

# The Weeders' Digest

## Thank You Returning 2020 Officers!

Thank you to all our CCMGA Master Gardener Board members who have agreed to keep their offices through 2021. This decision was made with the agreement of our membership, because we had such reduced activity during 2020. Committee chairs will be contacted by President Joan Barker about continuing on into 2021 in the next few weeks. We will publish updates to the committees in next month's newsletter.

***In February***, we will have a meeting via ZOOM and Horticulture Educator Courtney DeKalb-Myers has a fun program planned to challenge our gardening knowledge. Look forward to that meeting on our regularly scheduled meeting date, Friday, February 12 at 10:00 AM.

### **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. Please pay your dues by **February 15** to assure your listing in the 2021 Directory. Your education hours are also due for the year 2020.

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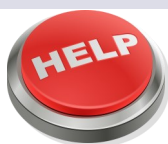
## President's Posting

By Joan Barker

Happy New Year! Best wishes for a different 2021.

As you browse seed catalogues and plan for spring gardens, look forward to a year in which we can, at some time, safely connect in person again. The strength, generosity and caring nature of Cleveland County Master Gardeners was very evident during 2020. Stay healthy and safe!

Joan

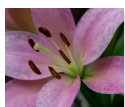


## Your Newsletter Needs You!

By Elaine Dockray

We make every effort to publish an interesting and informative newsletter every month. Our ability to do so is dependent upon receiving sufficient input from our members. Have you read any gardening books or articles that you would like to tell others about? Have photos to share of your yard or garden? Did you try a DIY garden project while stuck at home due to the pandemic? Did you look into a subject you have always wondered about but just never had the time to research before? See a garden themed joke or cartoon worth sharing? If it's something you found interesting, there are probably others who will find it interesting as well. So, please support your newsletter by submitting material to be published in upcoming editions. Please send your inputs to me at [elaine.dockray@cox.net](mailto:elaine.dockray@cox.net). Thank you and Happy New Year!

Elaine Dockray, Editor



## Condolences

It is with sincere sadness we report that Patricia Humphrey passed away on Dec 11, 2020. Pat was a member of the 2003 MG class and worked in the demo garden. Shown below is her obituary from The Norman Transcript. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time.

### Patricia Kay Humphrey 1942 - 2020

Patricia "Patty Kay" Humphrey, nee McCord, of Norman, OK passed away peacefully in her sleep after a long illness on Dec. 11 2020. Originally from Shawnee, Ok she graduated from Shawnee High School and Oklahoma State University. She was a proud Campfire Girl, Rainbow Girl, and member of the Delta Zeta sorority. She follows her parents, Peggy and Prentis McCord, her brother Prentis McCord, and her husband

Ltc. (Ret.) Elbert A. Humphrey. She is survived by her daughter Brooke Ryan, her son Blayke Humphrey, her Daughter-in-law Catherine Humphrey, and her grandchildren Ciaran Ryan, Elliot Humphrey, and Amelia Humphrey.

She requested a small private ceremony and cremation. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Planned Parenthood in her name.



The Norman Transcript



Demo garden: status unchanged as we are closed for the winter but looking forward to the spring and seeing everyone again! We will need extra help to get the garden back in shape due to neglect that happened due to COVID-19. So, please plan to come help! Also, we are looking at new styles of walkways. If you like physical labor, we could use you!



## Photo Booth

*By Elaine Dockray*



## Treasurer's Report

*By Nancy Logan*

Beginning balance as of November 25, 2020 is \$24,099.10. Income includes \$320 2021 Dues; \$40 Gloves sold and \$30 Donation for Total Income of \$390.00. Expenses are \$75 Demo Garden and \$860.00 Ice Storm Tree Repair/Removal for Total Expenses of \$935.00. Balance at December 31, 2020 is \$23,554.10 less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \$9,450.10 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$1112.00, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$12,992.00.

As this is the end of our budget year, the \$9,450.10 in budgeted expenses that were not reimbursed will be added back to our budget excess. To begin our 2021 budget, we will start with a balance of \$22,442.10.

**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. Please get your dues paid by February 15 to assure your listing in the 2021 Directory. Your education hours are also due for the year 2020. If you input your hours into the OSU computer program, you are good to go. If you keep track of your hours manually, please send your record to me, Nancy Logan, at 3200 Summit Bnd, 73071 or you can send an Excel or Microsoft Word document to my email, [nloganrel@gmail.com](mailto:nloganrel@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



## THE CURSE OF THE WILD CEDAR

When I was a little girl a long, long time ago, my father brought home two wild cedar trees to transplant at the end of our driveway. My mother begged him not to. "Bill", I remember her saying, "Don't you know that if you transplant a wild cedar you will die when it gets big enough to shade your grave"? Dad gave her "the look", the "I'm married to a crazy woman" look, and proceeded to plant the trees despite my mother's protests.

My mother came from a family steeped in superstition and we were used to her frequent reminders about what was going to cause us to have good luck or bad luck. So, nobody gave much thought to her predictions of doom about the trees. A few years went by and the trees grew. When my father died in an accident, Mom blamed the trees. "I told him", she said, "I told him not to plant those trees".

