

The Weeders' Digest

Rick Ault Shares Scandinavia



CCMGA Master Gardener Rick Ault presented a program on "Gardens of Scandinavia" at our May1 meeting. What wonderful photos of these gardens! The meeting was in person and broadcast by ZOOM, which worked extremely well. If you want to see the presentation, Courtney has it available for review. Meeting photos are located on pages 10-11.

At the June Meeting....

by Jo Ann Dysart

It's not a shock that homegrown tomatoes taste better than the store-bought ones. There's really no comparison. But have you ever wondered why? In this presentation by Courtney Dekalb-Myers, we will cover the science behind taste, flavor, and other sensory perceptions. We'll also cover how growing conditions can influence the development of taste and flavor in fruits and vegetables. We'll get in touch with our senses, and you'll never look at food the same way again.

Courtney DeKalb-Myers has been the Cleveland County horticulture educator since August 2018. Her position handles homeowner inquiries, master gardener advisement, and other horticulture education programming throughout the state. She is originally from Norman, Oklahoma and went to study horticulture at Oklahoma State University with an emphasis in entrepreneurship. After graduating from OSU, she moved to Raleigh, North Carolina to attend NC State for graduate school. Her research was heavily focused on vegetable production, specifically processing tomatoes for a local salsa product. The emphasis on local products motivated her to move back to Oklahoma and work for the OSU Extension Service.

The meeting begins at 10, but come at 9:30 for conversation. See you there! The meeting will be broadcast by ZOOM...watch for an email from Courtney with links.

Meeting Change

Our CCMGA meetings are now meeting in person as well as via ZOOM. They are now the third Wednesday of the month at Frye Auditorium at 10 am. Executive Committee meetings will now be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 11 am via Zoom.

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President's Posting

By Joan Barker

Thank you Courtney for providing the funding for a new greenhouse cover and shed! This funding is greatly appreciated since the CCMGA has not been able to have a spring public plant sale (our major fundraising activity) for the past two years. The greenhouse committee met in May to formulate plans for this fall. See you in the garden! *Joan*



OSU EXTENSION
MASTER GARDENERS

2021 State Extension Master Gardener Continuing Education Virtual Conference June 24-25, 2021

You are invited to the 2021 Extension Master Gardener Continuing Education Conference on June 24-25, 2021 as a virtual event hosted by the Washington County Master Gardeners. They worked hard to put this together in 2020, but due to the pandemic it was postponed. We are now pleased to offer the same wonderful presenters via a virtual platform. This will be an exceptional conference and we hope you will Save the Date and join us in June. Our keynote speaker is Troy Marden, gardener, designer, photographer, speaker, and world traveler (<https://troybmarden.com/>). Registration is \$25 if you register before June 19.



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of April 27, 2021 is \$24,425.15. Income includes \$40 Gloves Sold; \$10 Tool Sharpeners Sold and \$20 2021 Dues for Total Income of \$70.00. Total expenses of \$159.68 for Demo Garden. Balance at May 27, 2021 is \$24,335.47, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \$15,719.19 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$1,112.00, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$7,504.28.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



Our first Hardscape Workday was a success! We cleared out around all the sheds and purged, reorganized, and got ready for the year. We will continue on May 27th by repairing the west pergola and reorganize the front shed. We still need to restrain the bridge. I hope to do these workdays yearly, so it won't take as long and things stay in good repair.

We still need heads and assistants for the square foot bed and the ethnobotanical bed. They do not have to stay as they currently are. If you have an idea of what you'd like to do, contact me. We can split the ethnobotanical bed to make it smaller.

Thank you, Richard Lowrance in working diligently to controls weeds and edges. It looks better. Richard is looking forward to dry days and low winds to get more done.



First Hardscape Workday

By Kathi Farley



thanks



Photo Booth



(Left) The Cinco de Mayo rose decided to make an appearance on May 4th.
Submitted by Kay Holladay



Above, **Terry Hull** says "This is my first experience with a Hibiscus. But tropical, not hardy. Duh! Learning experience."
Left, Terry reports "My *Itea Virginica* (Virginia Sweetspire), now in its 5th year of life and the butterflies are already a-swarming."

