

The Weeders' Digest

Thanks for Your Donations, CCMGA!



Thank you to all who brought food to our Christmas party to go to the Meals on Wheels! As you can see from this photo, you were very generous! Thanks to Fred Schneider (pictured) and Joan Barker for delivering the collected food after the meeting! More photos on pages 11-13.

Programs....

by Lois Cox Marshall

January will be a very different meeting. We will spend time getting acquainted with each other as well as learning about all the committees you can become involved with to make your MG experience richer. You will also get to meet the new committee chairs for some of the groups. You don't want to miss this meeting on January 18! Snacks at 9:30 am and meeting at 10 am.

Dues and Hours are Due!
Don't forget to turn in your hours and pay your dues at the January meeting!

Inside This Issue

President's Posting	2-4	Garden Guru	8-10
Dues and hours Info	5	The Recipe Box	14-15
Computer Classes	2	Treasurer Report	5
Garden Gossip	6	Photo Booth	17
Christmas Party Pics	11-13	Community Ed	6-7
Garden Party	5	Upcoming Events	16



My Year as President in Review

As I finish my year as president of Cleveland County Master Gardeners, it seems appropriate to look back over the year to see what was accomplished.

January – Zoom continued as our meeting format with plans to move back to face to face meeting soon. We even installed officers via Zoom. For the meeting, we watched several videos on gardening topics following by discussion groups. What a lot we learned from the Pandemic. Executive Council continues to be held on Zoom for the convenience of all board and committee heads. Programs committee had no chair. Jeannie Kline and I took it on to insure we had programs throughout the year.

Personally, I was beginning my job as a sponsor to the Safi Afghanistan family furnishing and moving them into their rental. This family of 12 has been a delightful challenge (emphasis on the word “challenge”)!

February – In November of 2021, anyone interested attended a “listening session” to discuss how to make our organization better. My goal became to accomplish as many of these items as possible throughout the year. The first goal achieved was to get to know the members better. We accomplished that with a Meet-and-Greet Zoom meeting. It was quite a difference experience but also very successful. Rahmona Thompson worked with mentors to get our new trainees working at the desk. A blog was added to our website. Anyone can submit an article to add to our “Dishing the Garden Dirt” blog! The By-Laws were also revised.

The Garden Party still had no chair so Jeannie and I took that on as well. April was coming!

Personally, my fiancé and I set an August date for our marriage so plans began!

March - A second goal from the listening session was to increase involvement of the membership. To do that, we hosted our first committee fair. This was also our first in-person meeting since the pandemic, and it was great! Tables were set up around the Frye auditorium for each committee/position. Members circulated to each table learning what their job was in the organization and signed up to help with the ones that perked their interest. The new Jr. Master Gardener Program was started with Joan Barker and the information booth at the Farmer's Market headed by Fred Schneider. Bug Fest was held March 17 at the Norman public library and was a huge success.

A third goal from the listening session was to have apprenticeships for each committee. Several times, a committee chair has had to step down due to family issues. The committee fair also worked to achieve this goal with many committees now having a second or third person to help.

A fourth goal was to revive the education committee. Donna Wright did a great job with this goal. Linda Dolezal joined her as a co-chair. We had very informative programs throughout the year.

April – The monthly meeting was on native plants with Connie Scothorn, and we all learned something new. We had tremendous advertising for the plant sale which contributed to our most successful event financially. It was also the largest attendance with 493 shoppers of all ages. The fairy garden set up by Brittany Jordan was a hit. Total profit: \$8,006.05! As typically happens, the weather did not cooperate! I taught a variety of computer classes in April and May to help members work more efficiently. The demo garden worked diligently to get the garden ready for the garden party due to limited work during the pandemic. They came through in great shape.



A Year in Review (continued)

May – In an effort to get more of our members involved in teaching, we had a “member showcase” with Melody Palm and Kandace Schloesser presenting a program on Spinning and Plant Fibers. Plans were finalized for our first home tours since the pandemic in June headed by Evan Taylor. Joan Barker had to step down as chair of Jr. Master Gardeners due to her husband’s health. Jeanie and I kept it going throughout the year. Tablecloths were ordered for the Farmer’s Market table and were used throughout the year at all events.

