

The Weeders' Digest

March Meeting Will ZOOM to You!

There will be a monthly meeting this Friday over Zoom. Jo Ann Dysart, one of our programming co-chairs, has put together an excellent program on the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. We recommend that you watch a video prior to the meeting. During the meeting we will continue to learn and then have a discussion afterwards. Please check Courtney's email announcing the meeting for supplemental program notes and Zoom meeting invitation. Thank you, Jo Ann...we are excited to learn about this important project.

Below is a screenshot photo from our February meeting...thanks to Lois Cox for providing it!



Newsletter Inputs

Many thanks for your newsletter inputs for this month. Please continue to send photos, recipes and articles that may be of interest to our members.

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President's Posting

By Joan Barker

Spring is almost here! Our first garden workday was scheduled for March 2 and the garden committee is working in the garden on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Thank you to Kathi Farley for serving as Chair of the Garden Committee again this year. Since there will be multiple garden workdays each week, Kathi is in need of someone to assist her. Please contact Kathi for information. 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://troybarden.com/>). More details to follow in upcoming conference newsletters.



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of January 25, 2021 is \$24,164.10. Income includes \$460 2021 Dues and \$20 Gloves Sold for Total Income of \$480.00. No expenses this month. Balance at February 28, 2021 is \$24,644.10, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of *\$15,777.82 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$1,112.00, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$7,754.28

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Logan

* This figure is basically repeating the budget we had for 2020 with a few new adjustments. The Executive committee will review and make changes as necessary.
Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



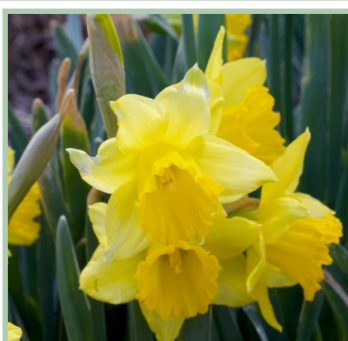
Dear Fellow Master Gardeners,
Welcome back to the garden! We are working on Tuesdays and Fridays this year. There will be a demo garden meeting on the garden at the East Pergola in the garden on the first Tuesday in April at 10 am with a repeat on Friday at 10 am for those that can't make Tuesday. We will discuss changes in bed heads, budgets, discussion of garden future, garden tours, ideas. We need lots of help. If you've never worked on the garden but want to, this year is your year. Just go to Teamup to see when people are working. Courtney will be sending out a "how to" instruction on using Teamup so be looking for it. We will still have Tuesday's as our standard workday, 9 to about noon. I am adding Fridays for people who want a less crowded workday or an alternate day, also 9 to about noon. Anyone wanting to weed my bed with me is welcome! Of course, if you have your own bed or are a helper on another bed, weed there. I need a spokesperson for Tuesdays, someone who can be a contact person for questions or "where to go" contact. I will be working Fridays for the foreseeable future. Call, text or email me to ask about this assistance position. Maybe you and a friend? Looking forward to seeing people again.

"Before Garden Pictures"

By Kathi Farley



These photos reflect the garden in its current state...before garden workers began their work on the garden. As you can see, we have a lot of work ahead of us. Won't you join us?





Kay Holladay sent these yucca photos - ice or no ice?





Desert Willow-*Chilopsis linearis*

The Desert Willow is an upright shrub or small tree that grows to a height of 25 feet. The trunk grows up to 6 inches in diameter and has dark brown, scaly bark. Narrow, alternate, light-green leaves are 3 to 6 inches long with very pointed ends. Slender brown twigs are often hairy or sticky.

The Desert Willow is not a member of the Willow Family (Saliaceae) as are true willows, but is the only species of the Bignonia Family (Bignoniaceae) native to California. This deciduous plant is classed as a phreatophyte, and is an indicator that water is not too far below the surface during part of the year.

The common Spanish name Mimbres means willow-like, referring to the long, slender leaves. The wood of the Desert Willow is used for fence posts. A tea is sometimes made from the dried flowers and seed pods.

