

# The Weeders' Digest

## CCMGA Welcomes New Officers



At our January meeting, we welcomed and installed new officers for 2024. Pictured at left, Hort Advisor Courtney

DeKalb-Myers installed Linda Reed, President Elect, Rahmona Thompson, President, JoAnn Dysart, Secretary, and Nancy Logan, Treasurer. Many thanks to those who stepped up to take on new duties, and thanks also to all those who served in 2023!

## February Meeting

Our February meeting speaker is our own Courtney DeKalb-Myers, who will speak to us about Tomatoes 102. Courtney's presentations are always informative and interesting, so we are in for a treat! The meeting begins at 10 am, but come early for snacks and conversation.

### New Column!

Jerry Maynard has started a new column called Cleveland County Tool Time. It is very informative! Check it out on page 4!

### Inside This Issue

President's Posting	2	Upcoming Events	11-13
Christmas Party Photos	6-8	Recipes	19-20
Garden Guru	4	Treasurer Report	14
Demo Garden	5-6	January Minutes	12-14
Plant Sale	3	Photo Booth	15-16
Committee Signups	3	Leaf Birdbath Class	17
Styrofoam Cleanup	3	January Photos	9-11



Well, 2024 is here. There is an OKC furniture store promising me more in 24! I am not sure I can promise more as the 2024 CCMGA president. My goal, though, is to maximize efforts.

During an award ceremony at the 2023 International MG conference, Cindy Mullens pointed out to me that service activities were winning. Recognized activities included creating YouTube videos answering gardening questions, gathering resources for gardening in boggy soils, teaching at-risk teens to grow vegetables, beautifying low-income neighborhoods, and gardening in elevated beds at senior living centers. Cindy again, wisely, pointed out that CCMGA was just as good as the winners.

Helping our horticultural agent, Courtney, serve the Cleveland County residents is a primary mission of CCMGA. That is why we have a 20-hour service requirement. Many of us get those hours in the demonstration garden. Some of you do desk work. But this association does so much more!

The Well is our current bright spot. I know we keep raving about it. But we interact with so many people there. One reason is because, we are going to the where the residents are. We are not asking them to come to us. We show up and help our community.

Going to the public is also happening with the Cleveland County Pioneer Library System. Intern Lizzy Hedges is coordinating a series of gardening workshops. Kathi Farley was the January speaker. Kay Holder spoke in February. If Lizzy asks for future speakers, please say yes. You can get education hours and service hours for showing up.

Lizzy and Sharon Mitchel are working on an April 13 Plant Swap at the Moore library branch. Lizzy wants to an April one in Norman too. What a wonderful thing to do with divided plants from the demonstration garden! You can contribute from your own beds also. More information on this to come.

Another Norman library activity is to help with is the native plants bed(s). Kathi Farley and Joan Barker have done this in the past. Others of you, may have also helped. The Norman residents want native beds at the central library. Showing up and gardening in a CCMGA tee shirt helps our association be more visible.

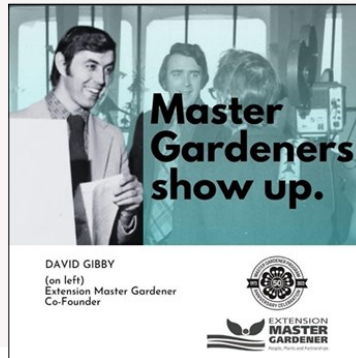
Sam Noble Museum of Natural History another collaboration. On February 21, a program on creating a vegetable garden is happening. Four OSU Facts sheets will be discussed, and a seed tape made. If you want to help, contact Sharon Mitchell.

On March 6, Courtney DeKalb-Myers and I will talk about planting an Oklahoma native plant bed. Both presentations are from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Both require registration and a fee.

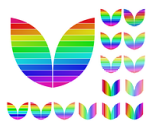
Courtney has arranged for a Junior Master Gardener collaboration with the 12st Recreation Center. A grant is paying for the materials to create raised beds and pathways. CCMGA will provide labor and guidance. But the kids will do the planting, maintaining, and harvesting of the plants. This is an excellent chance to show-up and guide the future gardeners of Cleveland County.

CCMGA members are also helping at LoveWorks Leadership. Courtney sent out a request for help. Kay Holladay and Brittany Jordan showed up. Loveworks, a 6th to 12th grade after-school nonprofit, promotes leadership, character, and entrepreneurship skills. They use their garden to teach students how to grow, prepare and sell vegetables. If you want to be involved, talk to Kay.

But other times, our friends and neighbors ask us for a presentation. At her church, Debra Howse taught a scout troupe about community gardening. This activity helped the scouts earn a badge. Debra showed up for our association to help our community.