Personally, I started the process of moving out of my house in preparation of moving into my husband’s home in August. I went through everything to cut down on what I was moving.

June – Michelle Lauderback spoke on Norman’s water supply presenting a super informative talk. All who attended the home garden tours had a great time. We toured 3 homes and ended with several going out for lunch.

July – Garden tours had a rise in attendance from the Farmer’s Market but later in the morning. Classes for new master gardener hit a record high creating a lot of excitement for the classes. Another of our members, Rahmona Thompson, presented a “member showcase” on Fungi.

Personally, my fiancé and I stood in as Godparents for one of our Iranian students getting married in Michigan. What an honor to serve in this way. We have a large family of students from around the world—about 30 each year.



August – The MG classes started August 1 with 30 students! The program for this month was on weather changes by Richard Carpenter from the National Weather Center. The traditional Friday picnic to welcome our new trainees was a great success and well attended.

Personally, I married Henry Marshall on August 13. We left August 14 for a lovely honeymoon in the Virgin Islands. The move into my new home was complete (almost). This was the biggest change for the year!

September – There was no regular meeting due to the fair. However, in checking into why this happens, it was discussed that our old meeting day of the second Friday always interfered with the fair. Now that our meeting date has changed, we will look at scheduling a meeting next year in September. Judy Kautz started getting the newsletter out earlier helping the membership be more prepared for the meetings. The contacts made at the Farmer’s Market were amazing. Our members talked to so many people teaching them about gardening.

The United Way Day of Caring happened September 16. They brought equipment to do some digging that would have taken us months to complete. Joan Barker was the contact for this project. Our first activity with the Jr. Master Gardener program was September 17 in the Demo Garden with a local girl scout troop. It was a big success.

Personally, my Afghanistan family delivered their tenth child, Abobaker.



A Year in Review (continued)

October – Another “member showcase” was presented by Judy Kautz on her trip to Germany. Plans were made for November! The garden home tours will be more frequent in 2023 and with less homes each time. This will showcase such things as spring bulbs. A hobby greenhouse is being purchased by Judy Kautz to use in addition to our large greenhouse. Work started this month in the greenhouse with a cleanup day to get ready for the April sale. We had an information table at the Monarch Festival at Andrews Park October 2 using our new tablecloths. The return of our state Master Conference was October 7 in Claremore! It was great to get back to this annual event. Also in October, the Little Event 2022 with student volunteers from Oklahoma University came to do some work in the garden. We appreciated their younger bodies to help. Joan Barker organized this.

November – Harvest Feast is always a great time. We welcomed Mark Barker, Randy Edwards, Bill Farley, Larry Upton, and Gary Wullich as honorary members in appreciation for all their volunteer hours to the garden. New certified members are Larry Anderson, Daniel Barnes, Peggy Sue Blair, Monique Browder, Carol Earle, Debra Howse, Michelle Miller, Sharon Mitchel, Diane Moomey, Michael Sherrod, and Ruth Smith. The food was marvelous and plentiful as usual. Marilyn Solomon was honored with the Distinguished Service Award for her many years contributing to our organization. Members brought food items to donate to Food and Shelter.

December - The Christmas party was full of food, fun, and singing. Joan Barker won the ugly sweater contest hands down! Melody Palm led us in some well-known Christmas carols. Meals on Wheels benefited from members bringing food items this month. Cathy Bowden works tirelessly on the Styrofoam recycling project and members have faithfully collected Styrofoam to bring to each meeting. We are honored to have our chapter of Master Gardeners associated with this worthwhile project thanks to Cathy! Joan Barker involved us in the Meals on Wheels Poinsettia Sale again this year. And my year was complete.