Fruit is long, brown, cigar-like pods grows 4 to 8 inches long. Fruit matures in autumn, splits in two, and remains on the tree until spring. Pods contain numerous flat, tan seeds with dual hair wings.

The desert willow with its preference for wash habitats and willow-like foliage is not a true willow (Salicaceae) but rather a member of the bignonia (Bignoniaceae) family. This large shrub or small/medium tree can grow to thirty feet in preferred locations with well draining soil and adequate moisture. The desert willow has three subspecies and is widespread in the southwestern U.S. and northern Mexico occurring up to 5,000 feet in elevation. It is native to the Coachella Valley and can be found in the washes draining the local mountains. The tree is cold and drought deciduous with all leaves usually dropped by mid-December and re-emerging in the low desert sometime in March. The sculptured branching pattern adds interest during the bare stage while allowing the low winter sun to shine through. The flowers begin to appear as early as April and continue blooming into the fall months. The fragrant, orchid-like blossoms range in color from white to pink to burgundy. If looking for a specific color, select from known cultivars that are produced commercially or wait until the trees are in bloom.

In nature, *Chilopsis linearis* has a shrubby growth habit, carrying its branches all the way to the ground and makes a wonderful screen or shady rest stop for wildlife. In the garden, the canopy can be lifted but care should be taken to work with, not against, the unique structure of the branches. Haphazard pruning can lead to extensive suckering and an uncharacteristic shape. Pruning the tree while it's leafless is a good way to be able to visualize the results of the cuts.

The numerous papery, winged seeds are released from 8" long thin persistent pods. They germinate easily and will volunteer quite readily in the garden. Trees with a favorite flower color can be grown from cuttings taken in the fall or winter. Desert willows will grow rapidly -- 3 feet a year for several years with regular watering. Drought tolerance is good even in the low desert and established trees can be watered once or twice a month in the warm months. Watch the plants -- if they're dropping a lot of leaves in the summer, they could probably use a drink. Go easy on the fertilizer, because too much nitrogen will promote rank, uncharacteristic growth attractive only to insects like aphids.

The flowers are pollinated by bees and attractive to hummingbirds. The seeds provide forage for birds such as Gambel's quail. Desert willow can be seen throughout The Living Desert's North America section.

Characteristics: *Chilopsis linearis* Desert Willow tolerates alkaline soil, sand, clay and seasonal flooding. *Chilopsis linearis* Desert Willow is great for a bird garden. *Chilopsis linearis* Desert Willow's foliage color is silver and type is deciduous. *Chilopsis linearis* Desert Willow's flower color is pink and has a fragrance.





Seeds Are Sprouting

by Evan Taylor

Spring is in the air and seeds are sprouting!

Last Fall Kathi Farley asked me if I was interested in taking over a demo bed from her and I said I would do it. So I ordered packets and packets of seeds. My experience has only ever been with vegetables, but I decided to order 28 packets of flower seeds and see what I could do with them. I admit that I may have ordered some plants that will never make it in Oklahoma, but I wanted to experiment.

In October 2020, Courtney opened up the greenhouse for use of starting seeds for the demo beds. In mid-January, I planted my first seeds, some more the week after and so on till now. This is a new experience for me, so I have intentionally overplanted and I expect some extras - though I don't know how many. I also have taken advantage of the space by planting some vegetables as

an experiment. None of these will go into my demo bed, but you may use them for yours.

As we enter March, I should have a more specific idea about how many seedlings will be available. I will have both flower and vegetable seedlings. All of the vegetable seedlings will be available for adoption or use in the demo bed since I will not be using them in my demo bed. I also have thousands of unplanted flower seeds from my own stock. I am willing to share these seeds with anyone who is interested. I would love to hear about your luck in growing them. As I said, I have ordered some plants that may never survive our summer, but I wanted to try.

Maybe you will try too and tell me where you succeeded and where the hot and dry weather has over-powered the tender plants.