We are a wonderful group of people with lots of gardening knowledge. Cleveland County needs to be more aware of what a fabulous resource we are. Let's get out into the community as Master Gardeners and show up!



## Plant Sale

*by Lois Cox-Marshall*

**Plant Sale Help Needed!** April 20 will be here so soon! The Greenhouse Committee is working hard each week to plant, transplant, prune, and give TLC to our plants. One of the needs will be plant signs for the day of the sale to let the public know a little about the plants they are purchasing. This year, the signs will be larger, and we want to make them all in a similar format. I have scheduled April 8 from 9 to 2 in Classroom C. That DOES NOT MEAN you need to come for the day—just come for any part of the day you can come. We will be creating the signs in a Word Document and sending them to Joseph for printing. I will provide a template to use and will guide everyone through the process. If you are not totally comfortable with Word, come anyway, and I will teach you. I will have a sign-up list soon. If you are interested, find me at the February meeting to let me know! Together we can get these done quickly.



## Committee Sign Ups

*by Lois Cox-Marshall*

Did you sign up? The January Master Gardener meeting was well attended. Our committee chairs did a great job of presenting the volunteer activities available to you. I hope EVERYONE signed up for at least one group to help. Our organization is only as good as the involvement of its membership. That means we need you to find your niche and get to work! If you didn't sign up in January, you didn't miss it. Just let us know where you want to get connected, and we will help you do that!



## Save the Date: February 21

If you'd like to earn a maximum of 5 Service Hours by preparing Styrofoam for densifying, you can attend February's Styro-Station Orientation at 3:30 p.m. OR 5:30 p.m. 2/21 at University Lutheran Church, 914 Elm. Meet in the Styro-Station by entering from the church's back doors located off the large parking lot BEHIND the church on College Ave. The later time is especially for those attending after work! Look for the STYROFOAM door sign with an arrow pointing left.

In this orientation you'll learn: how the Styro-Station is organized (Yes, it really IS organized!); to sort foam items into "ready to recycle" bags and "needs to be washed" boxes; the different procedures for sorting food service, packaging, egg cartons and cups; get hands on experience with making Bag Bundles; and the configuration for washing and drying foam in the church's kitchen.

Once you've completed the Orientation, you can feel free to come to the church on Monday - Wednesday - Friday to work in the Styro-Station or wash foam at your convenience. There is a sign-in sheet to keep track of the hours you've volunteered.

Thank you for not only bringing your "clean, Clean, CLEAN" foam to donate, but for offering your time to help accelerate the densifying process!

For more information, contact Cathy Bowden, [cate46@yahoo.com](mailto:cate46@yahoo.com), 405-831-2025





### *Cleveland County Tool Time*



It's colder than a well diggers lunch box and the desire to dig in the dirt isn't quite there. However, this is the perfect time to prepare our garden tools for the coming growing season. A quick search for care and maintenance of garden tools reveals a plethora of information as well as YouTube videos to guide you on this topic. All this information is basically the same, just presented in a different manner.

I have a garden bucket that is for the small beds that I have around the house. I have another garden tool bag that I use in the veggie garden. Let's take a quick look at my small garden bucket and its contents (your bucket may look a lot different):



1. 5-gallon Bucket
2. Bucket Sleeve
3. Disinfecting Wipes
4. Rooting Powder
5. Flyswatter
6. Twine
7. Various Types of Gloves
8. Protective Sleeves
9. Rags
10. Ground Mat (an old dog food bag)
11. Plastic Tub (doubles as bucket cover)
12. Short 2 X 4

13. 6.5" Multipurpose Garden Hand Tool
14. 7.25" Garden Trowel
15. Hand Weeder
16. Bypass Hand Pruner
17. Grass Shears
18. Garden Snip
19. Scissors
20. Rogue 2.5" Scuffle Hoe
21. White Styrofoam Tubes
22. Metal Skewers
23. Boiled Linseed Oil
24. Wire Brush

Let's look at what we need to maintain our tools in the garden bucket. We should Clean, Inspect, Sand, Sharpen and Oil our tools.

Clean – Wash the soil off the tools, use a wire or stiff bristled brush to knock off the tough stuff.

Inspect – Inspect for rust and that all moving parts are functional. Use a wire brush or sandpaper to remove any rust. Check for rough wood on those tools with wooden handles.

Sand – If there are rough spots on the wooden handles, sand them smooth and apply some Boiled Linseed Oil to preserve the wood.

Sharpen – Some tools have an edge that may need to be sharpened. Take a file and restore that edge.

Oil – Don't use petroleum-based oil on your garden tools. Boiled Linseed Oil is the best overall oil for your tools.

Next month we will explore what is packed into the veggie garden tool bag. Any questions or suggestions regarding this issue, please contact me at [jrmdw6361@gmail.com](mailto:jrmdw6361@gmail.com) and I will do my best to include it in the next months article.

