



The Weeders' Digest

Welcome Back to the Garden!

Yes, work in the garden will return the first week in March. Garden workdays will continue to be Tuesdays, but Kathy Farley will also have a workday, probably on Fridays. Kathy asks that you sign up in Team Up using the appropriate color code designating whether you have a key or not. If you don't wish to use Team Up, please send her an email if you want to work in the garden any other day but Tuesday, as no one is permitted to work alone in the garden. The usual rules apply: wear a mask unless you are more than 6 feet away from others, and bring your own tools. The garden shed will not be available for use, but we can use wheelbarrows and wagons located next to the garden shed. More information will be shared via email or you can contact Kathy with questions.

Our March meeting will be via Zoom once again and an email will be sent out by Courtney about particulars.

2021 DUES Are Payable:

Since we will not be able to meet in person for a time, dues of \$20 should be mailed to Nancy Logan at 3200 Summit Bnd, 73071, or the Extension Office at 601 E. Robinson. If your dues were not paid by **February 15**, you may not be listed in the 2021 Directory. Your education hours are also due for the year 2020.

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President's Posting

By Joan Barker

We are all eagerly anticipating spring and the opening of opportunities to garden both at home and at the Demo garden. Thank you to Kathi Farley for agreeing to chair the Demo Garden Committee again this year. There is quite a bit of work that needs to be done in the Demo Garden. See you in the garden soon!

The CCMGA is looking for co-chairs for both the Education and Fundraising Committees for 2021. The purpose of the Education Committee is to fulfill community requests for youth and adult gardening education via CCGMA volunteers. The Fundraising Committee coordinates fundraising for the CCMGA.

Current activities for both committees have not been occurring due to the pandemic. We look forward to resuming functions of both committees sometime in 2021. If you are interested and would like to receive additional information, please contact me. *Joan*



A Note of Thanks From Cherry!

By Cherry Slaughter

"Your cards, calls, and monetary gifts helped me through some rough patches this year as I faced not only the 2020 pandemic, but knee replacement surgery, a bout of COVID, and the loss of my sweet Mother. Thank you seems so inadequate to convey my gratitude to you kind and generous folks. But I do hope you know they were appreciated so very much. It will be wonderful to see everyone again!" Warmest Regards, Cherry



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of December 31, 2020 is \$23,554.10. Income includes \$580 2021 Dues and \$30 Donation for Total Income of \$610.00. No expenses this month. Balance at January 25, 2021 is \$24,164.10, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of *\$14,777.82 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$1,112.00, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$8,274.28

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Logan

* This figure is basically repeating the budget we had for 2020 with a few adjustments. The Executive committee will review and make changes as necessary.



I'm missing being out there soooo much. Looking forward to I hope opening in March. When we know more, you will be informed. Keep reading the newsletter for up-to-date information. Any questions can be emailed to Kathi Farley or Courtney DeKalb.



God and Lawn Care

Submitted by Lois Cox

You will chuckle as you read this because, as stupid as it may sound, this is exactly what we do!

GOD to ST. FRANCIS: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it --- sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No!? What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: "Dumb and Dumber", Lord. It's a story about....

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.



Camellias Fascinate Me

This is a rehash of an article I wrote several years ago, but some people may not know much about Camellias.

Camellias fascinate me. Their layers of petals, lovely yellow stamens, and color variety make them a most interesting flower. In Mobile, Alabama, where I lived until I married, Camellias grew all over town, and I just took them for granted. What a surprise when I moved to Oklahoma and saw no Camellia bushes. Around 1968-1970, I worked at a Bank downtown, and one of the older men had a hobby of growing Camellias and entering them in flower shows. He brought me a few blooms making me very homesick. When I quit work to have my first baby, I did not think about the Camellias again for a very long time.

In 2000, we moved to our current home, and I found a Camellia bush at a local nursery. I tried to make something of it for several years, but only saw leaves and buds. It finally gave up the ghost, and I have shied away from any more bushes. While in the Master Gardener class of 2008, we heard that the Icicle Camellia does well in Oklahoma, so I did a little research.

