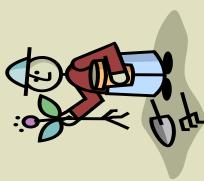
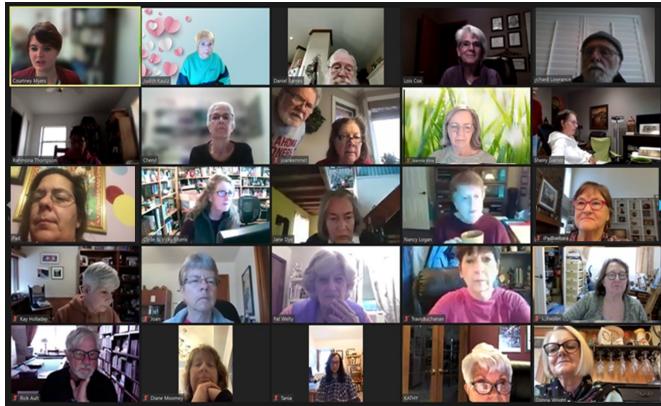




The Weeders' Digest



January Meeting Videos Were a Hit!



We had an educational experience via Zoom watching and discussing garden videos on growing up and on gardening hacks. Breakout rooms were a great way to get to know other members and their perspectives on gardening and the time passed all too quickly! More pics on p. 14.

Our February meeting....

by Lois Cox

Thank you all for once again going onto Zoom for the January meeting. No Omicron droplets were passed among members! Yeah for technology. We have had very favorable responses to our breakout rooms. I certainly got to know some members for the first time. It was great.

Because of that, let's continue with Zoom for the February meeting. If you will remember, it is the only meeting of the year we are having to hold in Classroom C. Our membership outgrew that room last year. With the Omicron variant, it is just too tight quarters to consider. The whole purpose of the February meeting is to get to know each other. The breakout rooms offer such a great solution to that issue. Hopefully this will be the LAST time we are disrupted by Corona!

For those still uncomfortable with using Zoom, there will be another Zoom training session on February 14 from 11 am to 1 pm. Click [here](#) to sign up. This will be a great and easy way to get acquainted with lots of our members. For our next in-person meeting, you will recognize so many more people!

We Still Need Committee Chairs!

If you are interested, contact Pres Lois Cox to discuss which committee you want to lead. Look at the meeting minutes on pages 8-9 to see which committees are available.

Inside This Issue

President's Posting	2	Garden Guru	6-7
Service Hours	2	The Recipe Box	10
Treasurer's Report	9	Meeting Photos	12
Garden Gossip	3	January Mtg Minutes	8-9
Demo Garden Diaries	4-5	Upcoming Events	11
Garden Humor	3	MG Conference Dates	3



President's Posting

By Lois Cox

It is a great honor to accept the position of President of the Cleveland County Master Gardeners for 2022. I became a Master Gardener in LaCrosse, Wisconsin in 2005 and served in many positions in that organization before moving back here in July 2014. I've had to relearn so many things in gardening moving from that frigid zone to this one. Because things changed in my garden, I had to change my gardening practices for Oklahoma.

That is the way I feel about Master Gardeners. There are times when things need to change from what we know and are comfortable with for the organization to move ahead smoothly. We are faced with changes we had no control over such as the farmer's market leaving. There are a few more members who work during the day who need accommodations. Let's work together this year to make our organization stronger and able to continue to grow. There are some new programs coming along you will be excited to hear about. Come along with me for the ride!

Let me encourage you to come along for the ride by stepping up to lead a committee. We still need someone to organize our April 16 Garden Party, the Saturday garden tours in the Demo Garden, and fundraising. You will have plenty of help so step up and help!

I cannot end this greeting without again saying thanks to Joan Barker for serving 2 years during the pandemic. She has done so much to connect us with the Norman community. Her behind the scenes presence is awesome and so much appreciated. Thank you, Joan, for a great 2 years!

Lois

HOURS Service Hours

By Courtney DeKalb-Myers

Hi all! And happy 2022! I just wanted to give a kind reminder related to service hours. In the current constitution, it states that "Volunteering labor or consultation services to outside organizations on projects not specifically supported by CCMGA, shall be limited to five (5) service hours". This means if you are volunteering at your church, through another garden organization, etc., you can only include five hours of your time as CCMGA community service credit. Please do not report more than that, as it will not count. Thank you and let me know if you have any questions!