Remember, he who has the most tools wins.



## Demo Garden

*By Kathi Farley*

---

This is a reminder that all communication and needs for the Demo Garden should be reported to Marilyn Solomon and she will report them at meetings. Also, if you want anything requested or reported in the newsletter... send that to Judy Kautz before the end of the month. Label the communication Demo Garden. If you have a need in your area for the garden, this is the process to report it.

Don't miss the first potluck of the season to open our demo gardens. We will have our Brunch and Learn session on March 5 at 9:30. See the poster on page X for more info.



## Speaking Opportunity

---

Grady County OHCE (Oklahoma and Community Education) has asked us to provide someone to speak at an upcoming meeting, possibly in March. They are interested in having us talk about water conservation in landscaping and the use of native plants that will do well there in low water conditions. Kathi Farley will be one of the speakers so we are looking for someone to co-present with her.

Please let Sharon Mitchel know if you are interested. Her details are below.

Sharon Mitchel, Education Committee

Smitchel231@gmail.com

360-301-3520



## Greenhouse Class

---

The Oklahoma Orchid Society is sponsoring a public class at Will Rogers Gardens Exhibition Center, 3400 NW 36th St, OKC on February 17 at 10–11AM. Doug Needham be speaking on "Greenhouse Inspiration, Design, and Construction for Energy Efficiency."

Registration is \$5 per person. For more information check the link below.

[Oklahoma Orchid Society](#)

---



**First Annual Brunch and Learn Meeting for the Demo Garden**

*March 5th, 9:30-12:00, in Classroom C (this counts as education hours)*

**Agenda**

Courtney:	Welcoming new people
Rahmona:	Plant labels
Kathi:	Locust Group and interns
Linda:	Veggie & fruit weighing and produce distribution
Claren:	Compost Rules
Jim & Jerry:	Irrigation
Daniel Barnes	Tool care
Georjana:	Garden etiquette
Joan:	Big Event



**Needs in the Demo Garden:**

1. Bed heads for:
  - a. East Pergola Garden
  - b. West Oklahoma Proven Garden
  - c. Vegetable Trees, espalier



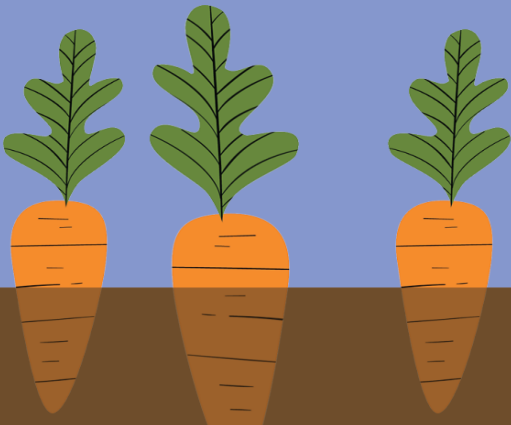
Sam Noble Museum

Wednesday, February 21  
4:30-6:30pm

**\$12 MEMBER | \$15 NON-MEMBER**

**AGES 12+**

Want to enjoy fresh veggies from the garden but don't know where to begin? Cleveland County Master Gardeners will present step-by-step instructions and share fact sheets on how to grow vegetables that do well in Oklahoma and keep your plants healthy and thriving. Come prepared with questions and follow instructions to make your own seed tape.



**VEGETABLE  
GARDENING  
FOR BEGINNERS**



This program is suited for ages 12+. Participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Register at SNMNH website. Registration closes on February 14, 2024.

**CLEVELAND COUNTY MASTER  
GARDENER ASSOCIATION PRESENTS**

**EDUCATIONAL CLASS**

*At this **FREE** meeting*

***Care of Roses***

**Saturday, February 17th**

**10:00-11:00**



Photo credit:  
Clemson Cooperative Extension

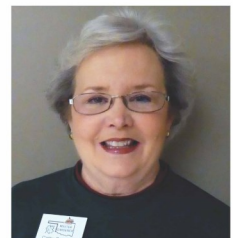
Do you love roses but worry about the maintenance needed to keep them beautiful, or wonder which one would be best for your landscape?

Cathy Bowden will share her knowledge about rose selection and help you decide how to make your space fragrant and colorful, and put your fear to rest. She will also provide expert planting tips and pruning techniques to boost rose production by encouraging vigorous and health plant growth.

**Location: Cleveland County Extension  
Meeting Room C, Northwest corner of front building  
601 East Robinson, Norman, OK 73071**



**Presenter: Cathy Bowden**  
Master Gardener



"Oklahoma State University, as an equal opportunity employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action. Oklahoma State University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all individuals and does not discriminate based on race, religion, age, sex, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, or veteran status with regard to employment, educational programs and activities, and/or admissions. For more information, visit <https://eao.okstate.edu>."