Personally, I closed on the sale of my house with great emotion. This was the last place I lived in with my late husband of 50 years. It closed another part of that chapter of my life! I also celebrated the first Christmas with my new husband! Marrying at this age means combining families which is never without challenges. Joy and memories combined in one month.

The New Year – So what will I do now? I am the chair for the Garden Party April 15. I also will continue to work with the Jr. Master Gardener Program until we find someone who would like to take this on.

Thank you for sticking with me through a year of change. It has been a great year for our MG local program. So much has happened opening the door for so much more to happen in the coming year. Jeannie, I turn it over to you in January!

Lois



Junior Master Gardeners

By Lois Cox Marshall

There was a training January 9 from 9 am-noon in Classroom C by Tony Pascall, Education Coordinator Oklahoma Forestry Services. We had 9 in attendance, and it was great! Tony is an educator and presented an amazing curriculum for us to use in our program here. We received the book to use and handouts to go with each lesson from their online source. Each of us left so excited about what he presented and the possibilities for our group to use this information with young people in the area. He will be our speaker in February on Dendrochronology - The Study of Tree Rings.



Garden Party Committee Meeting

by Lois Cox Marshall

Calling all members interested in helping us make the 2023 Garden Party as big or bigger a success as 2022! We will have a meeting immediately following the regular meeting on January 18 in the Cowboy Conference Room. Come help us plan! Everyone is invited to attend.



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of November 30, 2022 is \$28,757.07. \$480 2023 Dues and \$40 Gloves Sold for Total Income of \$520.00. Expenses were \$299.26 Greenhouse Supplies and \$1000 OSU Scholarship for a total of \$1,299.26. Balance at December 31, 2022 is \$27,977.81, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \$4,402.54 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$1,913.00, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$21,662.27.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Logan



Dues and Hours Due!

By Nancy Logan

2023 Dues of \$30 and Hours Report for 2022 will be collected at the January meeting. Hours and dues can also be left at the extension office or mailed to Nancy Logan, Treasurer at 2803 24th Ave NW, Apt 2126, Norman 73069. Secure your place in the 2023 Directory by paying your dues by the February meeting.



Computer Classes Going Again

By Lois Cox Marshall

Sign up if you haven't already to take several computer classes taught by me in Classroom C. No prior experience is necessary. It is helpful to bring your own laptop to use something you are comfortable with rather than one from the Extension Office. Sign up [here](#) if you haven't already.



In the garden itself, we have a few gardens that need a Bedhead: 1)The Backyard patio (we will want mosquito resistance plants), 2)Herb Garden, 3)The Greenbelt Garden (evergreen plantings).

We still need someone to take on irrigation and someone or someones to shadow me and take on the coordinator position for 2024.

The "hobby greenhouse" is ordered, deposit down and may be here in about a month. Thank you Judy and Georjana. Woohoo!

Mark your calendars! The last Tuesday of February, 2023, 9:30am-12:00 we will have a demo garden education/pot luck. Some education on composting, small irrigation repairs (shovels really can do some damage), weed identification, tool sharpening and anything else I can come up with. I will be calling on a couple of you to do a quick 15 min instruction/demonstration for that day These will go toward 2023 education hours. *Kathi*



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE IS IN NEED OF YOUR HELP!

The February Committee education program will be presented by Susan Aikman. It will be a "make it and take it" class on Verimcomposting. The first 30 attendees will make a mini worm bin. This is where your help is needed. We need to collect 30 containers with lids that are the size of the 32 oz yogurt container or the 1 pound Folgers coffee tub. Please bring them to the January MG meeting. Thank you for your help.

MEET OUR SPEAKER: Susan Aikman

Susan is originally from Illinois, she graduated from Southern Illinois U. with a degree in Education. Her travels began when she married a career Marine. For the next 23 years they lived in seven states. Susan taught Adaptive P.E. in New Mexico and California and Special Education in OK. After her husband ended his last tour with the OU Naval ROTC, they decided to retire in Norman, Oklahoma. Susan and her husband have two wonderful children and three super grandkids.