Some basic information as stated in BackyardGardener.com—" 'Pink Icicle' is quite cold hardy, and bears sizable, peony-form flowers in pale pink. Slow growing, upright to spreading shrub or small tree with age. Oval, glossy, leaves and profuse winter to spring blooming flowers in milder climates. A true heritage plant, and favorite of Southern gardens. Numerous cultivars are available with every imaginable shade of pink, red, white and combination of colors. Camellias must have acidic, well-drained soil and be planted high (trunk base is well above the soil line) in a protected climate, free from extended heavy freezes. Mulch to keep roots cool."

Camellia petal blight can be a serious problem. Good sanitation practices are the best preventative route (Keep dropped leaves and flowers swept up and destroyed - do not even return them to your compost pile For anyone that can locate a Pink Icicle Camellia, her is the basic information about them:

Cultivar: Pink Icicle

Family: Theaceae

Plant category: landscapes, trees, shrubs

Height: 10 ft to 12 ft

Width: 3 ft. to 10 ft.

USDA Hardiness Zone: 7-9

AHS Heat Zone: 3-3

Light Range: Part Shade to Part Sun

Plant Characteristics: high maintenance, round

Foliage Characteristics: evergreen

Foliage Color: dark green

Flower Characteristics: old fashioned/heritage, showy

Flower Color: pinks

Tolerances: heat & humidity,

Bloom time Range: Late Winter to Late Winter

pH Range: 4.5 to 6.5

Soil Range: Mostly Sand to Some Clay

Water Range: Normal to Moist





Ham & Cheese Hash Browns

by Rick Ault

Ingredients

24 ounces frozen hash brown potatoes
2 cups cooked ham -- cubed
1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1 small onion -- chopped
16 ounces sour cream
10 3/4 ounces condensed cheddar cheese soup -- undiluted
10 3/4 ounces condensed cream of potato soup -- undiluted
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese

In a large bowl, combine potatoes, ham, 1/2 c. cheese and onion. In another bowl, combine sour cream, soups and pepper. Add to potato mixture and mix well.

Transfer to a greased 3-qt. baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 c. cheese. Bake, uncovered, at 350 F. for 60-65 minutes or until bubbly and potatoes are tender. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving. Serves 10-12.

Recipe By: Quick Cooking magazine

Per Serving (excluding unknown items): 169 Calories; 13g Fat (69.6% calories from fat); 7g Protein; 6g Carbohydrate; trace Dietary Fiber; 38mg Cholesterol; 563mg Sodium. Exchanges: 0 Grain(Starch); 1 Lean Meat; 0 Vegetable; 0 Non-Fat Milk; 2 Fat.



Garden Humor

by Serena Norell

Why should you be very discreet in a garden? Because corn have ears, potatoes have eyes and beans talk!



Shrimp Tacos with Cilantro-Lime Crema

By Pat Welty

Ingredients

1 lb large shrimp (I thawed & peeled frozen shrimp)
1 ½ t chili powder
1 t minced garlic (I used 4-5 garlic cloves)
½ t smoky paprika (I used 1 t)
½ t ground cumin (I used 1 t)
½ t onion powder (I used 1 minced shallot)
½ t salt
½ t ground pepper
¼ t coriander (I used 1 t)
¼ t grated orange zest
2 T olive oil
2 T sour cream
1 lime zested & juice
1 t fresh cilantro
¼ t garlic granules (I used 4-5 minced garlic cloves)
Pinch salt & black pepper
10 (6 inch corn tortillas)
2 thinly sliced avocado
Toppings...1 diced red onion, ½ bunch fresh, chopped cilantro, 1 diced jalapeno, 2 limes

Step 1 Combine shrimp with next 10 ingredients in a bowl and mix well

Step 2 Heat olive oil in non-stick frying pan. Add shrimp mixture until bright pink and opaque. 4-5 minutes each side

Step 3 Prepare Crema. Whisk together next 6 ingredients

Step 4 Heat corn tortillas in a pan over low heat 1-2 minutes per side. Cover & keep warm

Step 5 Assemble tacos by spreading 1 t crema across each tortilla. Add 3-4 shrimp, 2 slices avocado. Top with fresh red onion, jalapenos &

cilantro. Serve with sliced limes, & extra crema on the side.

