contributions. Next we look forward to our annual Holiday Party. See you there.

Jeanne Parker



Dues and Hours are Due!

By Nancy Logan

It is time to pay your 2018 membership dues of \$20. Payments may be made at the December and January meetings, cash or check only. Credit card payments will not be available. Payments must be received by the January meeting for your name to be included in the 2018 directory.

It is also time to turn in your education and service hour documentation if you have not entered them into the OSU computer system. Please reference the back of your directory to find number and definition of hours required.



PR Prattle

By Judy Kautz

CCMGA Cookbooks are still available...cost is \$10. Copies have been placed in the Extension office and can be picked up there. Don't forget to pick up the correction sheet that you can place in your cookbooks.

Patches: We still have a few patches available for your attire. They are \$3 each and can be obtained at our monthly meetings.



We have finished up another successful year in the Demonstration and Teaching Garden, because of the many hard working Master Gardeners. We had a good time, the garden looked good, more bed borders were renovated, and, last but not least, the new signs are fantastic. Everyone does such great work out there and new volunteers are always welcome to join us. The donation of vegetables to Food and Shelter for Friends was 393 pounds this year.

There will be space available for 2017 trainees to design and care for a bed if they are interested and an orientation to the garden will be held for them to learn about the physical organization of the garden and the rules/procedures.

Volunteers for garden management tasks are needed for 2018. I am asking all volunteers to consider stepping up to fill these positions. The Demonstration and Teaching garden cannot work well without people filling roles beyond caring for individual garden beds. Thank you in advance to all who work on the management tasks. Also, everyone remember to prepare budget proposals for your beds to turn in no later than the January meeting.



Photo Booth



Submitted by Cathy Bowden is the photo immediately left.

Q. What do 2 Master Gardeners do on a beautiful November day at the garden?

A. Nibble on very healthy cilantro they've nurtured in the Herb Garden, of course! Thanks, Sherry and Vickie.

Above left, congratulations Theresa January for earning the Distinguished Master Gardener Award for 2017! Well done!



It's Time for Holiday Cactus!

By Judy Kautz

If poinsettias and amaryllis are not your cup of tea for holiday blooms, why not try a holiday cactus? These plants are known for their colorful tubular flowers and ease of care. They make wonderful houseplants or summer garden plants, and they are a perfect holiday gift for that hard-to-buy-for person.



There are actually three types of holiday cacti: the Christmas cactus has flattened leaves with rounded teeth on the margins; the Thanksgiving cactus has pointed teeth, and Easter cactus has pointed teeth with fibrous hairs in the leaf joints. Interestingly, under normal conditions holiday cactus will bloom close to the holiday of its name, but these plants can be forced to bloom at other times. And to make things a little more confusing, most of the Christmas cactus sold are actually Thanksgiving cactus, and they will bloom in subsequent years at Thanksgiving time!

Holiday cacti are really very easy to care for and will flourish in most homes. When the plants are in flower, they should be kept in bright, indirect light, because too much light will cause the flower to fade, or the heat may cause the flower buds to drop. Ideal temperatures are 70 degrees during the day and 60-65 degrees at night.

Be sure to water your cactus thoroughly, and let the plant dry only slightly between waterings. Even though they are called cactus, they are not as drought-tolerant as their cactus name suggests. The leaves will wrinkle if the soil is dry, and during flowering, letting them dry too much will cause the flower buds to drop.

Once the flowers fade, you may continue to grow your cactus as a house plant. Soil should be well drained, and a fertilizer should be applied monthly between April and October using a complete houseplant fertilizer. To encourage branching and more flowers, prune your plant in June; just remove a few sections of each stem with your fingers or a sharp knife. An added benefit is that the removed pieces can easily be rooted in moist vermiculite to make more plants!

Holiday cacti flourish if placed in a shady spot in your garden during the summer, until the temperatures get below 45 degrees. The naturally longer nights and cool temperatures in late summer also encourage flower development. Getting them to flower, though, requires some understanding of the plant itself. Holiday cacti are short day plants, which means they bloom when nights are at least 15 hours long. They will also flower if they are exposed to prolonged cool temperatures between 50-55 degrees. No flowers will form in night temperatures above 70 degrees.

Holiday cacti grow and flower best when the roots are a little cramped, so they do not need to be repotted annually. Repotting is only necessary when the soil becomes compacted or the plants have completely outgrown their containers. The best time to repot holiday cacti is spring or early summer (when the plants are no longer blooming). Holiday cacti are available locally in most garden centers; they are a great alternative to bring color into your home during the drab days of winter!



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of October 25, 2017, is \$18,067.52. Income includes \$50 Cookbooks; \$50 ClevCo Fair Stipend; \$50 Harvest Feast Donations; \$920 Dues 2018 and \$250 Greenhouse Benches Sold for Total Income of \$1,320.00. Expense includes \$471.97 5 Year Plan; \$10 Soil Test Door Prize; \$1.76 Credit Card Fees and \$65.80 Distinguished Service Award for Total Expense of \$549.53. Balance at November 25, 2017 is \$18,837.99, less remaining budgeted expenses of \$1,414.20, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$17,423.79.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



Educational Opportunities

By Kathi Farley

Hey, fellow Master Gardeners! It's time to be thinking of next year's educational opportunities. I am already getting calls for classes from outside facilities for all the way up until April! So here is what I need from you. I need speakers and ideas! If you are passionate about an area, now is the time. Let me know your passion or an area you would be willing to try. Tracey has lots of PowerPoint presentations, so she may have one waiting for you! Email me (Kathi Farley, Education Committee) at netfarley@gmail.com or text me at 405.919.2464. We need you!