Garden Gossip

By Kathi Farley

We may not be able to get out to the Demo Garden now, but this is the perfect time to think about joining us this year! We have so many bedheads that need help. This need starts Tuesday, March 1st at 9am and/or Friday, March 4th. For those new to the garden, we meet to work in the garden Tuesday's and Friday's about 9am to 12 pm. You do not have to be there the entire 3 hours. When the tours restart, Saturday am is also available. Times are set up so others are in the garden too. It is for your safety. I will be there and more than willing to help you find a place to plug in. It is never too early to think about it. Feel free to email me with any questions you have at netfarley@gmail.com.

Kathi



Garden Humor

By Serena Norrell

What herb can you use if you want to add more minutes or hours to your day? **Thyme**

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

Why did the garden keep losing water? **Because of all the leeks!**

Why did the gardener call a plumber? **To fix the leeks!**



2022 State Extension Master Gardener Continuing Education Conference

Dear Oklahoma Extension Master Gardeners, We would like to invite you to the 2022 Extension Master Gardener Continuing Education Conference on **June 16-17, 2022**, at the Rogers State University in Claremore. Our hosts this year are the Rogers County Master Gardeners. They have been working diligently to plan another exceptional conference and we hope you will Save the Date and join us in June. We hope you will put this on your calendar and watch for future updates!

Happy Gardening!

David Hillock



Demonstration Garden Diaries By Georjana Mauldin

(These diaries are designed to familiarize readers with the various beds in the Demonstration Garden)

FEBRUARY FEATURED GARDENS = SUSAN G. KOMEN PINK GARDEN AND VETERAN'S HONOR GARDEN Bedhead = Judy Kautz

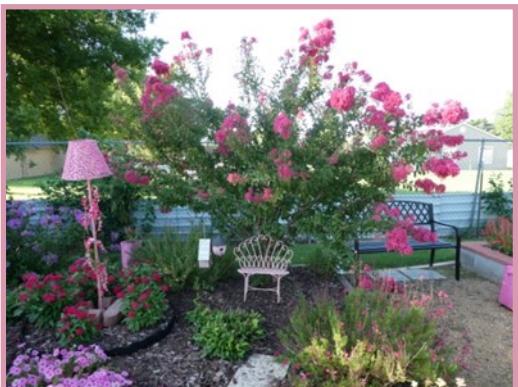
Service --- When I ponder who might be the exemplary model for service to country, to humankind, and even to plantkind, I think of Judy Kautz.

Judy is the Bedhead for two great beds: The Susan G. Komen Pink Garden and the Veteran's Honor Garden. If you look at these beds, you will see the inner workings of Judy. Judy graduated in 2007 as a Master Gardener. She began her journey in Oklahoma County, where she helped with their beds, and was involved in mentoring and education. We were lucky when she moved to CCMG in 2010. Judy has brought her "ready, willing, and able" spirit to help keep us moving forward. The spots that she has filled in our organization include: Public Relations, President Elect, President and Parliamentarian. Judy is the creator of our cookbook and she and Elaine Dockray are the magicians that put together our monthly newsletters.

SUSAN G. KOMEN PINK GARDEN

This garden is a delight for the eyes with all pink flowering plants.

You'll find a lantern in it too that "shines a light on hope." Judy had a vision for the Pink bed. She wanted to honor Breast Cancer Survivors and their spouses. Theresa January was very helpful in bringing pink plants to Judy to complete this bed. Gardeners call these plants "Pass-it-on Friendship Plants." Please stop in to see this bed and enjoy all the pink accents. Your visit will raise your spirits.



VETERAN'S HONOR GARDEN



Judy is a retired Air Force Colonel of "30 years, 3 months and 4 days" ... her words! A bed became available and she grabbed it up to create something to honor our Veterans. You will find red, white, and blue plants in this bed. As we gardeners do - she has changed it a bit over the years. Flowers were once planted in rows, but now in squares to symbolize the military ribbons. In the center is a statue of a soldier. It is a very contemplative bed. Stop in to see it, pause, and be thankful.

If you want to see several of the CCMG beds, including the Susan G. Komen Pink Garden, check out the Oklahoma Gardening video link below.