Susan states she has always loved traveling, gardening and the outdoors. Living in so many areas gardening always proved to be a challenge. She took the Master Gardener class in 2009 to learn why it was so hard to garden successfully here. It's still a challenge for me. Susan states, **GARDENING IS LIFELONG LEARNING.**

Join Susan as she teaches Verimcomposting with a "Make It and Take It worm farm" for the February 18th, from 10-11:00 am Community Education Class. The first 30 attendees will make a mini worm farm. The class will meet at the Cleveland County Extension classroom "C", on the northwest corner of the building at 601 East Robinson.

**CLEVELAND COUNTY MASTER
GARDENER ASSOCIATION PRESENTS**
EDUCATIONAL CLASS
Winter Tree Care



Photo Credit:
University of
Minnesota Extension

**Saturday, January
21st 10:00 - 11:00**

During the winter months, most landscape plants will not need your attention... Trees are the exception, however, and when they are dormant it is the ideal time to be planting and pruning trees. Other topics will include soil nutrition, and your tree's role in the landscape.

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



OSU EXTENSION
**CLEVELAND COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS**

Presenter:
Colin Zink
City Forester, City of Norman



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My Greenhouse

In February 2022 I built a greenhouse. For months I had been eyeing a plastic film greenhouse at Atwoods. It was basic and consisted of a metal tubular frame, reinforced plastic film, and screw-in ground anchors. It had a tent flap door with a screened zippered window in the back. At just 6' X 8', it had a small footprint.

I erected the frame in the backyard directly on the grass with the long side facing south and the north side about 10 feet from my house. I framed walls for the front and the back from treated lumber and secured it to the metal frame with metal



straps. I put landscape fabric on the ground for the floor. I constructed a door from untreated 2x4s. The door was designed to hold a 16X16 louvered aluminum vent. It was covered in single walled polycarbonate roofing panels. I joined the 2x4s with pocket screws and brushed Thompson's Waterseal on the board to prevent moisture absorption and swelling. I hung the door on the frame with two 75-lbs rated hinges.

The greenhouse was designed with side flaps along the bottom that could be raised and lowered to provide air circulation. This caused a permanent draft under the greenhouse – a significant source of heat loss. I

cut 6 mil plastic film into strips and wrapped them around the base of the greenhouse. After taping the top edge to the plastic film, I buried the bottom about 3-4 inches under the ground.

Now that the greenhouse was enclosed, I needed a cooling and heating system, which required that I be able to supply the greenhouse with electricity. I installed a 20 amp GFCI breaker in the main box and ran 12-gauge 2-wire grounded cooper wire to a newly installed outdoor outlet on the back of the house. From there I ran a heavy-duty extension cord to the greenhouse through a slit in the back corner.





For cooling, I hung a 12-inch louvered vent fan in the west wall. When activated the fan creates a vacuum inside the greenhouse and pulls open the louvered vent in the bottom of the door. For heating, I placed a 1,500-watt ceramic heater on a brick pad inside the greenhouse. I am limited on how much heat I can provide to the greenhouse with only a 20 amp circuit. Heaters use a lot of power.

Once I had the fan and heater, I installed temperature controllers to turn each on and off as needed. This required two (2) analog thermostats, one for cooling and one for heating. I hung two SureStat TS116 thermostats with plugs on a piece of strand board backing under a shelf I nailed to the back wall. Most digital thermostats such as the ones that operate heating mats will not run a heater on full power.

There are limits to how much heat a 1500-watt ceramic heater can produce. According to OSU Fact Sheet HLA-6705 "The Hobby Greenhouse " the method to figure how much heat you will need to keep your greenhouse at a certain temperature is based on the difference between the inside and outside temperature differential. My ceramic heater produces 5,100 BTUs of heat. In theory at any temperatures below 15° there is a risk my heater cannot

maintain the internal temperature above freezing.