# January Meeting Photos

by Judy Kautz

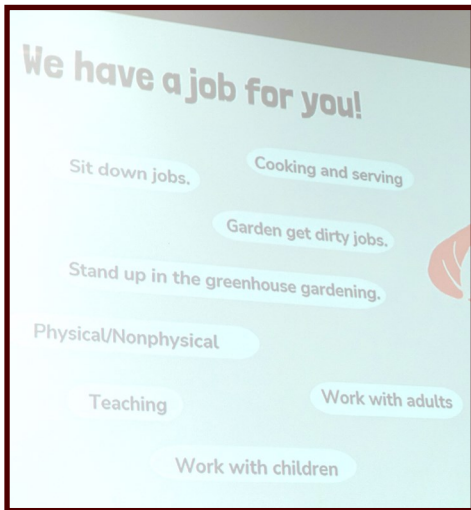




# January Meeting Photos

*by Judy Kautz*







# January Meeting Minutes

*By Jo Ann Dysart*

Call to Order – Jeannie Kline At 11:10 - Outgoing President Jeannie Kline called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Installation of 2024 Officers – Courtney Dekalb-Meyers

President	Rahmona Thompson
President Elect	Linda Reed
Secretary	Jo Ann Dysart
Treasurer	Nancy Logan

Welcome 2023 Interns/Trainees Members welcomed interns/trainees in attendance with applause, and they were asked to encourage peers to attend monthly meetings.

Treasurer’s Report – Nancy Logan (See report on page 14)

Greenhouse Report – Nancy Logan No recourse if heater goes out; heater is set according to weather. Of the ten greenhouse committees, one is in charge of checking on heater. Kay Holder is housing numerous plants at her home. We need more plants for spring plant sale than in the past due to larger venue for spring plant sale.

Program Committee and Field Trips 2023 – Patty Cummings and Susan Aikman These two positions are vacant for 2024 at this time. Both Patty and Susan agreed to remain in their respective positions until two members step up to fill these slots. The February program will be Tomatoes 102 presented by our very own Courtney. The March program will be presented by Sophia Darrow from OSU Student Farm.

Garden Party – Lois Cox-Marshall A decision has been made to separate the Garden Party from the Plant Sale. See details in the December newsletter.

Junior Master Gardeners – Lois Cox-Marshall Junior Master Gardeners will be in charge of the Garden Party this year, a separate activity from the Plant Sale. Lois will coordinate with the Fairgrounds staff to finalize details.

Public Relations – Judy Kautz Judy was happy to report that Deborah Wood stepped up to be the recipe coordinator for the newsletter. Two members expressed interest in assisting Lois with the website, uploading information. Judy needs someone to submit upcoming events for the newsletter. The deadline to submit input to Judy for the newsletter is the 28th of each month. Earlier is perfectly acceptable. [jkautz@cox.net](mailto:jkautz@cox.net)

Demonstration Garden Committee – Marilyn Solomon Marilyn is the spokesperson for the various demo garden committees at both the monthly meetings and the executive board meetings. The budget requests will be sent to the garden committees soon. Please submit completed budget requests by the February monthly meeting. Kathi Farley is no longer in charge of the Demo Garden. It is too much responsibility for one person to manage. Refer to the December newsletter to see list of Demo Garden Committees, Assignments and Descriptions. Kathi will post a laminated, printed copy of this document in the shed.

Demo Garden opens the 1st Tuesday in March.

Garden signs: Judy asks each bedhead for signage wording, updates, edits.

Plant labels: Submit in March to Rahmona.

Farmers Market – Claren Kidd Program is being re-vamped, so no report today. This program has been a huge success.

Membership – Rayge Johnson A sign-up sheet for mentors is available; mentors are needed to work with new interns/trainees at the desk. Currently Rayge has 10 mentors; 15 are needed. January 26, 10:00 a.m. in Classroom C an orientation meeting for new interns/trainees is scheduled re how the desk works, garden hours, and tour of office. Mentors are invited to attend this meeting.

Education – Sharon Mitchel and Debra Howse (technical) They are asking members to volunteer to teach Saturday community education classes. Three members signed up today to be instructors. Master Gardeners are not paid to teach a class. These education classes are no longer committed to the 3rd Saturday monthly; they are branching out. Sharon and Debra ask that anyone who has teacher/topic leads from either the Well or the help desk to let them know. Next Saturday class: February 17, 10:00 a.m. in Classroom C, Cathy Bowden will teach a class on Roses. Cathy reminded us that February 14 is the day to trim roses.