Serves 4

Nutrition: 147 calories, 9.6g protein, 15.4g carbohydrates, 69.8g cholesterol, 5.8g fat, 162.5mg sodium





Upcoming Events

March 27, 10 AM: Guided Walking Tour. Myriad Botanical Gardens, Oklahoma City. FREE – registration required. Register at <https://oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com>.

Expand your knowledge of Oklahoma plants and find inspiration for your own garden with an educational walking tour, led by one of our knowledgeable horticultural staff. Although geared towards adults, children and leashed dogs are welcome.

March 13, Virtual Event: Oklahoma Gardening School: Gifts of the Garden

Oklahoma Gardening School, hosted by Myriad Botanical Gardens, is one of the state's premier horticultural events. This annual event showcases local and national experts in gardening, plant selection, and garden design for the home gardener, professional horticulturist, garden designer, and landscape architect. This year's symposium will be virtual on Saturday, March 13.

Sponsored by Total Environment; Grooms Irrigation; Minnick Materials

Virtual Symposium - Available for viewing March 13 – April 13 Member \$15; Nonmember \$30

Optional book add-ons:

Windcliff: A Story of People, Plants, and Gardens by Daniel J. Hinkley, Additional: \$33.25

New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden by Kelly D. Norris, Additional: \$28.50

Gardening with Grains by Brie Arthur, Additional: \$22.75

Indoor Plant Décor: The Design Stylebook for Houseplants by Kylee Baumle and Jenny Peterson, Additional: \$16.10

Oklahoma Gardening School, hosted by Myriad Botanical Gardens, is one of the state's premier horticultural events. This annual event showcases local and national experts in gardening, plant selection and garden design for the home gardener, professional horticulturist, garden designer, and landscape architect. This year's virtual symposium, Gifts of the Garden, will feature a quality slate of inspirational speakers to show us ways that gardens can become places of purpose and resiliency, offering us irreplaceable gifts in return for our time and attention. Registrants will hear from experts who will inspire, surprise, and engage us with their varied experiences. From cultivating a wild garden on Puget Sound to creating a refuge for self, native plants, and animals, to new ways of growing food alongside trees, shrubs, and flowers, and incorporating stylish house plants into interior design, Oklahoma Garden School in 2021 offers something for everyone.

Symposium Presentation Details:

Garden Design.

Windcliff: A Story of People, Plants, and Gardens, Presented by the Garden Conservancy, Dan J. Hinkley, Owner, Windcliff

This presentation was part of the Garden Conservancy's Fall 2020 Literary Series. Plant explorer Dan Hinkley will inspire us to dream big as he walks us through his latest book, *Windcliff: A Story of People, Plants and Gardens*. This new book follows the course of Hinkley's plant-obsessed life as he developed his latest garden on a high bluff overlooking Puget Sound in Indianola, Washington. As he reflects on his incredible property, he also reflects upon the principles of good horticulture gathered from over five decades of gardening. Hinkley also shares the memories associated with many of the plants in his garden, from far flung reaches of the world, and the many giants in the world of gardening who have influenced his life and approach to the craft. (Continued next page)



Oklahoma Gardening School (Continued)

Nature-Inspired Plantings

New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden, Kelly D. Norris, Creator, Three Oaks Garden. In this era of purposeful and thoughtful gardening, planting is a powerful verb. Planting gardens inspired by nature promotes authentic connections with land, environment and humanity. Why not make a garden that works and looks good doing it? Landscapes at home and in the public realm can be beautiful and ecologically functional if we deepen our understanding of plants and place. In this lecture especially tailored to garden enthusiasts with examples from around the world, plantsman and author Kelly Norris challenges audiences to plant the world to create a more beautiful, functional place.