Since my heat is limited by using an electric heater, I have taken steps to augment my insulation. My greenhouse runs from east to west with the entrance facing east. Along the North side roof I added an interior layer of 6 mil plastic that is wedged and tapped against the roof. This forms a loose air pocket. Additionally, I hung a single layer of row cover fabric along the north and west sides. For heat sinks, I placed two full rain barrels and twelve (12) full gallon jugs of water under the shelves on the northern side which absorb the heat during the day and radiate heat as the temperature cools. On March 12th, 2022 with temperatures of 18F, the greenhouse was still able to warm to 51F with the ceramic heater.

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On a sunny 40° day, the greenhouse's inside temperature can easily reach the 70s. The 12" exhaust fan pulls 900 cubic feet of air per minute, which will change the air almost 3 times per minute in my 336 cubic foot greenhouse. Even on an 80° day the inside stays below 90°.

In 2022 I planted five (5) 72-cell seed trays with flowers and herbs that grew happily until I planted them out at the end of April. This year I am keeping cuttings and tender perennials inside of the winter as well as one of my wife's David Austin roses. The rose has continued to bloom through the writing of this article in later December 2022.





Christmas Party

by Judy Kautz





Christmas Party

by Judy Kautz



Joan Barker won the ugly sweater contest!



Christmas Party

by Judy Kautz





Lite Fluffy Fruit Dessert

Ingredients

1.5 oz Sugar-Free Jell-O Vanilla Pudding Mix
8 oz carton Fat-Free Cool Whip
8 oz Carton Sugar-Free Cool Whip
20 oz can Crushed Pineapple packed in 100% juice
14.5 oz can No-Sugar-Added Sliced Peaches, drained and chopped
1/3 Cup Chopped Maraschino Cherries
2/3 Cup Chopped Pecans

Empty pudding mix into a large bowl. Add the pineapple and stir well. Fold in Sugar-Free Cool Whip. Add chopped peaches, cherries and pecans to the mixture and stir well. Add Fat-Free Cool whip and stir enough to combine well. Chill for at least an hour.

Original Cranberry Salad

Ingredients

2 cups fresh cranberries
2 cups sugar
3 cups water
1 large can crushed pineapple
1 cup chopped nuts
2 packages Jell-O—1 Cherry and 1 Raspberry

Bring cranberries, sugar, and water to a boil. Pour over Jell-O. Cool.
Add pineapple and nuts.
Chill and serve.

Lite Cranberry Salad

Ingredients

2 cups packaged cranberries
1 1/2 cups stevia
3 cups water
1 large can crushed pineapple
1 cup chopped nuts
2 small packages Sugar-free Black Cherry Jell-o

Bring cranberries, Stevia, and water to boil. Pour over Jell-O. Cool. Add pineapple and nuts. Chill and serve.



Panettone Bread Pudding with Warm Vanilla Sauce

Ingredients

For the bread pudding:

- 1 Panettone, quartered, paper removed and cut into thick slices
- 1 cup of Heavy Cream
- 2 cups of Whole Milk
- 1/2 cup of Granulated Sugar (or vanilla sugar if you have it)
- 6 Eggs
- 1 Tbsp of Vanilla Extract
- Pinch of Salt

For the sauce:

- 1/2 cup (one stick) of Unsalted Butter, softened at room temperature
- 1/2 cup of Granulated Sugar
- 1/2 cup of Brown Sugar
- 1/2 cup of Heavy Cream
- 1/2 cup of Whole Milk
- 1/2 tsp of Salt
- 1 Tbsp of Vanilla Extract

Stagger the panettone slices in a large buttered baking dish (a 9x13 will work for this or a bit smaller) set aside while you make the custard.

In a large bowl (or large measuring cup) whisk together the milk, cream, eggs, sugar, vanilla and salt, gently pour over the panettone, set aside to soak for about an hour.

After an hour, bake in a 350 degree oven for an hour or until set (cover with foil if the center is still too runny but the top is getting too much color) allow to set and rest for 20 minutes before serving and meanwhile, make the

sauce.