## January Meeting Minutes (cont.)

*By Jo Ann Dysart*

Special Programs – Jeanne Parker The Lawn judging program is cancelled. In addition to the County Fair (Jeanne reminded us to sign up early to work the County Fair), memorial bricks, and plaques for honors presented at the Harvest Feast, Jeanne is looking for new ideas and additional members to help manage same. One new idea is to establish a monarch way station.

Home Tours – Vacant

Hospitality – Sherry Garner Sherry thanked all who brought food this past year. She needs 10 volunteers to bring food to each monthly meeting. The process for signing up to bring food for our monthly meeting is moving to the Sign-up Genius app. Courtney has volunteered Joseph to help those who may have difficulty using Sign-up Genius.

Styrofoam Recycling – Cathy Bowden In December a consolidator for a national big box store contacted Cathy. This unidentified big box store will begin monthly pickups this spring in Norman, OKC, and Tulsa. This means that said big box store will no longer be dumping Styrofoam in landfills. A shutter manufacturer in Moore has also reached out to Cathy. She is searching for a plastics commodities broker to purchase condensed Styrofoam logs. Products that can be made from the condensed Styrofoam include picture frames and crown molding. The National Weather Service in Norman has a drone made from Styrofoam; it is more light weight so can carry a heavier load. Today six members stepped up to help carry our monthly donations to Cathy's vehicle and to wash donated Styrofoam. Members can earn up to 5 community service hours for these tasks.

Old Business None

New Business Fred Schneider reminded us of recent news announcements re health dangers of plastic water bottles. Beware.

Courtney's Comments Intern/trainee orientation meeting on how the desk works, garden hours, and tour of office is scheduled January 26, 10:00 a.m. in Classroom C. Mentors are welcome.

- Members, let Courtney know if you need a refresher on how to schedule desk hours on the computer. This task is moving to Sign-up Genius.

- Sign-up genius is going to be utilized more often, but not exclusively. It offers helpful features such as keeping a record of sign-ups. Valerie Green volunteered to help with Sign-up Genius. For now, this app will be used to sign up for desk, food for monthly meetings, and Farmers Market. If an individual needs a manual sign-up, Joseph will add the manual sign-up to Sign-up Genius.

- Water Day: The 2023 class requested additional education on this topic. Earn education hours by attending this event on Friday, February 2, 9:00–3:00, lunch break from noon to 1:00. This event is for master gardeners only. Courtney is willing to explore option to present to community at a later date. Topics include irrigation, rain barrels, rain gardening, and xeriscaping. On 01/04/2024 Courtney sent email which included an RSVP link to Water Day. The class is filling quickly. Currently, the class is scheduled for Classroom C. Depending on registrations, that location may change. Courtney will keep all informed. See December newsletter for info re Water Day.

- Beyond the Back Yard: Earn education hours by attending this event on Saturday, February 10, 9:00-2:30 at the Well. Topics include drip irrigation, food preservation, spring grains, container gardening, and soap making. Registration is thru OSU extension office. Call 405.321.4774 to register. Cost is \$30 which includes lunch/snacks, cash or check only. All finances are managed thru OSU Stillwater campus which is why cards are not accepted for payment. See December newsletter for info re Beyond the Back Yard.

- 12th Avenue Recreation Center: The Center provides an after-school program from 3:00-6:00 and summer programs for youth. Courtney is exploring possibility of creating a 4-H sponsored Junior Master Gardener program to work with the Center. Currently the task is to find a date to schedule a build day. The plan is to build four, 4'x8' raised beds and hardscaped pathways to allow accessibility. Courtney asked for volunteers. This is an opportunity to have a hands-on location for kids to garden.