Oklahoma Gardening - Air Date: (09/23/17) #4413 Cleveland County Master Gardener Thressa Guidice takes Horticulture Extension Educator Tracey Miller on a tour of the Native American Medicinal Garden and Susan G. Komen Garden at the Cleveland County Master Gardener Demonstration and Teaching Garden in Norman, Oklahoma. Cleveland County Horticulture Extension Educator Tracey Miller finds out the basics of vermicomposting from Cleveland County Master Gardener Pat Welty, including what worms work the best, what materials are needed to house the worms, what they eat, and how to care for the worms and harvest the compost. <https://youtu.be/VqqqKnjguJM>



Demonstration Garden Diaries By Georjana Mauldin

LEARNING TOOLS—USING FORKS IN THE GARDEN

I remember the days when my father would use a "spring" fork to dig up the hilled potatoes in our garden. We had dark, rich, loose soil, and the hills made the digging easy. I love picking out the small potatoes as he unearthed them. They would just spring up as he dug under the soil. It was like Christmas in the garden.

So recently I pointed to a tool in the Demo Garden Shed - and said it was a "spring fork." I got a few puzzled looks - so research was on the next day's agenda for me. Guess how many kinds of forks are used in the garden? Seven, but I added one more.

Forks in general are for turning soil, digging up root crops, and moving garden materials around.

Here is the list:

Garden Fork: a giant fork with four very strong tines used to break up soil, turn it over, or work compost into your garden.



Pitchfork: a long-handled fork with two to three thin closely-placed tines. It is used to toss loose material such as straw, hay, leaves or finer material as compost and mulch.

Potato Fork: a fork with multiple tines that are very thin with blunted ends, so no potato is harmed in process of digging. My father called this a "spring" fork.

Spading Fork "digging fork:" this is a lightweight fork. It is made for aerating, turning in nutrients, and digging in soil that is loose or sandy.

Border Forks: a small fork for digging between plants in narrow confined spaces like borders and raised beds. Used to avoiding injuring the plants.

Broadfork: has two handles with long, heavy spikes and can quickly rework broken ground for planting preparation. It is pushed into the ground with your feet; then push or pull on the handles, the spikes will dig up the soil.

Compost Fork: it is rather lightweight with long slightly bent tines. This shape makes easy to scoop clumps and clods of dirt and weeds out of loosened soil.

AND one last fork:

The kitchen fork: used to keep cats and other creatures from digging up your newly installed plants. Ouch!





Seed Catalogs Help Experienced Gardeners Too

If you have been at the gardening game for a while, you can still benefit from reviewing seed catalogs. We can learn about new plant varieties that are now available. You have learned your garden, what does well there, and what you like, but don't make the same choices every year. Let's not waste all that boundless catalog variety; you should mix in one new kind of tomato every year. Or maybe that perennial you thought you couldn't fit in your garden now comes in a compact cultivar.

You will also want to avoid buying things just because they are new. You need to think about how they will work among your existing plants. And remember that though new varieties have been tested in trial gardens, they haven't stood the test of time.

If you are the type of gardener that likes to go with the flow, then look for seeds you can sow right in the dirt outside (though not all catalogs tell you this). Many perennials can be sown in fall and bloom the next year.

What if you just can't wait for seeds to sprout and you gotta have it now? Try plants! Many catalogs now offer some varieties as seedlings. It won't be as cheap as seeds, but you can find more choice than at most nurseries. Shipping expertise is vital here, so deal with only experienced sellers.

The plants that arrive may seem small compared to the ones you see in flats at the home center. But that's good: The home center plants may have been forced into flower to spur impulse buying, which means their season is half over when you get them. The ones you get in the mail really will be at the right stage for planting.

If you are gardener that is tied to your computer, you are in luck! Nearly all catalog companies now have websites, and there are some specialist nurseries that are web-only. Exploring the web using a search engine will turn up all sorts of treasures. But exercise care here. Keep in mind that it doesn't take much these days to set up a website. It's a lot harder to run a nursery business, maintain a large, healthy seed inventory or ship plants so they arrive on time and alive. So make sure you know how long the seller has been in operation and how much business they do. Also, remember that a website may not have all the information that is in the printed catalog and vice-versa: and some plant companies use the internet to sell off excess or end-of-season inventory cheap.



Garden Guru (continued)

Before you finally decide what to order, there are a few things you should know about your own conditions. How much sun does your site get? Are there overhanging branches that will block the sun when leafed out? Remember that unless you have six hours of full sun every day, don't bother ordering most herbs and vegetables except greens.

What is your soil like? If you don't know, it is wise to get a soil test; the county extension center provides tests at a small cost. Contact their office to learn how to gather the soil and how much to provide for such a test. Also, be sure you know what USDA zone you live in. Most of our area is either 7a or 7b, but if you aren't sure about your zone, again contact the county extension center for help.