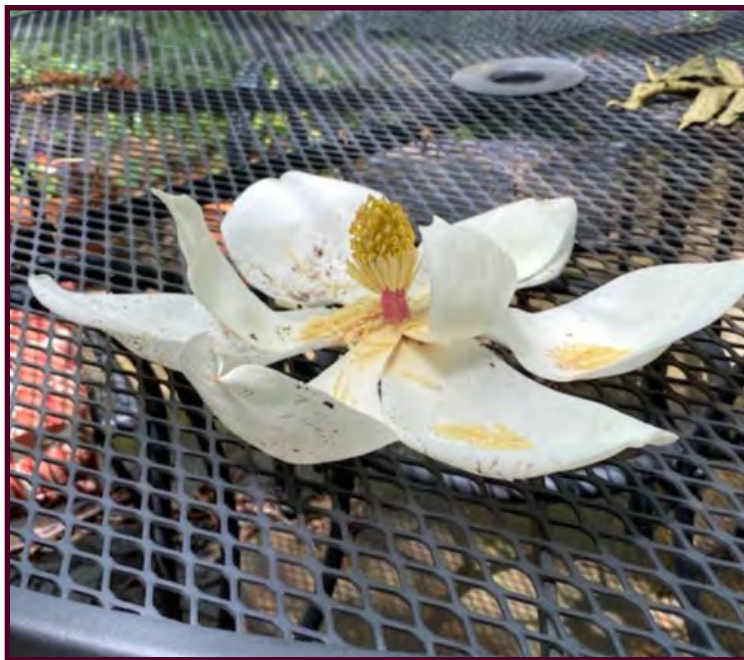
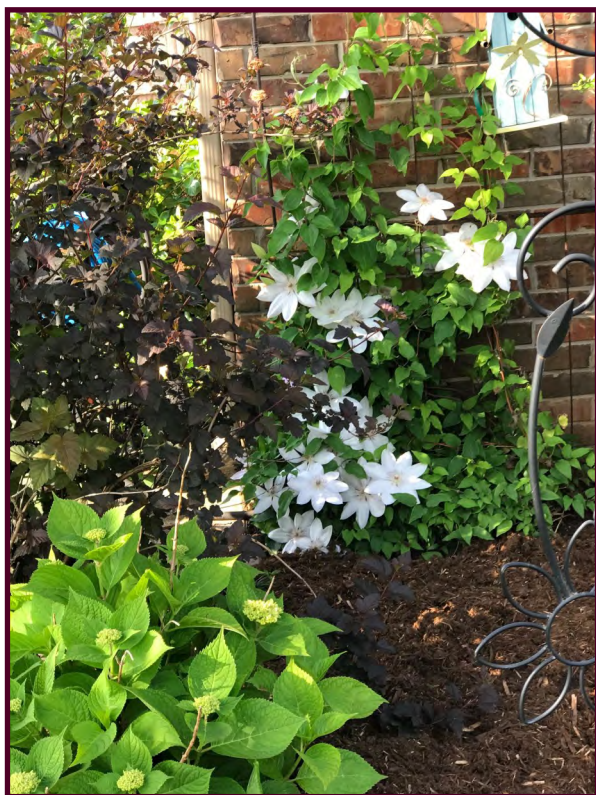


Left above and lower, lovely photos from the garden.
Submitted by Barbara Mauldin.



Photo Booth

Below left, from **Nancy Logan**, Ninebark 'Diablo', Clematis 'Miss Bateman' and Hydrangea 'Grenan', and Dianthus "Artic Fire". Below right, from **Vada Edwards**, "Huge magnolia blossom from my tree! Has been sitting on the ground for a little while!" Bottom right, from **Judy Kautz**, "a huge lily taller than I am, surrounded by bright orange lilies. I can't wait until it blooms to see what variety it is!"