Edible Landscapes

Foodscaping with Grains, Brie Arthur, Creator, Brie the Plant Lady. Best-selling author and lifelong home gardener Brie Arthur has fine-tuned her signature gardening technique of Foodscaping. This sustainable practice of landscape design embraces beauty and bounty. Combining expert advice from both of her books, Arthur aims to inspire attendees to think creatively about planting your favorite edibles alongside trees, shrubs, and flowers to maximize the space you grow in. Learn how to pair edibles for year-round harvests throughout your existing landscape. Easy planting strategies are explained, including creative ideas for deterring animals.

Houseplants

Houseplants for Health and Happiness, Jenny Peterson, Owner, J. Peterson Garden Design. Join Jenny Peterson as she talks about the healing power of houseplants. From plant and container selections to figuring out your own personal houseplant "style," Jenny will walk you through how to create your own indoor garden oasis guaranteed to elevate your happiness and well-being.

How this year's virtual symposium will work: Your registration fee provides you access to the four presentations. There will be no in-person or live events associated with Oklahoma Gardening School this year. All registrants will receive an emailed link to the pre-recorded video presentations on Saturday, March 13. These videos will then be available to watch through April 13. You do not have to watch the symposium on March 13; this is just the start date of the video availability.

You must register by March 12 in order to purchase an add-on speaker book. We recommend that you register by March 12 to ensure maximum video viewing opportunity. Those who register after March 13 will not have their video availability extended past April 13.



Oklahoma Gardening School (Continued)

Speaker Information:

Dan Hinkley is a modern-day plant explorer and collector. Washington State's Puget Sound is where he cultivates a 6.5 acre of a south-facing bluff overlooking the Salish Sea aptly named Windcliff. Hinkley will share principles of good horticulture gathered from more than five decades of gardening, share memories associated with the many plants in his garden collected from around the world, and inspire us to dream big in whatever garden space we have.

Kelly Norris has a passion for planting at the intersections of horticulture and ecology. The former director of horticulture and education at Des Moines Botanical Garden, he is the author of several books including his newest, *New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Garden Home*. Norris will show us that landscapes at home and in the public realm can be beautiful and ecologically functional if we deepen our understanding of plants and place. Norris, who presented at Oklahoma Gardening School in 2017, is creator of Three Oaks Garden, a repository of ideas and planting fields on an oak-covered hill above the Des Moines River.

Brie Arthur lives and works in Raleigh, North Carolina where she shares her expertise as an advocate for consumer horticulture and home gardening. Author of *Foodscape Revolution*, Arthur combines the art and science of landscaping and gardening, mixing ornamentals with vegetables to create practical and edible landscapes that are aesthetically pleasing. While the foodscaping concept is not new, Arthur will demonstrate new and creative ways to hide fruit, vegetables, herbs and grains amongst the trees, shrubs and perennials in the garden.

Jenny Peterson is an Austin, Texas-based author and designer who specializes in plants and gardens that promote healthy, wellness and balance. Combining interior design and indoor gardening, Peterson has elevated houseplant style from violets in the kitchen window and ficus trees in the corner. Using a variety of stylish containers, and plants, Peterson will demonstrate how to create contemporary garden displays inside. In addition to running her successful design firm, Peterson has been treated for cancer twice, and shares with others how gardening can help enhance quality of life, foster healing, and create balance and wellness. She is co-author of *Indoor Plant Décor: The Design Stylebook for Houseplants*, and the award-winning *The Cancer Survivor's Garden Companion*.



Gardening Hint by Vicky Morris

Not ready to purchase seeds but wanting to pick out seeds for my spring garden, I filled my Botanical Interest shopping cart with over \$100 worth of veggie & flower seed packages (yes, it is a little much). I signed up for their emails and soon received notification that they would save the items in my cart for me. Yay! Surprised but delighted, about a week later they sent me a coupon code for 20% off if I would go ahead and make the purchase. I gladly used the coupon and even added & removed some of the cart's seed packages. Botanical Interest also included in my order a free 2021 desk calendar & package of Forget-Me-Not seeds. If you are interested, I hope it works for you! Happy gardening!

Updated Contact Information

Melody McDaniel's phone:

405-250-4899

Mary Bruce's email change:

2merrybee@gmail.com

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.