



Rick Ault's Garden Tour

CCMGA Master Gardener Rick Ault wowed January meeting attendees with his great photos and anecdotes about his tour of Eastern European gardens and parks. The photos were extremely interesting and his stories were even better! Thanks, Rick, for a super show!



At the February meeting... by Linda Wren

Please join us February 9 for a presentation by fellow Master Gardener Tomoko Yoshida (MG class of 2011), who hails from Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan. The northern part of this prefecture, Noto, is designated as an agricultural heritage site by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Tomoko's daughter Karen lives in the area and is currently taking an open university course on how to preserve and revitalize this region. Tomoko will collaborate with her daughter and introduce the cultural and agricultural traditions of Noto as well as the prefecture's Kenrokuen Garden, one of "the top three gardens" of Japan. Snacks are at 9:30 am with the meeting beginning at 10:00 am.

Reminder!

Dues are due and can be paid to Nancy Logan, Treasurer, at the February meeting. Dues are \$20 and can be paid by cash or check.

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Happy New Year! There are already so many exciting things in the plan for 2018. It will be a year full of fun, education, and community service. Our first meeting of the year was a rousing success. Rick Ault took us with him on a tour of Eastern European Gardens and places of interest. He gave us a little background, history, and culture for each of the places he and his wife visited. His video of Oktoberfest made me want to go next year. My thanks to Cindy Mullens and Patty Hayes for arranging our snacks and setting such a beautiful table. It always makes the meetings more fun.

Tracey appealed to us for help on the desk. It is part of our mission as Master Gardeners to provide community education. I hope you will find a day or two to help out and also to mentor the new class. The desk is sometimes a daunting task for all of us, but particularly for new people who have never done it before. Having someone with them on their first day or two is such a big help. We also want to take them out to the garden for lunch so we can get to know them and make them feel comfortable. We always need new blood and this will help to get them interested.

The flea market is our first fund raiser of the year. It is scheduled for March 9th and 10th. Please start to check around your house for appropriate things to donate. Drop off will be March 8th. Alice Humphrey will need help on all three days.

We are starting off the year with a very good bank balance. The executive committee voted to fund our annual scholarship of \$1000 to a deserving horticulture student again this year. College expenses keep increasing so these students need help as never before. We are very happy to be able to do this.

This will be a real learning experience for me this year as I take over as President from Jeanne Parker. She did a really wonderful job and I hope to do just as well. I have a great group of people working with me to help me out. I am very glad they are going to be working with me this year. Thank you to all of the people who have accepted posts either as officers or committee chairs. I know you will help me do the work this year to make our Master Gardener group a really successful one as it has always been. I must not close without once again thanking Lois Cox for the work she has done to create our web page. It is so professionally done and beautiful. She keeps it updated with current information. We are getting many hits on the page which always helps get people to participate in our classes and big events like the garden party.

Mark your calendar for February 9 for our monthly meeting. Tomoko Yoshida will be our speaker. I hope to see you all there.

Laura Eckstein



Garden Gossip

By Rick Ault

The holidays have come and gone and it is time to start thinking about the new garden year at home and in our Demonstration/teaching garden at the Fairgrounds. Thanks to all the folks who volunteered to be on the garden committee this year and do one of the jobs that are necessary to keep our garden up and running and looking as good as it does each year. We had our January garden budget meeting and Marilyn Solomon will be submitting a garden budget for voting on by the membership at the February meeting. There are always many people who need help in their beds during the garden year. We encourage all newer members to get involved and help as much as you can, as all help is appreciated. And thanks to Theresa January for running the garden the last 2 years as they were a success.



Education Update

By Kathi Farley

February 3, 10 AM & 11AM at Norman Public Library on Gray St. Topic “Oklahoma Proven Gardening” by Theresa January and Rick Ault.

February 3, 9 AM – 4 PM: Oklahoma Native Plant Society “Indoor Outing” , George Cross Building 770 (Van Vleet Oval on OU campus) – Kathi Farley

February 17, 10 AM at Cleveland County Extension in Classroom C. Topic: “What trees to plant, biodiversity & ASH BORER BEETLE...IT’S COMING!!” by Mariah Menzie from Tree Wizard

March 31: Information Table, East Walmart – Kathi Farley



Zoo Spring Tour

By Linda Wren

We have scheduled a Zoo Spring Tour of the Botanical Gardens on Friday, March 23rd at 10 AM. Hopefully the weather will cooperate this time.....keep your fingers crossed!