Top, Scabiosa, reblooming iris & common yarrow; Soapwort & candytuft; bottom, Clematis, jackmanii", and Salvia 'Blue Queen' & 'Table Mountain Hardy' ice plant.





Top, Knock Out rose; & Bleeding Heart; bottom, Veronica Sightseeing White; & Salvia 'nemorosa.





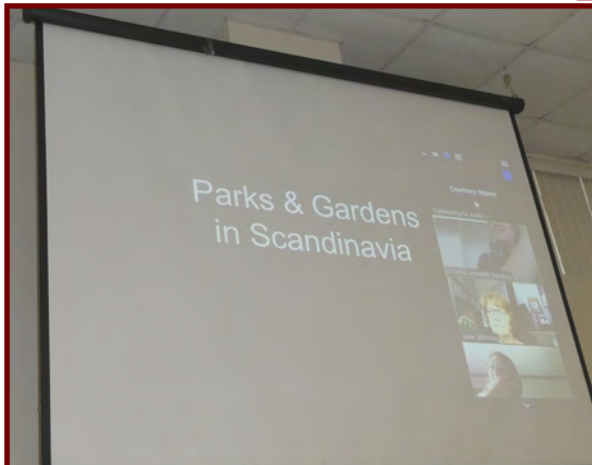




May Meeting Photos

By Judy Kautz





Almost back to normal!



Angel Wing Begonias.

When I gaze at one of my tall, green Angel Wing Begonias I think of my mother. All my begonias originated from cuttings of her plants in Mobile, Alabama many years ago. Her plants came from her mother. I always called my begonias "Angel Wings" but recently discovered that some of them are actually "Dragon Wings". An Angel Wing Begonia has green leaves with white spots, whereas a Dragon Wing Begonia has deep, glossy-green, 5-inch-long leaves. Both have drooping clusters of red, pink, orange, or white flowers on 2–3-foot cane-forming stems. Because the hybrids are sterile, they just keep blooming from spring till frost. The main difference is the coloration of the leaves. Often, the underside of the leaves is a maroon color.

The Angel Wing is a cross between the *Begonia aconitifolia* and the *Begonia coccinea* and was created by a Californian plant breeder in the 1920s. They prefer moist soil and bright indirect light. Aphids and spider mites are their primary pests. They are toxic to pets. My begonias are in huge pots on my front porch during late spring to early fall, and then I place them (my husband does this) in a spare bedroom with an east-facing window.

As I have done at home and in the greenhouse, the begonias can be propagated from stem cuttings. One may take a cutting about 6 inches in length having at least one node on the stem and not flowering. If there are any leaves, remove all the lower set of leaves. Water or soil may be used to propagate. For water, fill a jar halfway with water, and place the stem into it so that the lower half is submerged. Set it in a warm spot and in a few weeks roots will appear. To propagate in soil, fill a small pot with moist soil and make a hole with a pencil. Dip the cut end of the stem in rooting hormone and then insert into the pencil-made soil hole. Tuck the soil around the stem to support it, and roots should develop by 4–5 weeks. New growth will show above the soil when roots have formed.

The plants can become very tall and gangly. I prune mine severely every year to maintain a fuller shape and to encourage more flowers. Old woody stems may need removing as well. Once flowers fade, pinch them off at the base to encourage new flower production.

I hope you choose to enjoy an Angel Wing or Dragon Wing Begonia soon.





Unforgettable Chicken Casserole

Ingredients

3 cups chopped cooked chicken (canned chicken works well)

1 1/4 cups finely chopped celery

1 1/2 cups cooked vegetables (I used frozen green beans, cooked in microwave; riced cauliflower or broccoli are good, too)

1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Cheddar cheese

1 cup sour cream (I use light)

1 cup mayonnaise (I use light)

1 (4-ounce) can water chestnuts, drained and chopped

1 (10-3/4-ounce) can cream of chicken soup (I use Healthy Request for lower sodium and fat)

1/2 cup slivered almonds

1 (6-ounce) can French-fried onion rings

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Coat a 9- x 13-inch baking dish with cooking spray.

