

The Weeders' Digest

Joe Rackley Talks Bugs!

Thanks to Joe Rackley who educated us on a variety of invasive and non-invasive pests in a very entertaining presentation at our February meeting. Joe also spoke about quarantine areas due to the discovery of invasive or harmful pests.



At the March meeting....

By *Linda Wren*

Speaking at our March meeting is Larry and Letitia Pierce who have been gardening together for 35 years although they were not always successful. They looked for an easier way to garden and discovered a product called Earthbox, a self-watering container garden. With no tilling or weeding, this system was so successful, Larry started making his own boxes to expand their garden, which grew to about 30 boxes over 2 years. Larry invented an automatic watering system, which he wanted to share with the creation of a family business called Garden Anywhere Box....Turning Brown Thumbs Green. The meeting begins at 10 am, but come at 9:30 for conversation and snacks.

Pick up 2019 Directories from Cherry in the Extension Office. You will need to sign for your directory. Thanks, Cherry, for putting these together for us!

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President's Posting

By Judy Kautz

Dear Gardeners,

Hasn't this been a brutal winter? The weather has been so cold, we had to delay the first garden work day and potluck by 1 week. It is now March 12, beginning at 8:30, with breakfast at 9 and work in the garden after clean-up. Garden committee members, students wanting service hours in the garden, and anyone else desiring to be on the committee are all invited!

Vada Edwards and her committee are hard at work on our upcoming Spring Plant Party (formerly called Garden Party.) The primary activity will be our plant sale, with plants lovingly cultivated by our Greenhouse Committee. There will also be garden demonstrations and lots of fun kids activities, so plan to be there. The committee can use your help with set up and tear down, too! Hours are 10am to 2 pm.

Rahmona Thompson, Membership Chair, still needs master gardeners to serve as mentors for the new students who have just completed course work and are ready to man the master gardener desk. Terry Hull and Linda Fielder have developed a very helpful guide for anyone who needs some brushing up on desk duty. It is extremely detailed and will walk you through every step of the way! Contact Rahmona if you are available to be a mentor. This is also a good opportunity for earning service hours!

Looking forward to seeing you at the March 8th meeting!

Judy



PR Prattle

By Jim McDaniel

If you have any photos of the garden, home tours, meetings, etc. that you want added to the video and picture archive please send them to me (Jim McDaniel, randyednamac@cox.net.)



Education Update

By Kathi Farley

March 23, 10 AM, Classroom C: Mixing Vegetables/Edibles into Your Landscape by Kay Holder.

March 30th, 9 AM – 3 PM, Norman Home Depot: We will have an information table. . If you've never done an information table, come check it out so you too can volunteer for one in the future. It's a great way to get your volunteer hours.

April 28, 11 AM -5 PM, Reaves Park in Norman, Earth Day Information table

May 8, 9 AM -3 PM, Moore Home Depot. I'll be signing up volunteers soon for information table!

Look for upcoming date to be announced on our Prairie Gardening class in May.

Exciting news! The Butterfly Festival is coming to Norman!! It will be Sunday, September 29. We will be doing an information and activity table for this.

We are looking for a teacher for the Seed Gathering class in October. Interested people contact Kathi Farley.



Our Demonstration Garden usually opens on the first Tuesday of March. Due to the cold temps predicted for March 5 we will be opening the garden on March 12. The breakfast potluck will be March 12 also beginning at 8:30 set up and 9 AM eating. In March we will work 9-noon. There is much to do to get the garden looking nice for the Sprint Plant Party in April so anyone who can help will be greatly appreciated.

The Oklahoma Proven selections for 2019 have been announced. Each year since 1999, a tree, shrub, perennial and annual have been selected as plants appropriate for Oklahoma gardens and landscapes.

The 2019 tree is *Pinus flexilis* "Vanderwolf's Pyramid" Limber Pine. It's an evergreen with a pyramidal habit that grows 20-30 feet tall and 10-15 feet wide. It is considered to be an adaptable, low-maintenance tree with few problems, including resistance to pine wilt disease. It prefers full sun exposure and a most, well-drained soil.

The 2019 shrub is a series of double-flowering quince "*Chaenomeles speciosa*" called the Double Take series. The shrubs are hardy, deciduous shrubs reaching 4-5 feet high and at least as wide. It is thornless. The bold double flowers (up to 2 in. in diameter) bloom before the leaves fully unfold in early spring and come in a range of colors. It will take full sun to part shade and is drought tolerant once established. They are winter hardy in Oklahoma.