## January Meeting Minutes (cont.)

By Jo Ann Dysart

- Required Hours: Continuing Education and Community Service hours are discussed beginning on page 20 of the current Directory. Interns/trainees must earn 48 help desk hours, 12 demo garden hours, and at least one Saturday Farmers Market shift, 8:00-noon, prior to the Harvest Feast in November.
- Members are required to earn 20 education and 20 service hours annually.
- Service Hours opportunities: demo garden, greenhouse, 12th Avenue Recreation Center, Saturday demo garden tours, open your home garden to a home tour, prep for and give presentations on behalf of CCMGA, gardening work for non-master gardener org (ex: church garden, school garden), up to 5 service hours. To earn these service hours, a community impact is required, as opposed to working with an individual in need of assistance. How about an HOA? Yes, up to 5 hours. Other opportunities include speaking at a community education event, writing for the newsletter, assisting with master gardener classes as a TA, and working info booth at Farmers Market.
- Education Hours opportunities: Up to 10 hours can be from TV (ex: Oklahoma Gardening), radio, internet, books, blogs. The other 10 must be in-person, active learning with community. Monthly Meetings count for 2 education hours; the default for these mtgs is 2 hours.
- November Harvest Feast and December Potluck do not count for hours unless you help set up, clean up, cook food.
- Community education classes, state master gardener conference, Home/Garden shows, visit Master Gardener class or classes with new students, other garden meetings (ex: Native Plant Society), field trips, college course on Horticulture, horticulture conference, and home tours attendee are other education hours options.
- Help Desk counts as either service or education hours. Mentor hours are service hours.
- How to Track Hours: Courtney strongly discourages use of OSU site for tracking hours.
- Nancy suggests keeping info on phone calendar and/or home paper calendar.
- Excel spreadsheet, Apple Numbers, Google sheets are electronic options to record hours. Nancy will share an Excel sheet option.
- Nancy strongly encourages us to keep typed records. Difficult to read hand-written. If you submit hand-written, it must be hand-delivered to Nancy or hand-delivered to the office to hand-deliver to Nancy. Do not scan and email hand-written hours. Do not take a photo of hand-written hours and email same. Hand-written records of hours are not to be emailed.
- It is recommended that you keep an ongoing, updated list of hours. After each event/task, add it to your list of hours.
- Deadline to submit previous year's service hours to Nancy is January meeting date.

Question: Is it possible to have another t-shirt order for the new, red CCMGA t-shirts? Answer: Yes, wait for info. Rahmona provided her contact information. Please note the correct spelling of Rahmona. rahmona.thompson@gmail.com 405.831.1624 – Include your name in your first text to Rahmona so she can add you to her contacts.

12:20 – Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Jo Ann Dysart, Secretary



## Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of December 31, 2023 is \$32,443.91. Income was \$1,220 2024 Dues Paid for Total income of \$1,220.00. Expenses were \$50 Distinguished Service Award; \$154.83 Locks & Keys Demo Garden and \$1,181.86 Greenhouse Supplies for Total expenses of \$1,386.69. Balance at January 31, 2024 is \$32,077.22, less 2024 projected expenses, not yet reimbursed, of \$18,507.40 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$2,797.10, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$10,972.72.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



## Photo Booth

*by Kay Holder*



I went out the last day of January and took a few pictures of some of the plants that are emerging. Included are Mullein, larkspur, 2 different kinds of poppies, yarrow, lamb's ear, malva, strawberry, germander and the beloved Henbit. The color guard are looking pretty even though they are buried in leaves.





## Photo Booth (cont.)

*by Kay Holder*

Kay writes, "I cut open a bag of miracle grow and put slits in the bottom January 2nd. The moistened bag is placed on a lid of a plastic container and my free seeds of winter hardy lettuce from baker creek are scattered on the soil. I covered the bag with the container and waited. January 31st I noticed the lettuce had germinated. I will leave the cover off until we get brutally cold again." Photos far below are continued from previous page photos of Kay's garden.







### **Pollinators, we do it all for pollinators**

Capture the natural beauty of a leaf in an elegant pollinator birdbath. Are you interested in making an elegant birdbath for the pollinators? Then please plant in your garden plants with BIG leaves, such as hostas, rhubarb, burdock, caladium or elephant ears, and send an email to [engelmariam@aol.com](mailto:engelmariam@aol.com) with subject "Pollinators-we do it all for pollinators" to sign up for this project.

In the late gardening season of 2024, we will have a class for CCMGA members in our demo garden. (We need to grow the leaf before we can have the class.) You will need to bring a leaf approximately 10 inches long and 7 inches wide to the class. All other supplies will be provided. If more than 10 sign up, we will schedule several classes.

Karen belongs to the Water Garden Society of Oklahoma, and her group has been making pollinator birdbaths for many years. So we have an expert that has agreed to help.

Bluebirds are attracted to water so a shallow birdbath close to the ground may bring them into your garden.

**LONG TERM GOALS:** If this project is successful and beautiful pollinator birdbaths are made, the plan is to make them not just for our homes,



but also for the demo garden. We also want to provide classes for visitors, charging only for the costs of the supplies needed. It would be a 2 for 1 in that we bring visitors into our demo garden and also educate them about the need to help pollinators. Karen plans to bring a small pollinator birdbath to our February master gardener meeting. Hope to see you then.



## Orienting Interns!

*Submitted by Rahmona Thompson*



The exciting world of interns! Here are photos of our new interns getting oriented by our Horticulture Advisor, Courtney DeKalb-Myers. A good time was had by all!



## Mini Quiche in Wonton Wrappers

### Ingredients

24 wonton wrappers  
1 cup grated cheddar cheese  
1/2 cup ham, finely chopped  
1/2 cup fresh spinach, finely chopped  
1/4 cup green onion, chopped  
4 eggs  
1/2 cup heavy cream or half and half (half cream, half milk)  
1 tablespoon dijon mustard  
2 teaspoons hot sauce such as Tabasco (optional)  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Spray a 12 cup muffin tin with non stick spray.