You can contact me by email at tayl1256@gmail.com if you are interested in seeds, seedlings, or any other reason. I am providing a list of the plants:

Flowers Seeds & Seedlings

Common Name	Scientific Name & Variety
Yarrow	Achillea filipendulina 'Cloth of Gold'
Hollyhock	Alcea rosea 'Indian Spring'
Hollyhock	Alcea rosea 'Blackberry Ripple'
Snapdragon	Antirrhinum 'Twilight Mix'
Snapdragon	Antirrhinum 'Lovely Lips'
Aster	Aster 'Matsumoto Series'
Delphinium	Delphinium cosolida 'Cannes Series'
Pink / Dianthus	Dianthus barbatus 'Electron'
Foxglove	Digitalis purpurea 'Bandana Mix'
Coneflower	Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus Superior'
Coneflower	Echinacea purpurea 'Prairie Splendor Deep Rose'
Sea Holly	Eryngium planum 'Blue Glitter'
Sunflower	Helianthus annuus 'Orange Sun'
Morning Glory	Ipomoea 'Grandpa Ott'
Sweet Peas	Lathyrus odoratus 'Heirloom Mix'
Lupines	Lupinus polyphyllus 'Gallery Series F'
American Marigold	Marigold American 'Inca II Series'
American Marigold	Marigold American 'Snowstorm'
Nasturtium	Nasturtium 'Baby Rose'
Phlox	Phlox 'Sugar Stars'
Black-eyed Susan	Rudbeckia hirta 'Moroccan Sun'
Sage	Salvia 'Flame'
Sage	Salvia 'Salvano'
Mealy Sage	Salvia farinacea 'Sirius Blue'
Blue Star	Amsonia hubrichtii
Euphorbia	Euphorbia marginata 'Snow on the Mountain'
Ozark Sundrop	Oenothera macrocarpa 'Missouriensis'
Purpletop Vervain	Verbena bonariensis 'Purple Haze'
Catmint	Nepeta mussinii faassenii 'Blue Catmint'

Vegetables Seedlings

Vegetable	Variety	Source & Link
Eggplant	Ping Tung	Baker Creek
Tomato (Small) Red	Black Cherry	Baker Creek
Tomato (Small) Yellow	Barry's Crazy Cherry	Baker Creek
Tomato (Medium)	Bonnie Best	Baker Creek
Tomato (Large)	Missouri Pink Love Apple	Baker Creek
Okra	Burmese Okra	Baker Creek
Pepper, Bell	Ozark Giant	Baker Creek
Pepper, Banana	Banana	Baker Creek
Pepper, Habanero	West Indies Red	Baker Creek
Pepper, Jalapeno	Craig's Grande Pepper	Baker Creek
Pepper, Poblano	Poblano	Baker Creek
Cilantro	Slo-Bolt Cilantro	Baker Creek



Cheeseburger Meatloaf

by Rick Ault

Ingredients

1 1/2 lbs. ground round beef
1 1/2 cups coarsely crumbled day-old rye bread
1 cup Cheddar cheese sauce in a jar
2 tablespoons prechopped minced onion
1 egg, beaten
1 teaspoon black pepper, ground
Pam

Start 1 1/2 hours before you want to eat.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat a 9 X 5 X 3-inch loaf pan with oil spray.

In a large bowl, combine the beef, breadcrumbs, 1/2 the cheese sauce, onion, egg and pepper. With hands, combine until well mixed. Transfer the mixture to the prepared pan. Smooth the top.

Bake about one hour. Let stand 15 minutes before slicing.

Microwave the remaining cheese sauce. Drizzle over each plated serving.

Tomato-Basil Soup

by Joan Barker

Ingredients

4 c chopped seeded peeled tomato (4 lg)
4 c low-sodium tomato juice
1/3 c fresh basil leaves
1 c low-fat milk
1/4 t salt
1/4 t cracked black pepper
1/2 c (4 oz) low fat cream cheese, softened
Basil leaves, thinly sliced (optional)
8 (1/2 inch thick) slices diagonally cut
French bread baguette

Bring tomato and juice to a boil in a large saucepan. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, 30 minutes.