The 2019 perennial is Rattlesnake Master, *Eryngium yuccifolium*. It is a native species to the tall grass prairies. The leaves are bristly edged, sword-shaped, medium green and up to 3 inches long. They resemble thistles. They prefer dry, sandy soils, but tolerate clay and shallow-rocky soils. It likes full sun but does not transplant well. It would work well in a xeriscape garden.

The 2019 annual is the starflower "*Pentas lanceolate* Graffiti series". It grows to 16 inches high and 12-14 inches wide making it a great plant for containers or in a flower bed. It comes in several colors and is heat and drought resistant. Heat, sun and good drainage will have the plant blooming all summer long. Check out the newly updated web site, www.oklahomaproven.org.



Spring Home Garden Tours

By Terry Hull

The CCMGA Spring Home Garden Tour will be on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. In the event of inclement weather, the Tour will be on Wednesday, May 29, 2019. The Tour encompasses the first half of the day. Home garden tours are fun opportunities for shared visual learning, showing support for our members' gardening efforts and generosity in opening their gardens to us, getting to commune outdoors while getting to know each other, and earning annual continuing service and education credits toward our Master Gardener membership. (3 hours of service for those who open their gardens; 1 hour of education for each garden you visit.) Just like the unique personalities of our members, every home garden has something different to offer. Come enjoy and learn from different approaches and from what did and did not work. A group e-mail with agenda (times, descriptions, locations, driving directions) will be sent out about two weeks before May 22.



President Judy Kautz called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Treasurer's Report: (Nancy Logan) Balance as of December 31, 2018--\$20,111.06. Income was \$475 and expenses totaled \$257.92 leaving a cash balance of \$20,328,14 with \$14,127.82 specifically budgeted. Judy called for a vote on the Demonstration Garden Budget of \$5,902.50, and the budget was approved.

Greenhouse Report: (Nancy Logan) Plants are doing well, and the bench capacity has reached 65-70%. Nancy requested the members talk up the April 20 plant sale.

Greenhouse MOU and Vote: (Courtney) Courtney Dekalb reported that Judy, Nancy, Patty Hayes, and Joan Barker reviewed and reconciled members' comments and emailed the revised MOU to all members. Terry Hull made a motion to approve the MOU and Cindy Mullens seconded the motion and it passed. Joan made the motion that an annual review of the MOU including proposed changes or recommendations go to the membership for comment and then to the executive committee to vote on the changes. The motion passed with 2 nay votes.

Program Committee Report: (Linda Wren) The following programs are scheduled:

March-Larry and Laticia Pearce-Garden Anywhere You Go

April – Rick Ault- Quebec and Ontario Gardens

Possibly Audubon Speaker in May

Special Event and Plant Party: (Donna Carter/Vada Edwards) Vada thanked everyone volunteering for the Plant Party committee.

Special Projects: (Julie Johnson) Phyllis Blackwell said Julie presented a \$50 Gift Certificate to Claren Kidd as part of the Distinguished Service Award

Public Relations: (Jim McDaniel) Jim submitted an article to the Oklahoman about our non-profit status. He contacted Discover Oklahoma requesting the show visit our Demo garden. Jim also archived the history of the Demo Gardens beginning in 1999 to a device to be stored in the Extension office. Jeanne Parker announced she has new business cards for distribution.

Garden Committee: (Rick Ault) Garden work will resume the first Tuesday in March. A pot luck breakfast set-up will begin at 8:30, eating at 9:00, and work in the garden to follow. The holding bed needs to be claimed, cleared out, and maintained. Nancy stated that the Native Plant bed needs an owner and Linda Reed volunteered.

Membership: (Rahmona Thompson) A sign-up sheet was circulated for mentors to students beginning their service hours.

Education: (Kathi Farley) The following classes are scheduled:

February 9 -Roses – Cathy Bowden

March- Mixing Vegetables into Your Current Landscape (Kay Holder)

May – Prairie Gardening (Judy Kautz and Marilyn Solomon)

September – Taking Care of Your Greenhouse Plants

No classes in April (Garden Party and Plant Sale) and June (MG Conference)

February Meeting Minutes (continued)

Tours: (Susan Aikman) No report

Fundraising: (Brenda Williams/Linda Wren) No report.

Hospitality: (Cindy Mullens/Patty Hayes) Thanked Linda Reed, Marilyn Solomon, Judy Kautz, Mary Engle, Carol Craig, and Scott Woods for refreshments.

