



The Weeders' Digest

Happy New Year to all!

We hope you didn't miss the December meeting—the delicious food, wonderful fellowship and, of course, Dirty Santa! Thank you to all who planned this event, prepared the food, and purchased the thoughtful gifts! Thanks, also to Kathy Whittle who entertained us with one of her Right/Left tales for our gift exchange! You can see photos on pages 8-10 and 12. Welcome, 2018!



At the January meeting... *by Linda Wren*

Please join us January 12 for fellow Master Gardener Rick Ault's presentation on the Parks and Gardens of Eastern Europe with a few cultural/historic tidbits thrown in. His presentation will deal with former East Berlin in former East Germany; Prague Czech Republic; Vienna, Austria; Budapest, Hungary; Zagreb, Croatia; Ljubljana, Slovenia and Munich, Germany. Snacks are at 9:30 am with the meeting beginning at 10:00 am.

It's Time for Dues and Hours!

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

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President's Posting

By Jeanne Parker

A year has gone by and it's time to hand over the gavel to Laura Eckstein. I know Laura will provide great leadership to continue the success of the CCMGA. Our accomplishments this year have been amazing thanks to the members of the Committees along with all of you who participated in our many classes and events. One of our biggest accomplishments of the year is our Website. Thanks to Lois Cox who has, from behind the scenes, designed and maintained an informative, interactive and always up-to-date Website. It is so popular that some weeks we have hundreds of hits.

Thank you all for your support over the last year. It has been an honor, privilege, and learning experience to serve as your 2017 President.

Jeanne Parker



Dues and Hours are Due!

By Nancy Logan

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

It is also time to turn in your education and service hour documentation if you have not entered them into the OSU computer system. Documented education and service hours are due at this time. If none are received as of the January meeting, you will be listed in the directory as Associate Member.



PR Prattle

By Judy Kautz

CCMGA Cookbooks, Vol. II, is in the planning stages! There are only 3 still available of our first volume...cost is \$10. The new volume will contain all new recipes, so begin your search now for your favorite recipes!

Would you like a CCMGA Calendar? We are considering producing a new one of there is enough response. Let Judy know if you want one!

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



Hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, because ----- even though it is not outside work time yet, it is time for all garden bed caretakers to prepare and submit budget requests. Please e-mail or give a paper copy of your **budget request to Marilyn Solomon now or at the January meeting.** Please submit your name and bed name even if the request is for zero dollars because that would help confirm that each bed has a caretaker for 2018. The plan is to submit the overall budget request to the membership at the February meeting. We do have MG trainees from the 2017 class who are planning to take on two sections of the quad bed and I think they have some fun ideas for the beds. The 2017 total for donations to Food and Shelter for Friends of garden vegetable harvests was 393 pounds!

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to take on particular responsibilities and help run the Demonstration Garden in 2018 the list is as follows:

- Request garden plans and budgets – Marilyn Solomon
- Send workday e-mails and decide if workday is cancelled – Jeanne Parker
- Open and close gates on workdays – Claren Kidd (or you if you are there last!)
- Manage irrigation system – Jody Marcussen
- Manage electrical systems & trouble shoot same – Jeanne Parker
- Manage Sheds – Claren Kidd
- Take care of equipment – ?
- Deal with lawn mowing service – Nancy Logan
- Weed control in pathways – Bud Hightree
- Manage keys & locks – Nancy Logan
- Write garden report for newsletter – Rick Ault
- Attend Executive committee meeting – Rick Ault
- Report to monthly MG meeting on garden – Rick Ault
- Outreach to and orientation of trainees – Theresa January
- Arrange for deliveries of wood chips and gravel – Judy Kautz
- Call meetings of Planning Committee and of all garden volunteers – Judy Kautz
- Scheduling garden tours – Jeane Hardy

Thank you in advance for all your work in 2018. Also please think hard about volunteering to be the Garden Committee Chair for 2019.





Jeanne Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance and then called to order the business portion of our meeting. Jeanne reminded all members that it is time to turn in hours and pay dues. She said there were 500 to 800 people that have logged on our web site. Tracey Payton Miller will hold a short training class on the computer for mentors of the new class. It will be 12/13 at 10:00 in the office kitchen. Jeanne gave the date for the Garden Party and Earth Day. The party will be 4/14 and Norman will celebrate Earth Day on 4/22. Nancy will not be here for the meeting but the Treasurer report is in the newsletter. There are copies in the back. Description of the committee duties will be published in the newsletter and voted on by the members at January's meeting.