I hadn't given much thought to the "curse of the wild cedar" for a long time - - until last year. My husband and I were deciding on some trees to plant along an unsightly fence line at the edge of our property. My husband suggested we transplant some wild cedars. Suddenly old memories bubbled to the surface and my blood ran cold. "No", I shouted, a bit too stridently. "Bob, don't you know that if you transplant a wild cedar you will die when it gets big enough to shade your grave"? He gave me "the look", the "I'm married to a crazy woman" look. It was déjà vu all over again. Luckily, I was able to convince him not to plant the trees based on more practical reasons such as their invasiveness and the fire danger they present.

With the crisis averted, I began to wonder about the origins of the "curse". Was it just something my mother's superstitious family had come up with on its own or was there more to it? I started to do some research to see if I could find anything to give me a clue as to how or where the superstition got started. After combing the internet for information, I found the cedar tree superstition was prevalent in the Ozarks as well as in the South. I even found a reference to the curse in a list of Illinois superstitions. It even gained the nickname "graveyard tree" because of the belief that a person who planted a cedar tree would die when it grew big enough to shade their grave.

I found several interesting stories that originated in the Ozarks. Here are a few of them:

One involved the case of a young fellow who uprooted some small cedars that a man who was not local to the area wanted for his lawn. The young man dug the holes to plant the trees, but then hired a very old man to actually plant them in the holes. The old man didn't mind, knowing that he wouldn't live long enough for the trees to grow large before his passing.

Another tale involved some boys who hired out to transplant cedars in a nursery. These young men laughed at the old superstition, but their parents were horrified and ordered them to quit the job immediately.

This information is from a letter written in October of 1935 by a woman relating her experience shortly after buying a country home on the Osage River, near Tuscumbia, Missouri. 'The new place is a beautifully located farmhouse,' she said. 'We planned to move some native cedars into groupings and had great difficulty in finding someone to do the work because moving cedar trees was known to bring untoward happenings, nearly always a death to the immediate family. And these Tuscumbians cited actual cases to prove the rule. We finally found a native who was willing to risk the welfare of his family, but he had worked on the big roads out in the valley and had acquired a certain bravado or recklessness in tempting the powers that be. This is a bona fide experience.'





And finally, one story that disputes the superstition involves an elderly woman from Galena, Missouri. She said that years ago as a young bride she transplanted a little cedar on her farm. Her young husband just grinned when he heard of it, but her father-in-law was almost prostrated. He urged her to go instantly and pull the tree up. She refused, and always after that her father-in-law felt that she was destined for an early death. But the cedar tree is still flourishing, big enough to cover half a dozen graves now, while the woman outlived both her father-in-law and her husband.

Despite finding many stories about this superstition from various parts of the country, I could not find out how it originated or became so widespread. I guess it's just another one of those things I'll never know. Just like if my father's death was the result of the "curse" or just a tragic accident. But as for my mother, she still blames the trees.

### OTHER PLANT SUPERSTITIONS

While researching the origins of the cedar tree superstition, I came across some other interesting superstitions involving plants or gardening:

**Never Say Thank You if Given a Plant as a Gift** – This superstition says we should never thank someone for a plant or cutting or the plant will fail to thrive or even die. The origin of this is based on the belief that if you do something morally wrong like stealing a plant or not saying "thank you" when one is given to you, the plant will then grow prolifically to remind you of your misdeed and make you feel guilty! Some gardeners believe that plants will grow so much better if stolen that when they give someone a plant, they will put it down and turn their back on it so that the other person can "steal" it.

**Hotter Peppers** - Peppers are said to be hotter and more prolific if you plant them when you're angry.

**Conversation Helps** - Talking to plants and bees is supposed to make both more productive, though bees reportedly prefer juicy gossip rather than polite conversation.

**Ward Off Evil Spirits** - Gazing balls and windchimes ward off evil spirits; bottle trees repel and capture evil spirits.

**Frighten Your Fruit Tree** - If a fruit tree has been barren for a few years in a row, bring an ax early in spring and threaten to cut it down. It will see the error of its ways and bear abundantly come harvest time.

**Curses** - You're supposed to curse herbs to make them thrive.

**Show Your Scarecrow Some Love** - Gardening folklore teaches that if you don't treat your scarecrow with respect, your crops will die. Give your scarecrow a hat to keep him/her cool in the sun, but don't loan him your best jacket. Once you have given clothing to a scarecrow you can never wear it again or it will bring bad luck.



## Baked Bang Bang Chicken

by Rick Ault

### Ingredients

For Sauce:

1/2 cup mayonnaise

2 tablespoons Sriracha

1 tablespoon sugar

1 tablespoon rice vinegar

For Chicken:

2 large eggs

1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

1/4 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper

2 boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1" cubes

1 cup flour

2 cups panko

1 teaspoon onion powder

1 teaspoon garlic powder

Vegetable oil spray

Mix the mayonnaise, Sriracha, sugar and vinegar in a small bowl. Set aside.

Whisk the eggs, salt, and pepper in a small bowl.

Place the flour into a second small bowl.

Mix the panko breadcrumbs, onion powder and garlic powder together in a (3rd) shallow bowl.