Home Tours: (Terry Hull) Terry said member home tours will be on May 22 with a make-up date on May 29.

Old Business: None

New Business: Tomoko Yoshida/Cathy Bowden suggested we start a green movement and start bringing our own cups and reusable forks to meetings instead of discarding paper and Styrofoam cups. Also, on Tuesday Feb 19, 7:00 p.m. at the University Lutheran Church, Mr. Scovell, the Manager of Solid Waste in Norman will talk on Green Speak and Styrofoam.

Courtney's Comments: Courtney announced that the Oklahoma Native Plant Society is hosting the annual Indoor Outing on Saturday. Joan said Earth Day is April 28th from noon until five.

President's Comments: (Judy Kautz)

Dates to Remember:

Mar 5 – Garden Potluck and first work day

Plant Party – April 20, 10 am – 2 pm

Plant Sale (cont.) – Apr 27

Earth Day – Apr 28

Student Luncheon – Aug 2

Harvest feast 2019 – Nov 7

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, *Marilyn Solomon*



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of January 25, 2019 is \$20,328.14. Income includes \$10 Gloves Sold; \$360 2019 Dues; \$2 Nametag Jar and \$30 Donation for Total Income of \$402.00. Expense includes \$265 Greenhouse Heater Repair; \$76.76 Business Cards Printed and \$188.40 Greenhouse Supplies for Total Expense of \$530.16. Balance at February 25, 2019 is \$20,199.98, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \$13,681.50 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$400, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$6,118.48.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



Book Title: Plastic Purge: How to Use Less Plastic, Eat Better, Keep Toxins Out of Your Body and Help Save the Sea Turtles! (New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2014)

Author: Michael SanClements

*Last month, Cathy Bowden and I suggested bringing our own cups to meetings to cut down the wasteful single-use plastics (Look around. Our life is saturated with plastics--from cell phones and coffee makers to televisions and cars. Michael SanClements is an ecologist living in Colorado. Realizing the health and environmental hazards of plastic over-use, he studied the issue and wrote this book.

Plastic is a synthetic polymer first invented in early 20th century (remember Bakelite?), but its production grew rapidly only after the World War II. It is primarily made from fossil fuels, mostly oil. At the time of book's publication, nearly 300 million tons of plastic was produced globally each year, but only about 10 % of it was recycled. Recycling of plastics is difficult and inefficient.

It is neither possible nor necessary to eliminate all plastics. In fact, the author points out some good uses of plastics in medicine and transportation. For example, plastic parts in trucks and containers make them lighter and consequently reduce fossil fuel needs in transportation. However, the author's focus is more on the negatives. What he calls "bad plastics" leach toxins such as BPA. BPA is a chemical used in the production of plastics and is suspected to cause health problems such as obesity and breast cancer. I did not realize many food and beverage cans (for soup, beer, etc.) are still lined with plastic with BPA! He also talks about "ugly plastics," many of which are the single-use plastics that end up littering our world. In Southeast Asia for example, trash management is underdeveloped, and massive amounts of plastics clog their waterways and affect the sea life.

In the last part of the book, SanClements gives advice on how to reduce plastic in our daily life from grocery shopping and food storage, to personal hygiene, to child and pet care. Some things are easily done (carry reusable bags for grocery shopping, stop buying bottled water, etc.). Others are bit more challenging—use cloth diapers (didn't we all do that?), or make your own tooth paste (Hmmm). His point is to "reduce" the plastic use. So, sometimes he offers a compromise solution such as using a Pyrex container with a BPA-free plastic lid.

This is an easy-to-read and informative book for anyone interested in the plastic problem today. Unfortunately for gardeners, the author did not touch upon plastics in horticulture, a topic I would like to look into some day.

Other Sources

There are plenty of reports on plastics you can read or watch on line. For instance, PBS News Hour had a series called "The Plastic Problem" in September, 2018.

Currently, a group of OU scholars from different disciplines have a forum on plastics. Check out their blog site: <https://inhabitingtheanthropocene.com/>



Mushroom Pork Tenderloin

Master Cook

Ingredients

2 pork tenderloins -- (1 pound each)
 1 can cream of mushroom soup -- undiluted
 1 can golden mushroom soup -- undiluted
 1 can French onion soup -- undiluted

Place pork in a slow cooker.

In a bowl, combine the soups; stir until smooth. Pour over pork.