Laura Eckstein will take dues and records of hours. Both are required if a member wants to be in the directory. New Executive members were presented to the membership: President-Laura Eckstein, President Elect- Judy Kautz, Secretary- Carolyn Paul, and Treasurer-Nancy Logan. A vote was taken to elect the members and majority of members voted yes.

Committees:

Education: (Kathi Farley, Carol Craig, and Joan Kemmet Greenleaf): The committee is getting requests for speakers in April. Expect a sign-up sheet to be passed asking for speakers. Tracey has some PowerPoints for different topics. A good way to learn about a topic is to accompany a speaker and see how they handle questions, etc.

Demonstration Garden: (Theresa January) Theresa thanked everyone for their hard work in the garden this past year. The post of spraying for weeds in the walkways is still open. Rick Ault will do the reports and present the garden news at meetings. Garden budgets are due and Marilyn Solomon will be taking those. There will be a garden committee meeting in January or February. Fern Garofalo will coordinate updating the first aid kit and having one in each shed. Things are finally finished blooming. Work continues on the irrigation system. It is now turned off but work will continue in the spring.

Hospitality: (Cindy Mullens, Patty Hayes): Jeanne thanked the committee members for doing such a good job during the year.

Membership: (Georjanna Mauldin): Georjanna passed a sheet asking for people she could call to see if they would fill in for a mentor if needed. There will be a short desk training with Tracey 12/13 at 10:00. An AM desk mentor is needed for 12/14. Jeanne Parker will be head of Membership next year. Theresa reminded the members that we are getting calls from Oklahoma and Canadian Counties so desk workers are needed.

Special Events: (Donna Carter): Donna thanked all participants at the Harvest Feast. We fed 115 people. There will be a planning meeting for the Garden Party and Plant Sale in January. She also would like for someone else to take over planning the events.

Jeanne announced the speaker for January will be Rick Ault who will talk on parks in Eastern Europe.

Fundraising: (Alice Humphrey, Brenda Williams, and Linda Wren): We will have the flea market this spring on 3/9 and 3/10. We will have 2 booths so start saving things to sell.

Horticulture Educator: (Tracey Payton Miller): The price of the 2018 Master Gardener course will be \$200. If all hours are completed \$100 will be refunded. She recognized newly certified Master Gardeners and students.

Claren Kidd has gloves for sale for \$5.00. Claren and Donna Brown have a sign-up sheet for next week's Holiday Party at Claren's house.

Meeting was adjourned by Jeanne Parker.

CCMGA Christmas gift exchange and luncheon followed the business meeting.



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of November 25, 2017, is \$18,837.99. Income includes \$360 Dues 2018 and \$15 Gloves Sold for Total Income of \$375.00. Expense includes \$1,843.07 Greenhouse Benches and Signs; \$408.55 Greenhouse Supplies 2018 and \$90.92 Demo Garden for Total Expense of \$2,342.54. Balance at December 27, 2017 is \$16,870.45, less remaining budgeted expenses of \$914.73, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$15,955.72.

The 2017 budget will be final as of the January meeting. No reimbursements will be made against the budget after that date.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



Education Committee Schedule

By Kathi Farley

February 3, 10 AM at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church Women's Conference. Topic: "Urban Gardening Raised Beds" by Marilyn Solomon.

February 3, 10 AM & 11AM at Norman Public Library on Gray St. Topics: "Basic Gardening 101" by Theresa January; "Oklahoma Proven Gardening" by ?

February 3, 9 AM -4 PM Information table for Oklahoma Native Plant Society on OU Campus

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 1, 6-7:30 PM and March 17, 1-2:30 PM at Myriad Gardens Nancy Logan will be speaking on "All you need to Know about Starting Seeds"

March 9 & 10, Flea Market- Garage Sale Fundraiser



Sincere Condolences

We extend our sincere condolences and sympathy to Lois Cox whose husband Jerry passed away on December 30, 2017. After a period of time for the family to grieve privately, a service to celebrate Jerry's life will be planned in a few weeks.