Preheat oven to 375 F. and cut the chicken into 1" chunks if it's not already cubed. Coat the chicken with the flour, dredge in the eggs, and then coat with the panko mixture. Add to a large baking sheet.

Spray with vegetable oil spray for 2 seconds. Bake for 22-25 minutes or until golden brown.

While still hot, toss with the Sriracha mayo mixture, or drizzle the mixture over the chicken, or serve the Sriracha mayo mixture as a dipping sauce.

Source: "Internet" Copyright: "2020"

Per Serving (excluding unknown items): 330 Calories; 18g Fat (49.9% calories from fat); 23g Protein; 19g Carbohydrate; 1g Dietary Fiber; 123mg Cholesterol; 336mg Sodium. Exchanges: 1 Grain(Starch); 3 Lean Meat; 1 1/2 Fat; 0 Other Carbohydrates.

NOTES: Kelsey first made this recipe and her whole family loved it. I then tried it, and it is delicious! The sauce makes it!



## Upcoming Events

**January 30, 10 AM: Guided Walking Tour.** Myriad Botanical Gardens, Oklahoma City. FREE – registration required.

Register at <https://oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com/january-in-the-gardens/>

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.

**January 30, 10 AM – noon: Tropical Paradise Photography Workshop.** Crystal Bridge Conservatory, Myriad Botanical Gardens, Oklahoma City. Member \$20; Nonmember \$25. Led by Doug Hoke, Director of Photography, The Oklahoman.

Register at <https://oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com/january-in-the-gardens/>

Escape the cold weather and take part in photographing the plants inside the Crystal Bridge Conservatory before it closes for a complete two-year renovation. Learn how to capture vibrant photos of the desert and rainforest ecosystems that live in our conservatory. Bring your own mobile phone or camera. The program begins in the Gardens classroom. Masks and social distancing are required.



## Trusted websites to buy seeds online

### *Garden Gate*

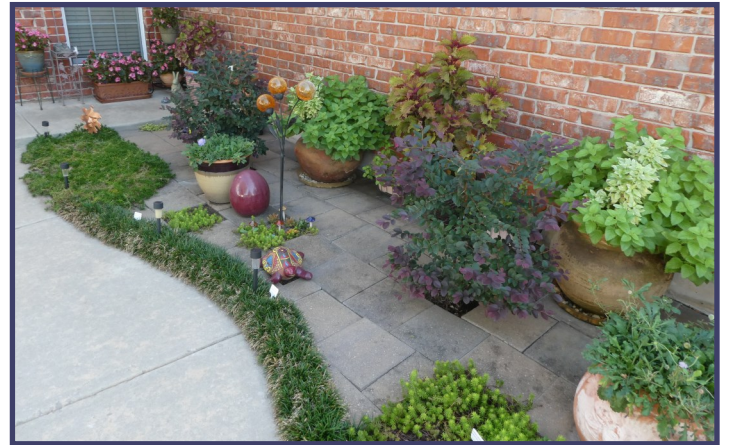
Buying quality seed makes a difference in how well your new plants will take off. Here are several of our favorite mail-order sources for garden seeds. Learn what we like about each one in the list that follows.

- **Annie's Annuals & Perennials**[www.anniesannuals.com](http://www.anniesannuals.com) Specializes in rare and unusual plants
- **Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds**[www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com) Lots of heirloom and exotic vegetable seeds you won't find at the garden center
- **Botanical Interests**[www.botanicalinterests.com](http://www.botanicalinterests.com) Sells seeds for vegetable, herb and flower gardens, with special emphasis on certified organic seed
- **Johnny's Selected Seeds**[www.johnnyseeds.com](http://www.johnnyseeds.com) Sells seeds for fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs, offers certified organic seed options
- **John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds**[www.kitchengardenseeds.com](http://www.kitchengardenseeds.com) Family owned and operated, sells seeds for fruits, vegetables, flowers and herbs
- **Pinetree Garden Seeds**[www.superseeds.com](http://www.superseeds.com) Wide variety of vegetable and flower seeds at economical prices
- **Prairie Moon Nursery**[www.prairiemoon.com](http://www.prairiemoon.com) Plants, seed mixes and information for all types of native plantings and restoration
- **Renee's Garden**[www.reneesgarden.com](http://www.reneesgarden.com) Seeds for gourmet vegetables, herbs and cut flowers, especially large sweet pea flower collection
- **Seed Savers Exchange**[www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org) Heirloom and old-fashioned seeds; committed to preserving biodiversity
- **Select Seeds**[www.selectseeds.com](http://www.selectseeds.com) Sells seeds (and plants, too) for flowers, including heirloom, native, and pollinator-friendly varieties, as well as new cultivars
- **Territorial Seed Company**[www.territorialseed.com](http://www.territorialseed.com) Specializes in wide variety of vegetable seeds



### New Address

Donna Carter  
3408 Riverwalk Dr  
Norman, OK 73072  
Phone remains 405-222-7917  
Email remains [dcarter56@icloud.com](mailto:dcarter56@icloud.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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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](mailto: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](http://www.oces.okstate.edu/cleveland).