If you want to carpool, meet at the extension office at 9 a.m. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes because this is a walking tour and could last a couple of hours.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Linda Wren, Program Chair.



Outgoing President Jeanne Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance and then called to order the business portion of our meeting. Changes in the Master Gardeners' Constitution were approved by a show of hands. New officers Laura Eckstein (President), Nancy Logan (Treasurer) and Carolyn Paul (Secretary) were sworn in. Jim McDaniels presented Jeanne with a photo album commemorating her term as President. Nancy summarized the latest Treasurer's Report, which shows the MG Association has \$15,955.72 in available funds for 2018.

Committee Reports:

Greenhouse: (Nancy Logan) Announced that the MG Association is in talks now with Prairie Wind and that seeds/plugs should be arriving soon.

Public Relations: (Judy Kautz) The MG Association will be publishing a 2018 cookbook with all new recipes. If anyone has a recipe to share, please submit it soon. The committee will also be working on a new door hanger, plant identification signs for the garden, and other projects.

Membership: (Nancy Logan) Georjana Mauldin introduced the new committee chair, Nancy Logan. The Garden Desk is in dire need of volunteers and mentors, especially as the spring gardening season gets underway. Members were strongly urged to fill needed time slots and a signup sheet was passed around.

Newsletter: (Elaine Dockray) Elaine will continue to put out the newsletter and urged members to get their contributions in by the 25th of each month to insure that they are included. Contributions are greatly appreciated and may include any article, column, photo etc. that would be appropriate for the newsletter. Send contributions to Elaine--her email can be found in the directory and throughout the newsletter.

Hospitality: (Cindy Mullens, Patti Hayes) Volunteers for 2017 were thanked for their contributions and members were urged to fill in signup sheet to bring snacks and drinks to future meetings.

Demonstration Garden: (Rick Ault) The Demonstration Garden will reopen on March 6th. There will be a potluck breakfast at 8:30 followed by work in the garden. Two plots are available and need volunteers to take them on--see Rick for details.

Education: (Kathy Farley) Call for seeds to give away at information tables. There will be information tables every month through May. There is a great need for volunteers to work the information tables, especially since the OKC MG chapter is closed and we have been inundated with emails and calls. Master List was circulated for people to sign if they would like to teach on a particular gardening topic and they can be matched with people/groups needing information.

Upcoming workshops--2/3--**Urban Gardening** by Marilyn at St. Mark's Catholic Church and **Oklahoma Proven** and **Gardening 101** at Norman Public Library by Rick and Teresa. Also on 2/3, the Oklahoma Native Plant Society will have an indoor outing on the OU campus--information about all these workshops is available on the MG website. At 10:00 a.m. on 2/17 in Classroom C, Mariah Menzie from Tree Wizard will give a presentation on ***Planting Biodiversity in Your Yard with Trees*** and also discuss the coming scourge of the Ash Borer Beetle and how to prepare for that.



Fundraising: (Alice Humphrey) There will be a flea market again this year, on 3/9 and 3/10--setup will be on 3/8. We need volunteers for both the market and setup. We also need any items members can contribute, including pictures, books, knickknacks, household and kitchen appliances and cookware, tools, games, tablecloths, napkins, etc. All items must be clean and in good working order. No clothes, bedding or electronics. We will have 3 spaces this year, so 3 people are needed for each 4-hour shift. A sign-up sheet for volunteers was circulated. Les will bring boards for shelving and Colonel Dick will furnish tables.

There will be another quilt raffle this year. Quilt is a beautiful flower pattern and is already made. There was discussion of when and where to advertise quilt and sell tickets. Quilt is more of a wall hanging and was made by Brenda Hill. Last quilt sold for about \$1200 and so was a real money maker. Discussion of whether or not to have quilt physically present at the Flea Market to boost ticket sales, just do flyers, or both.