Cover and cook on low for 4-5 hours or until the meat is tender. Serve with mashed potatoes if desired.

Per Serving (excluding unknown items): 22 Calories; 1g Fat (63.5% calories from fat); trace Protein; 2g Carbohydrate; trace Dietary Fiber; trace Cholesterol; 172mg Sodium. Exchanges: 0 Grain(Starch); 1/2 Fat.

Serves 6

Crock Pot Cashew Chicken

Judy Kautz

Ingredients

2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken thigh tenders or chicken breast tenders
 1/4 cup all purpose flour
 1/2 tsp black pepper
 1 Tbsp canola oil
 1/4 cup soy sauce
 2 Tbsp rice wine vinegar
 2 Tbsp ketchup
 1 Tbsp brown sugar
 1 garlic clove, minced
 1/2 tsp grated fresh ginger
 1/4 tsp red pepper flakes
 1/2 cup cashews



Combine flour and pepper in large Ziploc bag. Add chicken. Shake to coat with flour mixture. Heat oil in skillet over medium-high heat. Brown chicken about 2 minutes on each side.

Place chicken in slow cooker. Combine soy sauce, vinegar, ketchup, sugar, garlic, ginger, and pepper flakes in small bowl; pour over chicken. Cook on LOW for 3 to 4 hours. Add cashews and stir. Serve over rice. Makes 4-6 servings. If you want like sauce and want to have some to pour over the chicken and the rice, double the sauce ingredients.

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.



Join us for our Spring Plant Party!



Welcome Spring with a plant sale, garden how-to classes, tours, and children's activities. Meet Gertrude the Gardener!



Plant Sale!



Fun for Kids!
Eggplant Hunt
Painted Rocks
Mini Garden Gnomes
Plant Markers
Face Painting

Gardening Classes
10 am—Live plant garlands
11 am—Invite Pollinators to your garden
11:30 am—Salsa gardening in a pot
Information Table Handouts
Square foot gardening
Vermiculture: Worm hotel
Composting/Rain Garden

Saturday, April 20, 2019 10 AM to 2 PM
Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens
Cleveland County Fairgrounds (Southwest Corner)
601 E. Robinson, Norman, Oklahoma (405) 321-4774





Upcoming Events

March 8, 10 AM: CCMGA Meeting, Classroom

March 9, 9 AM – 4 PM: Oklahoma Gardening School 2019: Herbs. Devon Energy Auditorium. Register by Tuesday, March 5. Myriad Botanical Gardens' annual Oklahoma Gardening School is the state's premier annual horticultural symposium designed for home gardeners and professional horticulturists, garden designers and landscape architects. The Oklahoma Gardening School showcases local and national experts in gardening, plant selection and garden design. Their illustrated talks and Q&A discussions help participants learn how to create and maintain more beautiful, sustainable and successful herb gardens in Oklahoma.

March 9, 9 AM – Noon: Plant Propagation Basics – Seeds and Cuttings. Will Rogers Gardens Greenhouses, 3400 NW 36th St., OKC. Register at <https://parks-okc.gov>.

March 16, 10 – 11:30 AM: Growing Roses in Oklahoma. Will Rogers Gardens, Exhibition Building. Event ID: 20417. The Oklahoma Rose Society will be speaking about which roses are best for Oklahoma. From climbing and rambling to pygmy and shrubby, with so many roses to choose from it is very difficult to know which ones to put in your landscape. Please come prepared to question these experts so you can get the best plants for your yard and know how to care for them! Free. Register at <https://parks-okc.gov>.

March 23, 10 AM – Noon: Water Conservation and Turf Management Seminar. Myriad Gardens, the Garden Classroom. Jeff Salmond, University of Oklahoma, Director of Athletic Field Management, CSFM and Josh Campbell, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Urban Ag. and Natural Resources. In this featured seminar focused on saving water while caring for your lawn, you will learn cost-effective methods for conserving natural resources. From setting up strategic rain barrels to the effective use of mulch, you will be on your way to efficiently manage drought-resistance grass and hearty low-ground cover year-round. Coffee and light breakfast provided. Member \$8; Nonmember \$12. Register at Myriad Gardens website.

March 23, 10 AM – Noon: I got this Orchid for a Gift...Now What? Will Rogers Park, Ed Lycan Conservatory, 3400 NW 36th St., OKC. Event ID 20414. Once only affordable by the very wealthy, orchids are now readily accessible and often given as gifts. Learn what to do with your orchid to keep it alive and to bloom again! Bring your orchid to this workshop for one on one help. The Oklahoma Orchid Society will be teaching this class. Registration required. Register at <https://parks-okc.gov>.