Make a plan, especially for vegetables! Read through all the descriptions, make your wish list of varieties and then sketch your garden plot and narrow the list down to what will fit. Make sure you allow for rotating crops and for the different times it takes to prestart vegetables. While you're at it, plan supports for tomatoes, pole beans, squash, cucumbers and other climbing crops.

While most vegetable ordering is done in spring, flower catalogs keep coming all year, helping you keep your garden rhythm. For example, bare-root roses are ordered in winter. Spring-blooming bulbs are ordered in the summer for fall planting. With catalogs, you can preorder things such as bulbs and bare-root perennials and they will be shipped when it's time to plant them.

Gardening can be complicated, but plant catalogs can make a big difference in whether you will have a successful garden this year. They provide plenty of information about all sorts of plants - vegetables and flowers, and annuals and perennials – so take advantage of what they have to offer! It's almost spring – time to make a plan!



Left, seed catalogs can help you decide which new variety of tomato you may want to try. Center, learn which varieties can withstand our summer heat here in Oklahoma from seed catalogs. Right, are columbines suitable for your yard? From seed catalogs, learn which varieties grow best in our area.



The meeting was shared on ZOOM.

Courtney Dekalb-Myers installed the new officers:

Lois Cox-President

Jeannie Kline-President Elect

Nancy Logan—Treasurer

Marilyn Solomon-Secretary

Lois Cox (President) opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and emerged as a Monarch butterfly in a lovely scarf.

Nancy Logan (Treasurer). Beginning balance as of November 30, 2021, is \$21,586.26. Income for the month is \$380 for 2022 Dues Paid and \$85 Gloves Sold for total of \$465.00. Expenses include \$600.58 Greenhouse Supplies and \$30 Xmas Party Contest Prize for total of \$630.58. Balance on December 31, 2021, is \$21,420.68, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \$9,768.22 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$1,112.00, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$10,540.46. There was a discussion on deadline for dues, and it was extended to the end of January.

Nancy Logan (Greenhouse) the greenhouse is filling up fast. All the sprinklers need to be programmed, and the heat pads are giving good results. COVID precautions--All workers are required to wear KN-95 masks. Humidity fans run constantly, and if it is not too cold, we can open doors. There will be greenhouse plants photos in next newsletter

Program Chair-We still need a volunteer. A Meet and Greet meeting is scheduled for February, and March will be a Committee Fair. However, COVID precautions may require some changes. We have programs already scheduled through June, so the Chair would just have July, August, and October programs to schedule. This committee also plans field trips

Donna Wright and Linda Dolezal-(Education)- Kathy Farley will present a program on Beginning Gardening on February 19 and it will be presented on ZOOM and videotaped. Kay Holder and Laura Eckstein are also committee members.

Special Events/Garden Party-need someone to that loves organizing.

Julie Johnson (Special Projects) The Cleveland County Fair intake duties now falls under Special Projects.

Judy Kautz (Public Relations) The newsletter was just published. She will appreciate any photos or articles for the newsletter. The Facebook page has a registration link for classes. Monthly classes will be listed in the newsletter.

Kathi Farley (Garden Committee) She is working on a garden budget and has received inputs from all bedheads except one. Jody needs an irrigation assistant and Kathy would like to have two students also trained. Jody will do a class on irrigation repairs and hopes to videotape it. Vicki Morris volunteered to be Jody's assistant. Mariah's company is planting some Espalier pear trees and plans on videoing it and place it on our website. Anyone wanting a garden bed to work, please email Kathy.



January Meeting Minutes (continued)

By Marilyn Solomon

Garden Tours—We need someone to volunteer for this position. With the Farmer's Market no longer at the fairgrounds, the tours will probably be affected. Lois and Courtney will meet in March to plan strategy for tours.

Rahmona Thompson (Membership) Courtney moved the new-student orientation to March. She hopes that trainees can do desk work and needs four mentors.

Home tours—Evan Taylor may chair and plan home tours in June.

Fundraising—We need a chair.

Ronna Banks, Cheri Copeland and Cheryl Jones (Hospitality) The people scheduled to bring snacks to meetings in January and February have been rescheduled to March.

OLD BUSINESS: Cathy Bowden said a Styrofoam densifier event will be at the Moore Library next Saturday.

NEW BUSINESS:

A small task force is revising the by-laws.