Several member statements followed committee presentations. Tracey Payton Miller announced that she will defend her doctoral dissertation on February 21st to general acclaim. She also emphasized the growing need for MG Desk volunteers and mentors, especially as the spring gardening season approaches. Members were urged to turn in their hours and reminded that Judy Kautz would be available to take pictures for the Directory following the business meeting. Kathy Kelley announced that she is moving to Chicago this spring and the Home Garden Tours will now be coordinated by Terri Hall. Kathy also shared that she will have furniture and other household items for sale and will bring photos of same to share to April's meeting. Fred Schneider shared information about the Oklahoma City Jazz Orchestra's 2018 season and also discussed the MG Association's need to address global warming with appropriate plant selection and gardening strategies. Cathy Bowman spoke on the danger to the oceans posed by the proliferation of plastic and urged members to join in the lobbying of the Norman City Council to pass a resolution banning the use of plastic bags. Members were reminded to read Judy's column in Sunday's Norman Transcript (1/14/18). Door prizes were awarded to lucky attendees and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, *Carolyn Paul*



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of December 31, 2017, is \$16,870.45. Income includes \$450 Dues 2018 and \$10 Donation for Total Income of \$460.00. Expense includes \$70.27 Greenhouse Supplies 2018 for Total Expense of \$70.27. Balance at January 25, 2018 is \$17,260.18.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*

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

Committee Descriptions and Committee Chairs for 2018

Program Committee, Linda Wren: responsible for planning and coordinating speakers for monthly meetings from March of current year to February the following year. Speaker will be offered a \$30 honorarium by committee chair, with the exception of CCMGA members. The committee will also plan at least two field trips during the year.

Special Events Committee, Donna Carter, Thressa Guidice: plans the Garden Party and Harvest Feast. This involves scheduling, recruiting volunteers, and organization of both events.

Special Projects Committee, Julie Johnson, Joan Barker: is responsible for advising, planning, and overseeing special projects adopted by the association membership. This includes lawn judging, ordering memorial bricks for the path in the garden, ordering or inscribing the outstanding service award plaques to be awarded at Harvest Feast, as well as other events or projects as decided by the Executive Committee.

Hospitality Committee, Cindy Mullens, Patti Hayes: coordinates refreshments, setup, and clean up for monthly meetings as well as purchasing and maintaining sufficient supplies (plates, cups, coffee, etc.) This committee plans and organizes the Master Gardener Training Class potluck lunch on the first day of class. Responsibilities include coordinating helpers and snacks or potluck dishes. This committee is also responsible for sending cards or gifts as necessary.

Public Relations Committee, Georjana Mauldin: assists the Horticulture Educator in promoting CCMGA programs and activities within Cleveland County. Duties include submitting monthly event or activity information for inclusion in the CCMGA newsletter and local newspapers. The PR Chair is also responsible for providing content to the webmaster of the CCMGA website as needed, and posting upcoming classes and events on the CCMGA Facebook page. A pictorial history of CCMGA events and of the Demonstration and Teaching Gardens will be maintained throughout the year.

Membership Committee, Jeanne Parker: is responsible for providing mentors to aid in retaining Master Gardener trainees. Duties include providing mentors for master gardener trainees at the desk and to the master gardener classes each week and welcome students during the first class potluck.

Demonstration Garden Committee: oversees the management and maintenance of the CCMGA Demonstration and Teaching Gardens. Will compile and present a budget for each year's garden plans to the general membership for approval no later than the March meeting. Responsible for creating long-term plans for the garden. The chairperson recruits committee members as well as an Assistant Chairperson to become Chair the following year. The Chairperson's responsibilities include serving as a point of contact, being familiar with the garden and volunteers, supervising garden volunteers, attending Executive Committee meetings, writing garden reports for the newsletter, and reporting on the garden at the monthly meeting. In the event Chairperson cannot be filled, the Garden Committee will be responsible for all necessary tasks.

Greenhouse Committee, Nancy Logan: oversees the management and basic maintenance of the CCMGA greenhouse. Grows and overwinters plants for Teaching and Demonstration Garden use, the Garden Party, and other events as approved.