Press one wonton wrapper into each of 12 cups. Place about one table-spoon grated cheese in each cup.

Place a second wonton wrapper on top of first wonton wrapper and grate cheese. Angle so corners are on opposite sides.

Layer ham, spinach, green onion and additional cheese.

In measuring cup with spout, scramble eggs with wire whisk. Add cream, dijon, hot sauce if desired, salt and pep-

per. Mix well until smooth.

Pour about two tablespoons of egg mixture into each cup moving it around a bit with your finger if necessary to get the egg mixture evenly spread in each cup. Fill to about 3/4 full.

Bake for 20 minutes or until puffy and baked through and wonton wrappers are nicely brown.

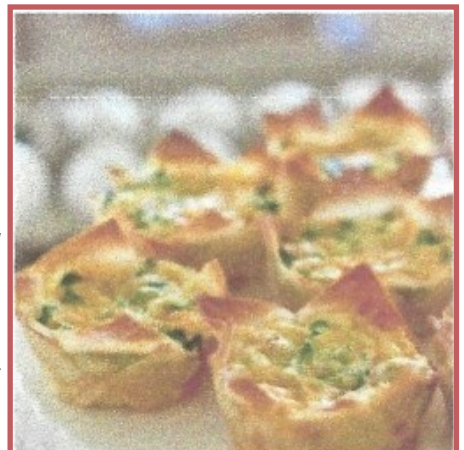
Cool for 10 minutes and remove. Serve hot, warm or chill for up to 4 days in the refrigerator.

Notes: Wonton wrappers can be found in the refrigerated section of your local grocer. Usually near the refrigerated pasta.

If using milk in lieu of cream or half and half, increase eggs to 5 and use 1/4 cup milk.

You can omit the dijon if preferred. It is a natural emulsifier and makes the egg and cream come together and adds a nice zip but is not necessary if you don't have it.

***These Mini Quiche in Wonton Wrappers are made in your muffin tin and bake up in no time! You can stuff them with anything you have hanging around and make great appetizers, cold or hot! Debbie brought them to our January meeting and they were a real hit!***



## Valentine's Day Crack

### Ingredients

1 Cup of Butter (2 Sticks)  
1 Cup Brown Sugar  
1 Stack of Saltine Crackers  
1 lb. Package of White Almond Bark Melted  
1/2 Package of Red Candy Melts  
1/2 package of Pink Candy Melts  
Valentine-themed sprinkles

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with Aluminum Foil Place Crackers evenly on the Foil Pan.

Melt Butter and Brown Sugar over medium Heat, Bring to a boil and stir while boiling for 5 minutes

Pour Sugar Mixture over the Crackers

Bake at 325 Degrees for 8 minutes

While Crackers are baking, melt almond bark, pink Candy Melts, and red candy melts (in separate bowls) in the microwave using the directions on the package.

Pour white chocolate over the cracker mixture and spread evenly

Pour pink candy melt over the top of the white chocolate and swirl it with a fork or spatula.

Pour red candy melt over the top of the white chocolate and swirl it with a fork or a spatula. Shake valentine sprinkles over the top.

Allow to cool completely and break into smaller pieces.

***Valentine's Day Crack is the perfect easy Valentine's Day dessert to serve up family and friends. Whip this up in a hurry for a sweet and salty treat.***





### **MYRIAD GARDEN HORTICULTURAL EVENTS**

#### Guided Garden Tours

Monthly: Every second Friday, 1pm and last Saturday, 10am Meet in the Visitor Lobby FREE 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. Wheelchair and stroller friendly. Future dates: February 24, 10am Friday, March 8, 1pm Saturday, March 30, 10am.

### **OKLAHOMA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

#### MONTHLY MEETING SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the OSU-OKC John E. Kirkpatrick Building

400 N. Portland, Oklahoma City, OK

Room 196 Meetings Start at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted

March 28 - Steve Beiberich - "Great Trees for Oklahoma" Time 6:30 (note earlier time)

April 25 - Allan Storjohann - "The Artful Gardener"

May 23 - Haldor Howard - "All American Selections at OSU-OKC"

June 27 - Dee Nash - "The Joys and Challenges of Gardening in Oklahoma"

October 24 - Hugh Stout - "Outstanding Iris Selections from Stout Gardens"

### **OKLAHOMA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

#### MONTHLY MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Central Chapter, at Dawson-Loeffler Science Center, Oklahoma City University (OCU) campus. Doors open at 6:30pm for socializing and seed swap (if you've got 'em);

presentations begin at 7:00pm.

Mar. 7 - Dr. Sheila Strawn will present her current research on lichens.

Apr. 4 - Program TBA.