In a saucepan, add all the ingredients for the sauce except for the vanilla, bring to a boil, let it slowly bubble away for about 5 minutes, remove from the heat, add the vanilla, give it a stir to combine then pour into a little jug or bowl and serve over the panettone.

NOTE: IF the sauce separates once cooled (store both covered in the fridge) microwave to loosen and give it a good stir.



February 11, 18, & 25, 2023, 9 AM – 3 PM: Home Gardening 101 Workshop.

2023

HOME GARDENING 101 WORKSHOP

Presented by:

OSU Extension Master Gardeners of
Oklahoma County

Whether you are a novice or a garden veteran, this fun and instructional 3-day gardening workshop will prepare you to start the growing season right. You will receive university-based training in:

- Healthy Soils
- Composting
- Plant Propagation
- Smart Watering
- Flowers, Annuals and Perennials
- Landscaping and Lawns
- Growing Fruits and Vegetables
- Insect and Pest Management
- And much, much more

Scan to view the Oklahoma County Master Gardener website.



Scan to view the Oklahoma County OSU Extension website.



WORKSHOP INFORMATION:

Location:

OSU Extension Conference Center
2500 NE 63rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Dates and Times for each class:

Day 1 | February 11 | 9:00am - 3:00pm
Day 2 | February 18 | 9:00am - 3:00pm
Day 3 | February 25 | 9:00am - 3:00pm

We suggest you bring a sack lunch to be able to visit with other gardeners.

Cost:

Registration for the 3-day Home Gardening 101 Workshop is \$75 per person and is non-refundable. This fee includes all three days and is due at the time of registration.

Seating is limited so email 2023HG101@gmail.com to reserve your seat today!

Then return this form with your \$75 check made payable to OCMG by February 1, 2023 to:

OSU Extension Center
Attn: HG101
2500 NE 63rd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Name

Mailing Address

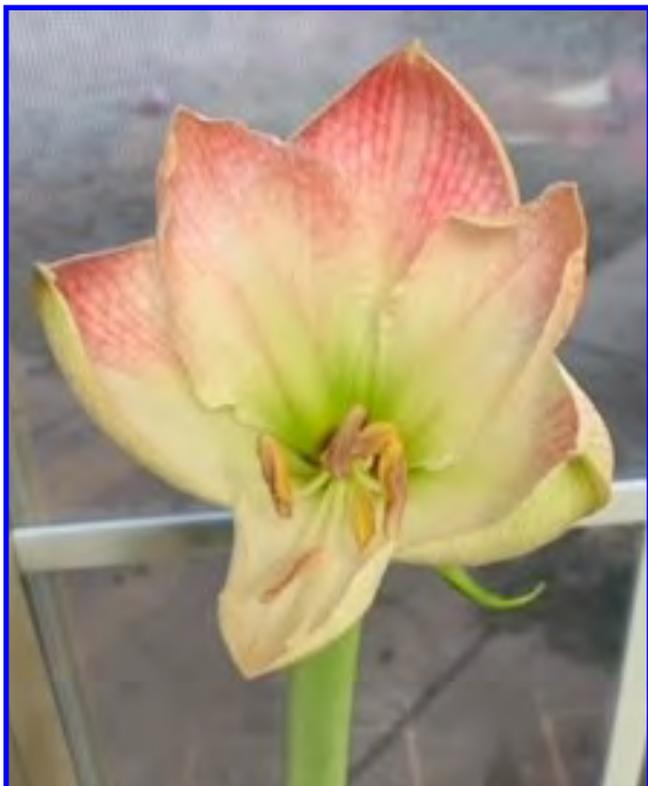
City/State/Zip Code

Phone Number

Email

This is a first come, first serve registration and seating is limited. Sign up and reserve your seat today!





Above, from Diane Moomey, "This is my Galaxy Apple Blossom Amaryllis's first bloom!"
Right, comic submitted by Donna Wright.



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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Horticulture

Submit suggested articles for the newsletter not later than the **28th of each month** to Editor Judy Kautz at 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.