Education Committee, Kathi Farley: will fulfill community email and phone requests for youth and adult gardening education via CCMGA volunteers. Duties include recruiting informational speakers from the association, maintaining a schedule for upcoming events, report to Executive Committee and Monthly meetings, and hold planning meetings as necessary. OSU and other research-based information boxes will be maintained and utilized in these outreach efforts.

Fundraising Committee, Alice Humphrey, Brenda Williams: will coordinate fundraising for the CCMGA. The Fundraising Chairperson researches feasibility and develops projects to raise money to support the association. Duties include arranging projects, recruiting CCMGA volunteers, and presenting updates to the Executive Committee and at the Monthly Meeting.

Executive Committee: shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and committee chairs. The Executive Committee shall meet prior to each monthly business meeting and consider all relevant association issues including but not limited to committee reports, membership, finances, and electronic media.



There are many exciting new varieties to grow this coming season, and now is the time to make your seed purchases from all those catalogs you have received this winter. Remember, you can give your garden a head start by planting these seeds yourself and growing your own transplants.

February is the time to start your seeds, since many vegetables and flowers need 4-6 weeks to develop before they are ready to put into your garden. Because outside temperatures are still too cold to allow seed germination, you will need to create your own mini-greenhouse to provide heat and humidity for your seeds. There are many ways to create the right environment for your seeds. Plastic containers, empty 2-liter soda bottles, and even an old hanging basket and dry cleaning bag all will work very well to create your own transplants. For plastic containers, you will need removable lids. For soda bottles, simply use scissors or a cutter and cut around the diameter of the bottle at approximately the middle. Don't cut the top completely off, though, but leave it connected by about an inch of plastic so the top will swing open and closed. For plastic containers and bottles, be sure to poke drain holes in the bottom of the container to prevent the seedlings from damping off. To use the hanging basket, fill it with soil, plant your seeds and water. Place the container inside the dry cleaning plastic bag with the hook going through the hanger hole at the top of the bag. Hang the container and tie the bag under the bottom to seal it. Hang the basket near a sunny window until your seeds sprout and then remove the bag. With all these containers, the key is to create a warm and humid environment to promote germination.

In addition to the containers mentioned previously, egg cartons are also ideal, particularly for starting vegetables, because they are individually spaced and also label easily. Simply wipe the empty carton clean and poke several small holes in the bottom of each cup for drainage. Toilet paper and paper towel rolls also make great containers, especially for larger plants like tomatoes. Just cut the rolls to the desired size and fold in the ends or line with a coffee filter; fill them with soil and plant your seeds. Remember that there are many, many options – plastic milk jugs (treat them the same as soda bottles,) juice cans, yogurt containers, etc. You are limited only by your imagination!



What type of medium should you use to fill your containers? Choose any pre-packaged seed starter mix from your local garden center; if you prefer to make your own, use equal parts of fine-grade peat moss and vermiculite. Simply fill your containers with a depth of at least two inches of soil, plant your seeds, water and cover. Place in a warm environment – your laundry room or garage are perfect – and check for germination. Be sure to remove the lids once your seeds have sprouted.

To provide your plants some light, it is fairly easy to rig up a shop light over your plants once they have sprouted. Any shop light or even long desk lamp will do, depending on how many seed containers you have. You can construct a frame using PVC pipe and set the light so it is approximately 18 inches above your plants. This will provide them enough light so they grow straight and tall until it is time to place them in the garden! All of us have old containers that can be re-used as mini-greenhouses. Order some seeds, choose your containers and medium, and get set for an exciting new season of gardening!



Taco Soup

Master Cook

Ingredients

1 pound ground beef
1 onion , chopped
2 cans diced tomatoes (15 oz.) undrained
2 cans black beans (15 oz.) undrained
1 can diced green chilies (4 oz.) undrained
1 can Rotel (10 oz.) undrained
1 can hominy (15 oz.) drained
1 can corn (15 oz.) drained
1 can chicken broth (14 oz.)
1 packet ranch dressing mix
1 packet taco seasoning mix

In a large stock pot, brown the ground beef. Drain.

Saute onions in same stock pot. Return ground beef to stock pot with all other ingredients. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes.