In a large bowl, stir together chicken, celery, cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, water chestnuts, soup, and almonds. Spoon into prepared baking dish.

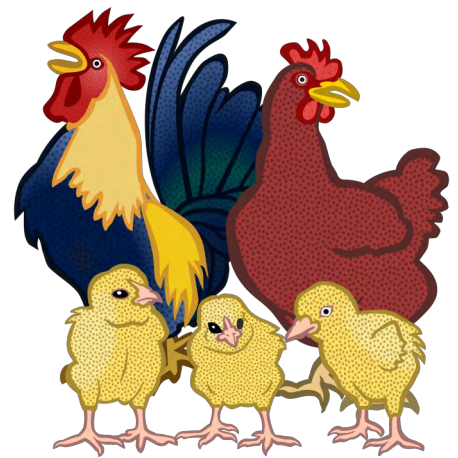
Bake, uncovered, for

30 minutes.

Sprinkle onion rings evenly over top and bake 5 more minutes, or until bubbly around edges. Let stand 5 to 10 minutes before serving.

Serves 8

Notes: *This is delicious served with a green salad. It freezes well.*





May Meeting Minutes

By Marilyn Solomon

Joan Barker-President: Joan opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Nancy Logan (Treasurer and Greenhouse) reported a cash balance as of Apr 27, 2021 of \$24,425.15 with \$15,878.87 budgeted for the Demo Gardens, income of \$150.00 and expenses of \$150.00, and \$1,112.00 reserve for greenhouse maintenance, leaving an excess funds of \$7,430.28. At the current time, there are no fund raisers scheduled so she urged that expenditures be conservative. There will be a Greenhouse committee meeting on May 27 at Nancy's home from 10-12. If weather is a problem, the meeting will be held in the classroom. Any new Master Gardeners are invited to join the Greenhouse Committee.

Jo Ann Dysart (Programs) Courtney will present a program on Sensory Evaluations of Food in June, and Jenny Hill will speak on Gardening Fitness in July. Jo Ann made a trip to Albuquerque NM and discovered it was also in Zone 7. She saw many plants new to her.

Julie Johnson (Special Projects) Lawn judging will begin on Thursday, May 20 with only one neighborhood participating this year. She ordered the brick for Aleen Alison who recently passed away.

Judy Kautz (PR/Newsletter) Judy wrote an article for the Norman Transcript about the Master Gardener program. She received good response and photos for the newsletter. Rahmona Thompson takes garden photos on Tuesday workdays and Judy does the same on Fridays.

Kathi Farley (Garden) The first annual hardscape and garden clean-up went well on Saturday with 10-12 participants including husbands. There are free items along the front walkway for the taking. The gardens are looking good. We still do not have a date for opening the gardens because of weed control. Winds have prevented spraying the pathways. Richard Lawrence is weed eating and trying to manage the spraying. The walkways are unsightly, so she is considering some type of stones, and needs suggestions that are affordable. Possibly different types for different walkways. There are still beds with no Bed Head, and students are managing those right now. Certified volunteers are needed for the beds. The Square Foot bed is now available as is the Ethnobotanical Bed. Kathy Whittle is missing a bungee cord from the Asparagus bed.

Rahmona Thompson (Membership) No Report

Courtney Dekalb-Meyers said that the hailstorm damaged the greenhouse considerably, but the Extension office has funds to repair it. Also, the Horticulturist Travel Budget was not used, so the funds will be expended on a new greenhouse wooden shed to replace the metal green one previously used. It will be delivered the first week in June, so the green one is available to anyone that can pick it up. She needs seasoned Master Gardeners to answer the gardening calls. She thanked Judy for the newspaper article and received good response from prospective students. Denise Hawkins sent a Thank You card for our condolence card. The State Master Gardener conference will possibly be on Zoom, so maybe we can view it in the Frye Auditorium. Courtney will check to see if it will be recorded

Hospitality: Food and snacks at meetings will start next month. (Cheers from all)

Old Business: Cathy Bowden is asking the Council to approve a portable Styrofoam condenser machine. She asked that the CCMGA name be included on a list of supporters on a grant request. She made the motion for this, Kay Holladay seconded the motion, and it passed. Cathy's group is searching for an entrepreneur for commercial use of the condenser.