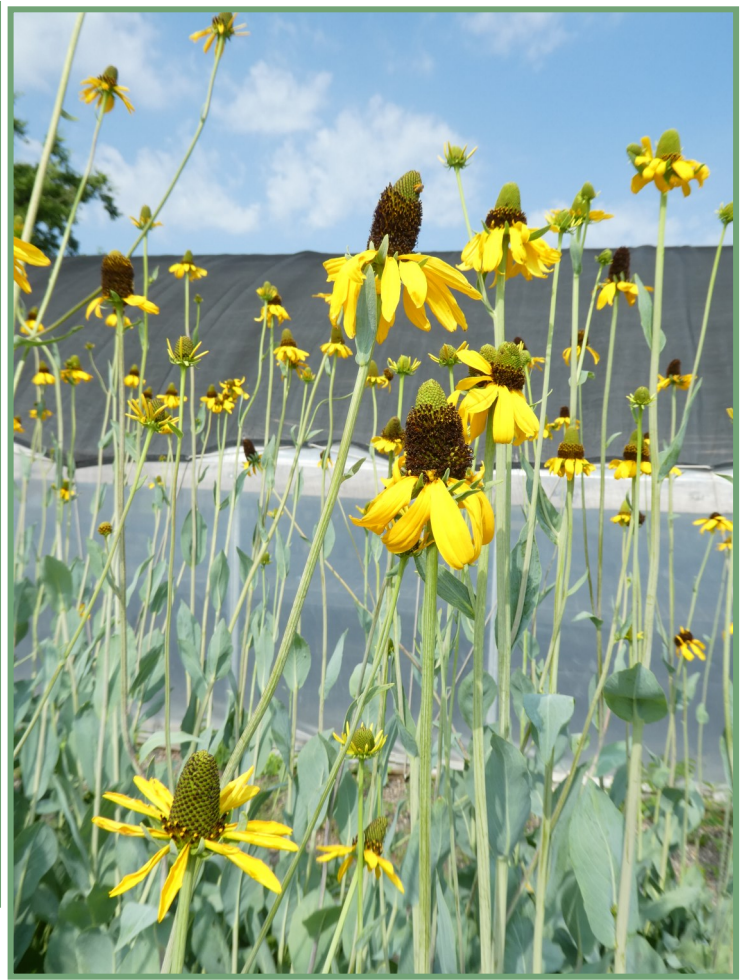
March 30, 10 AM – Noon: Seed Starting Workshop. Myriad Gardens, The Garden Classroom. Bill Farris, Prairie Wind Nursery. Starting your own plants from seed is fun, easy and a great way to save money on plants for your garden. In this hands-on experience, you will learn how to start annual flowers, vegetables and herbs, the best way to take care of your seeds as they germinate and grow (containers, watering, thinning, and lighting) and other tips, techniques and tools helpful in seed starting. All participants will plant a variety of seeds to take home and grow. Member \$14; Nonmember \$19. Register at Myriad Gardens website.

April 12, 10 AM: CCMGA Meeting, Classroom

April 13, 9 AM – 2 PM: Earthkind Earthday Gardening School. Will Rogers Gardens Exhibition Hall, 3400 NW 36th St., OKC. Event ID 19536. This one day workshop will help new and experienced Oklahoma gardeners learn practical ways to garden and utilize EarthKind(r) practices that sustain the environment and protect our natural resources. There will be an Oklahoma Proven and Earthkind(r) plant sale. The \$10 charge includes a picnic lunch, tree giveaway, bag of WRG compost and demos. Sponsored by OSU CES, WRG and the OKC Utilities. Pre-registration required. Register at <https://parks-okc.gov>.

April 20, 10 AM—2 PM: Spring Plant Party, Demonstration Garden

April 27, 9 – 10:30 AM: Canna in the Garden - A How-to from Horn Canna Farm. Will Rogers Park, Ed Lycan Conservatory, 3400 NW 36th St., OKC. Event ID 21226. Join us as historic Horn Canna Farm educates us and the public on how to properly thin and transplant Canna rhizomes. The Canna, found here at Will Rogers Gardens, came from Horn Canna Farms in the 30's and 40's and were originally planted by OK City Horticulturist Henry Walters. Register at <https://parks-okc.gov>.



Fond Memories!

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

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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.