Per Serving (excluding unknown items): 258 Calories; 20g Fat (71.4% calories from fat); 13g Protein; 5g Carbohydrate; 1g Dietary Fiber; 64mg

Cholesterol; 440mg Sodium. Exchanges: 2 Lean Meat; 1/2 Vegetable; 3 Fat; 0 Other Carbohydrates.

NOTES: This makes a HUGE pot of soup. The original recipe called for TWO cans of PINTO beans. (You could substitute kidney beans also. If using the pinto beans though, drain and rinse them [no need to drain black beans or kidney beans].) A friend told me about a Taco Soup with hominy in it, so I substituted hominy for one of the cans of corn in this recipe. (My friend's recipe was heated in the crock pot!) This recipe lends itself to great variety. For a lower fat version, substitute ground turkey for the ground beef. Substitute cubed cooked chicken breasts for the ground meat and you've got CHICKEN TACO SOUP. Or, leave out the meat for a VEGETARIAN TACO SOUP!

Serving Size: 6

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.



Upcoming Events

February 3, 9 – 9:45 AM: Urban Farm Tour. Commonwealth Urban Farms, 3310 N. Ollie, OKC. Learn about Commonwealth's urban farm and composting operation.

February 9, 5 – 8 PM & February 10, 9AM – 3 PM: Earth-Kind Landscape Design and Management Workshop. Oklahoma County Cooperative Extension Service, 2500 NE 63rd, OKC. Cost is \$100 for 8 hours of instruction and an additional \$75 for optional one-hour landscape design consultation after the workshop. Call 713-1125 for information.

February 9, 10 AM: CCMGA Meeting, Classroom.

February 10, 10 – 11:30 AM: Plant Propagation Made Simple. Terrace Room, Myriad Botanical Gardens, 301 W. Reno, OKC. Nurseryman Bill Farris will discuss and demonstrate the various methods for propagating plants. Cost is \$14 for members, \$18 for non-members. Register by Feb 6.

February 11, 2 PM: Oklahoma Horticultural Society Annual Meeting. Oklahoma County Cooperative Extension Service, 2500 NE 63rd, OKC. Speaker is Jason Griffin, professor of nursery crops and Kansas State University. Call 696-3079 for information.

February 17 – March 3 (consecutive weekends), 9 AM – 3 PM: Home Gardening 101. Oklahoma County Extension Service, 2500 NE 63rd, OKC. Cost is \$50 for 3-day course. Call 713-1125. Registration due by Feb 1.

February 24, 11 AM – 12:30 PM: Jump-starting Your Butterfly Garden for the Spring. Terrace Room, Myriad Botanical Gardens, 301 W. Reno, OKC. Join butterfly guru Marilyn Stewart to learn how to design and select plants for your butterfly garden. Cost is \$8 for members, \$12 for non-members. Register by Feb 20.

February 24, 10 – 11 AM: Gardens Walking Tour. Myriad Gardens, 301 W. Reno, OKC, meet in S. Lobby. February tour will focus on plants for color. Free. Walk-ups welcome.

March 9, 10 AM: CCMGA Meeting, Classroom.

March 9 & 10: Flea Market. Cleveland County Fairgrounds.

March 31, 10 – 11 AM: Gardens Walking Tour. Myriad Gardens, 301 W. Reno, OKC, meet in S. Lobby. March tour will highlight plants for water conservation. Free. Walk-ups welcome.

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



Condolences

We extend our sincere condolences and sympathy to Alice Humphrey and Darlene Cagle in the recent loss of their husbands.



Above left, congratulations to our new officers for 2018! (L-R) Judy Kautz, President Elect, Laura Eckstein, President, Carolyn Paul, Secretary, and Nancy Logan, Treasurer!

Left, Judy Kautz recognized Jeanne Parker for her huge contributions to CCMGA during her tenure as president, and presented her with a video CD with highlights of her year made by Jim McDaniel.

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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Tracey Payton Miller
Extension Educator
Horticulture

Submit suggested articles for the newsletter not later than the **25th of each month** to Editor Elaine Dockray at rdsefd@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Elaine Dockray

Newsletter Publisher: Judy Kautz



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.