New Business Valerie Green has a fountain in her yard that she is offering for a fund raiser in a raffle or drawing. Nancy suggested that anyone with extra plants can pot them up and sell them at meetings with proceeds going to CCMGA as a fundraiser.

Invasive grass is being removed at the Central Library and replaced with pollinators on Saturday, June 5. They requested Master Gardener assistance. The volunteer work may be counted as Service Hours.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Solomon



Upcoming Events

June 6, 2 – 3 PM: Garden Pest Control Without Chemicals. Online. Master Gardener Cindy Schaefer will demonstrate simple techniques that can help reduce harmful pests in your garden. For adults. Registration required to receive the Zoom link. Go to <https://www.metrolibrary.org/events/upcoming> to register.

June 8, 6:30 – 7:30 PM: Monarch Gardens. Online. Oklahoma County Conservation District's Kevin Mink will talk about monarch butterflies and what we can do to increase habitat in our garden spaces for dwindling monarch populations as they migrate through the area. Registration required to receive the Zoom link. Go to <https://www.metrolibrary.org/events/upcoming> to register.

June 9, 6 – 7 PM: Successful Container Gardening. Wednesdays at Will Rogers Gardens, Exhibition Building, 3400 NW 36, presented by Oklahoma County Master Gardeners. Free. Special guest speaker will be garden blogger, podcaster, and author Dee Nash.

June 12, 10 AM – 3 PM: Monarch Larva Monitoring Project Training. Monarch Joint Venture is teaming up again with the UW-Madison Arboretum to offer a virtual training in this nation-wide monarch monitoring project on June 12th. You'll learn how to collect valuable data that contributes to our knowledge of the monarch population. Registration will remain open until the class is full. Register at okiesformonarchs.org.

June 26, 10 – 11 AM: Guided Gardens Walking Tour. Myriad Botanical Gardens, registration is no longer required. Garden Grounds, meet in the south lobby. FREE. Expand your knowledge of Oklahoma plants and find inspiration for your own garden with an educational walking tour. Each month will feature different plants from our outdoor collection that make great choices for this region – from year-round color to drought-tolerant choices and more. Self-guided plant tour handouts are available in our north lobby.

June 26, 10 AM – Noon: Foraged Floral Arrangement. Myriad Botanical Gardens, The Garden Classroom or Terrace Room and Garden Grounds. Learn how to create your own floral arrangement using seasonal flowers and foliage collected from the garden grounds. We'll begin with a basic introduction on floral design, go over the already collected materials available, and then head outside to collect a few items together. The class ends with creating arrangements to take home, as well as discussing tips for foraging in your own yard and ways to prolong the life of your arrangements. Members \$45 per session; Non-Member \$50 per session. Register at myriad-gardens.org.

Informative Webinar - by Julia Linger

I've been participating in the 5-week webinar on Trees. These webinars are being recorded and are available to the public for viewing on the university's YouTube channel. I have really been enjoying this series and highly recommend it to everyone!

Webinar I: "The Benefits of Trees" – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lx8oGoMIJwk&t=257s>

Webinar II: "Planting Trees" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJ8Qig94hZc>
Recordings will continue to be available on the UC Master Gardeners of Ventura County YouTube channel after each session.

Garden Humor

If a tomato is considered a fruit, is catsup considered a smoothie? Submitted by **Helen Morrison**, class of '91

Bird Food (recipe from Neil Garri-son) - by Kay Holladay

Use in a bird feeder with a rain hood over the tray; it gets mushy if wet.

1 c. lard

1 c. chunky peanut butter

1 c. yellow corn meal

1 c. flour

2 c. quick oats

2 c. chick starter

Mix lard and peanut butter in large bowl; then add other ingredients. Texture will resemble granola. Store in cool, dry place.

The birds will love you for this!

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.

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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

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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.