Apr. 26-28 - SAVE THE DATE for the annual Wonders of Wildflowers (WOW) event at Robbers Cave State Park. Details coming on website.

May 2 - Program TBA



## CENTRAL CHAPTER EVENTS

WINTER, SPRING, and SUMMER 2024

### February 8

Micah Friedman will present his graduate research on the flora of Oklahoma County. This research includes creating species lists, floristic inventories, and utilizing Floristic Quality Assessments to assess natural areas.

### March 7

Dr. Sheila Strawn, author of *Lichen Field Guide for Oklahoma and Surrounding States*, will present *Lichens in Tree Communities*.

### April 4

Lauren Rosenfelt will present her graduate work, *Ecosystem multifunctionality: benefits of forb plant diversity to local pollinators and soil properties from water retention to carbon sequestration*.

Lauren (BFA) is an MS student at the University of Oklahoma School of Biological Sciences in the Souza (plant ecology) and Hung (pollinator) labs. Her research surveys soils, plants, and pollinators across 21 sites in Central Oklahoma made up of the following habitat types: pollinator gardens (PG), remnant prairies (RP), and bermudagrass turfs (BG).

### May 2

Sean Washington will present how native gardens can directly help species like migrating birds and butterflies explode and create hubs of biodiversity. Find Sean's podcast and science communication work at [thefitnaturalist.com](http://thefitnaturalist.com)

### June 8

Plant Walk: Learning Plant Families

Meeting at 9 am at the front entrance of the Belle Isle Library, 5501 N Villa Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

We will traverse to the creek behind the library to look at plants. We will focus on using plant family characteristics to help identify plants.

### July 6

Plant Walk: Botany in the City

We will meet at 9 am in front of Shoe Carnival, 1701 Belle Isle Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73118.

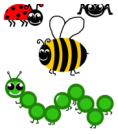
We will caravan to the Deep Fork River, which is .5 mile from the meeting spot.

**Indoor events** start at 7 pm at Oklahoma City University  
2501 N Blackwelder Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73106  
Room 208 in the Dawson-Loeffler Science Center

The Dawson-Loeffler Science Center is located just south of NW 27th Street and Indiana, immediately adjacent to the OCU Baseball Field. The best place for parking is in the lot east of the building. Look for ONPS signs.

For **outdoor events**, wear hiking clothes and bring water.

For detailed directions, and updates: [OKNativePlants.org](http://OKNativePlants.org)



## Got Bugs?

by Courtney DeKalb Myers

The Norman Central Library is planning on hosting a 2024 BugFest and needs our help! If you are unaware, BugFest was an biennial event that the Cleveland County Master Gardeners under my predecessor. We did it again in 2022 and it was a lot of fun! BugFest includes a series of insect focused booth activities. Youth visit each booth to receive a prize at the end. We had over 300 youth come through in three hours last time!

2024 BugFest is scheduled for Thursday, March 21st from 9am to 12pm. They'll be hosting it at The Well. If you are interested, please fill out the below interest form. I'm also asking for which booths you would prefer to help me with volunteer assignment. Description of the booths are below, as well as some photos from 2022.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out! This would count for 5 hours of community service (when we include set up and clean up). Interns are more than welcome to help, but this unfortunately cannot count towards pay-back hours.



### **Booth Options**

Taste Of Honey: Teach about honeybees and pollinators; dip honey into spoons for youth to try

Maggot Art: Place a maggot into paint and let it wiggle around to create art; youth come back to pick up their masterpieces

Worms for the Wise: Observe worms and make a worm bookmark

Whirling Wings: Create butterflies out of coffee filters, pipe cleaners, and clothespins

Antennae Making: Cut outs of different antennae types, help youth assemble and become insects

Eat A Bug: Fry mealworm in peanut oil and entice kids to eat them

Termite Trails: Using a Bic pin, draw a circular loop on a piece of paper. The chemical in pen ink is similar to termite pheromones and termites will follow the drawn line

Face Painting: Using paints and brushes provided, help kids turn insects by painting their faces with butterflies, dragonflies, beetles, etc.

Click on the link below to sign up!

**Yes! I am interested in the 2024 BugFest**



Just for You!



When the world wearies and society fails to satisfy, there is always the garden. *Minnie Aumonier*

Right, Peggy Blair writes, "In the depth of savage cold



weather I am sending you the January blooming dandelion!!! I have said one of the wonderful things about dandelions is they bloom 12 months of the year!!! Left, submitted by Donna Wright.

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Oklahoma State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, State and Local Governments Co-operating. 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 28th of each month to Editor Judy Kautz at [jkautz@cox.net](mailto:jkautz@cox.net)

Newsletter Editor: Judy Kautz



OSU EXTENSION CLEVELAND COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

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.