Committee Descriptions for 2018 CCMGA Directory

The committee chairs have updated the committee descriptions for the 2018 CCMGA Directory. Committee descriptions are part of the CCMGA Constitution, any amendment to the Constitution must first be published in the Newsletter prior to our regular Monthly Meeting. At our January 12th meeting these changes may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present. Listed below are the new CCMGA descriptions we will vote on at the January 12th Monthly Meeting;

ARTICLE V—COMMITTEES

Section 1 Committee Membership

Committee Membership is limited to members who have gained their MG Certification through the Extension Office. This is necessary to protect the credibility of the CCMGA and the OCES. Non-members are welcome to attend meetings and social functions, but will not be voting members. Committees requiring CCMGA funds should present a budget to the Executive Committee for consideration at the beginning of the year.

Section 2 CCMGA Committees

A. Program Committee: 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.

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

C. Special Projects Committee: 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.

D. Hospitality Committee: 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.

E. Public Relations Committee: 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.

F. Membership Committee: 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.

G. 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.

H. Greenhouse Committee: 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.

I. Education Committee: 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.

J. Fundraising Committee: 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.

K. 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.



Bleu Cheese Ice Cream

By Martha Stewart

Ingredients

3 sticks butter, softened
 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
 1 1/2 cups whole milk
 1 vanilla bean -- split and seeds scraped
 1/2 cup granulated sugar
 4 egg yolks
 1 cup mild blue cheese
 Ganache
 Caramelized nuts

Add cream, milk and vanilla bean with scraped seeds to a heavy-bottomed saucepan. Heat over medium-low heat until small bubbles form and burst. Do not boil.

While cream is heating, whisk together egg yolks and sugar until pale and creamy.

Temper the eggs by slowly adding 1/2 c. hot cream to the egg mixture, whisking constantly. Then reduce heat to low and whisk egg mixture into saucepan. Continue cooking, stirring and scraping the bottom of the pan frequently until mixture thickens to coat the back of a spoon.

Remove from heat and set aside. You can discard the

vanilla bean pod. Crumble cheese into pea-sized pieces and place in a fine mesh strainer set over large bowl.

Pour the hot custard over the cheese, stirring to aid melting. Once cheese is incorporated into the custard, set the bowl over an ice bath and refrigerate mixture.

Once cooled completely, freeze in an ice cream maker according to manufacturer's instructions. Store in freezer until firm or ready to serve. Copyright 2015

Savory Pumpkin Lasagna

By Georjana Mauldin

Ingredients

1/2 pound sliced fresh mushrooms
 1 small onion, chopped
 1/2 teaspoon salt, divided
 2 teaspoons olive oil
 1 can (15 ounces) solid-pack pumpkin
 1/2 cup half-and-half cream
 1 teaspoon dried sage leaves
 Dash pepper
 9 no-cook lasagna noodles
 1 cup reduced-fat ricotta cheese
 1 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
 3/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese

In a small skillet, sauté the mushrooms, onion and 1/4 teaspoon salt in oil until tender; set aside. In a small bowl, combine the pumpkin, cream, sage, pepper and remaining salt.

Spread 1/2 cup pumpkin sauce in an 11x7-in. baking dish coated with cooking spray. Top with three noodles (noodles will overlap slightly). Spread 1/2 cup pumpkin sauce to edges of noodles. Top with half of mushroom mixture, 1/2 cup ricotta, 1/2 cup mozzarella and 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese. Repeat layers. Top with remaining noodles and sauce.

Cover and bake at 375° for 45 minutes. Uncover; sprinkle with remaining Parmesan cheese. Bake 10-15 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Let stand for 10 minutes before cutting.

Freeze option: Cover and freeze unbaked lasagna. To use, partially thaw in refrigerator overnight. Remove from refrigerator 30 minutes before baking. Preheat oven to 375°. Bake as directed, increasing time as necessary to heat through and for a

thermometer inserted in center to read 165°. Yield: 6 servings.

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.



December Meeting





December Meeting







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

January 12, 10 AM: CCMGA Meeting, Classroom.

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

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

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



Dirty Santa

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.