Courtney Dekalb-Meyers (Horticulturist). The Bug Fest is returning March 17 from 9-12 and she needs volunteers and guidance. There will be ten booths with two people per booth. The Extension office is short staffed, and Courtney is wearing multiple hats as well as working on her PhD. She is hoping to bring back the virtual help desk. Everyone should watch their email for skills assessments. Many people have requested computer training so Lois will present a class for this. There are still some 2021 Directories in the office if anyone needs one.

Lois Cox (President's Comments) She is looking forward to being the 2022 president. She thanked Joan for serving 2 years.

Dates to remember:

February 19—First Education Class

April 16- Garden Party/Plan Sale

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, *Marilyn Solomon*



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of December 31, 2021 is \$21,420.68. Income for the month is \$520 2022 Dues Paid for a total of \$520.00. There were no expenses for January. Balance at January 31, 2022 is \$21,940.68, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \$7055.00 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$1,112.00, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$13,773.68.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



Chili Tejas

Recipe by El Chico Restaurants

Ingredients

1 1/2 lb. beef sirloin steak
1/4 c vegetable oil
1/4 c fresh, chopped onions
3/4 c water
2 T tomato paste
3 T chili powder
1 1/2 t salt
1/4 t garlic powder
3 T flour
1/2 c water

Trim excess fat from beef and dice into 1" pieces.

Braise over high heat. When browned, drain.

Add onions and saute for 2 minutes.

Add water and cover. Boil slowly over low heat for 20 minutes.

Add tomato paste and spices and cook for 5 minutes.

Add flour mixed with 1/2 c. water. Cook additional 10 minutes stirring occasionally to avoid burning on the bottom of the pot.

(Add more water as necessary to reach desired consistency. Heat through.)

Serves 4

NOTE: This is the best chili recipe EVER!



Upcoming Events

Submitted by Elaine Dockray

February 18 -21: Great Backyard Bird Count. Share Your Birds with Us! The Great Backyard Bird Count uses eBird, one of the world's largest nature databases. It stores more than 100 million bird sightings contributed each year and is used by professionals for science and conservation. Contribute to eBird and become a citizen scientist. Visit birdcount.org to learn more and participate.

February 26, 9 – 11 AM: Better Indoor Orchid Growing. Will Rogers Exhibition Center, 3400 NW 36th St., OKC. Event ID: 43609. Members of the Oklahoma Orchid Society will walk you through how to set up an effective growing area in your home or business. Cost: \$5. Register at parks.okc.gov.

March 5, 9 – 11 AM: Early Spring Herbs. Will Rogers Exhibition Center, 3400 NW 36th St., OKC. Event ID: 43873. Learn about starting herbs from seed while potting up some herbs that have already been started for you. Take these home for your windowsill garden until you are ready to sprout your own and those are ready to head

March 12, 9 AM – 3 PM: Oklahoma Gardening School - A New Gardening Normal: Blending Beautiful Gardens and Environmental Stewardship. Oklahoma City Convention Center. There is a growing desire as well as a pressing need for gardens to become more eco-friendly. The predominant style is rightfully evolving from formal gardens to creating beautiful spaces with more naturalistic designs that seek collaboration with nature instead of control. This year's garden speakers will share their expertise and advice to help inspire home gardeners to create more environmentally friendly landscapes. Cost: \$40 members | \$70 nonmembers | \$25 students. Register at Myriad Botanical Gardens website.

May 7, 9 AM – 4 PM: OKC Flower and Garden Festival. Myriad Gardens, OKC. The annual Oklahoma City Flower and Garden Festival at Myriad Botanical Gardens Saturday, May 7, 2022, from 9 AM to 4 PM! This fun-filled event includes local vendors nestled in on the west side of the Gardens next to Mo's Carousel and the Children's Garden. The annual festival features an abundance of plants and more, sure to brighten up anyone's home. Visitors will find Oklahoma-grown herbs, perennials, annuals, native plants, culinary herbs, vegetable plants, flowers, produce, pottery, jewelry, wineries, succulents, ornamental grasses, milkweed, pollinator plants, wildlife habitat, and more.



The Oath of Office!

Above, 2022 officers take their oaths, administered by Courtney DeKalb-Myers. New officers are Lois Cox, President, Jeannie Kline, President Elect, Marilyn Solomon, Secretary, and Nancy Logan, Treasurer. Congratulations and thanks to all for your willingness to serve!

Left, our snacks for the meeting—albeit electronic!

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
Office 405-321-4774 Fax 405-360-0319
Email ccmastergardener@yahoo.com
Website
www.clevelandcountymastergardeners.org

Courtney DeKalb-Myers
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.