Extension Office Closure Dates

The Extension Office will be closed December 25 and 26 for the Christmas Holiday.



Christmas Cherry Drop Cookies

By Judy Kautz

Ingredients

3 sticks butter, softened
1-3 oz package cherry flavored gelatin
1 cup sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
60 maraschino cherries with stems, drained on paper towels
White decorative crystal sugar for sprinkling

Preheat oven to 400°

In a large bowl, beat butter until creamy. Add gelatin and sugar, and beat until well mixed. Beat in egg and vanilla. Gradually add flour and baking powder; mix well. Shape dough into 1-inch balls and place on baking sheets. Flatten with bottom of glass, and make an indentation in center of each cookie with your thumb. Place a cherry in indentation and sprinkle with sugar crystals.



Bake 8-10 minutes, or until edges are lightly browned. Cool 5 minutes, and then remove to a wire rack to cool completely. Makes 60 cookies.

Crock Pot Green Chile Enchilada Soup

Master Cook

Ingredients

4 chicken breasts -- cooked and shredded
2-14.5 oz. cans chicken broth
2-15 oz. cans mild green enchilada sauce
2-4 oz. cans diced green chiles
2/3 cup water
1 1/2 Tbsp. cumin
1 Tbsp. chili powder
1 tsp onion powder
1 tsp garlic powder
2/3 cup corn -- thawed if frozen
2/3 cup instant rice
1-8 oz. bar cream cheese
Shredded Monterey Jack cheese

Place chicken broth, enchilada sauce, green chiles, water, cumin, chili powder, onion powder, garlic powder and shredded chicken in crock pot on HIGH and cook for 3.5 hours.

After 3.5 hours add corn, rice, and cubed cream cheese. Stir and cook for half an hour.

Add salt and pepper to taste, and top with Monterey Jack cheese.

Per Serving (excluding unknown items): 566 Calories; 33g Fat (52.7%

calories from fat); 48g Protein; 18g Carbohydrate; 1g Dietary Fiber; 165mg Cholesterol; 739mg Sodium. Exchanges: 1 Grain (Starch); 6 1/2 Lean Meat; 1/2 Vegetable; 2 1/2 Fat.

NOTES: This soup is terrific! A favorite!

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 Master Gardeners Association
Invites you to our

ANNUAL HOLIDAY MEETING

December 8, 2017

Social Time Starts at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Gift Exchange* at 10:00 a.m.

Potluck at 11:00 a.m. *(bring your favorite dish!)*

* *If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring a garden gift valued at no more than \$10.*



Upcoming Events

Sundays, November 26, December 3, 10, and 17, 6-9 PM: OG&E Merry & Bright Free Crystal Bridge. The beauty of the Crystal Bridge takes on a whole new glow at night. Thanks to OG&E Energy Corp., there is FREE admission on Sunday evenings in December to the Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory. Come enjoy charming holiday light displays and beautiful plant exhibits designed especially for the holiday season. It will be cold outside, but you will think it's Christmas in July in the balmy warmth of the tropics.

December 9, 10 AM: CCMGA Meeting and Christmas Potluck, featuring Dirty Santa; Classroom

December 15, Noon - 1 PM: Pruning Shrubs and Vines, Myriad Gardens, Terrace Room and Garden Grounds. Member \$4; Nonmember \$7. Register by Monday, December 11.

December 30, 10 – 11 AM: Gardens Walking Tour, Myriad Gardens, South Lobby and Garden Grounds, Free, Walkups Welcome.

January 5 & 6: 2018 Horticulture Industries Show Conference, Tulsa Community College, NE Campus. Urban Agriculture is the theme for this year's annual Horticultural Industries Show. This is an annual meeting for anyone interested in horticulture including extension educators, master gardeners, people working in various horticulture businesses, or gardeners interested in more knowledge. There are more than 60 speakers to choose from as well as many vendors. Registration is required and begins in November with the early bird deadline by December 22. For more information, email donna.dollins@okstate.edu or visit www.hortindustriesshow.org.

January 12, 10 AM: CCMGA Meeting, Classroom.

January 19 – 21: OKC Home and Garden Show, State Fair Park, Oklahoma City.

January 27, 10 – 11 AM: Gardens Walking Tour, Myriad Gardens, South Lobby and Garden Grounds, Free, Walkups Welcome.

January 27, February 3 & 10, 9 AM – 3 PM: 3rd Annual Garden Bootcamp, Will Rogers Gardens - Exhibition Center, 3400 NW 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73112. Cost: \$45 for all three days. Oklahoma Gardeners' Association. bootcamp@gardeners.org.



Thanks to Pat Welty for submitting photos of these cuties in the demo garden. They loved the worm hotel and the teepee!

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.

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

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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.