Place tomato mixture and basil in blender or food processor; process until smooth. Return pureed mixture to pan; stir in milk, salt, and pepper. Add cream cheese, stirring well with a whisk, and cook over medium heat until thick (about 5 minutes). Ladle soup into individual bowls; garnish with sliced basil, if desired. Serve with bread.

Serves 8

Notes: This is one of my favorite comfort recipes from Cooking Light magazine that I enjoy during the cold winter months. I use only homegrown, delicious tomatoes from my garden. I boil the tomatoes for about 1 minute which makes it easier to peel the skin. I then chop and freeze 4 cups of tomatoes. I know when spring is near because I start running out of tomatoes in my freezer. The soup recipe is delicious combined with bread and a salad.



Mardi Gras Gumffee (gumbo & etouffee combo) *By Marilyn Solomon*

Ingredients

3 T. Butter
2 T Canola Oil
5 T Flour
4 Cloves minced garlic
1 Medium yellow onion, chopped
3 Stalks Celery, diced
1 small to medium green bell pepper, chopped
1 ½ cup frozen chopped okra
5 oz piece of Beef Polish Kielbasa skinless sausage or any sausage you prefer
4 t. Tony Chachere's Creole or Cajun Seasoning
2 cups of chicken broth, warmed
¼ cup white wine, warmed
1 14.5 oz can diced tomatoes.
1 19 oz bag Tyson Grilled 7 Ready to eat Breast Fillets, thawed and diced
4 t. Worcestershire Sauce
2 t. Old Bay Seasoning
1 t. Tony Chachere's Salt Free Seasoning

In Dutch oven, melt butter and oil together over medium heat until shimmering. Whisk in the flour and cook over moderately high heat, whisking constantly until lightly browned 5-10 minutes.

Add the onion, bell pepper, celery, garlic. Cook over moderate heat, stirring until softened, about 6 minutes.

Add the okra and sausage and continue to stir until okra begins to cook.

Add the tomatoes and stir to combine.

Slowly add the warm chicken broth and wine, just a small amount at the time until sauce starts to form. Continue adding liquid while stirring. The sauce should be thick, but easily stir-able.

Add the Worcestershire sauce, the seasoning, and chicken and stir to mix well.

Taste and add more seasoning and salt and pepper if needed. Cover and

cook over low to medium heat for about 40 minutes.

Serve over steamed rice. Garnish with green onions and hot sauce (optional)

Notes: My sister in Alabama texted me yesterday and said she was wearing her Mardi Gras Beads and cooking Shrimp Etouffee. That made me hungry, but my husband is allergic to shellfish, so I created a recipe that is a combination of Chicken and Sausage Gumbo and Etouffee. I call it Mardi Gras Gumffee. We really enjoyed it and even added more spice.



Upcoming Events

March 27, 10 AM: Guided Walking Tour. Myriad Botanical Gardens, Oklahoma City. FREE – registration required. Register at <https://oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com>.

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.

March 13, Virtual Event: Oklahoma Gardening School: Gifts of the Garden

Oklahoma Gardening School, hosted by Myriad Botanical Gardens, is one of the state's premier horticultural events. This annual event showcases local and national experts in gardening, plant selection, and garden design for the home gardener, professional horticulturist, garden designer, and landscape architect. This year's symposium will be virtual on Saturday, March 13.

Sponsored by Total Environment; Grooms Irrigation; Minnick Materials

Virtual Symposium - Available for viewing March 13 – April 13 Member \$15; Nonmember \$30

Optional book add-ons:

Windcliff: A Story of People, Plants, and Gardens by Daniel J. Hinkley, Additional: \$33.25

New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden by Kelly D. Norris, Additional: \$28.50

Gardening with Grains by Brie Arthur, Additional: \$22.75

Indoor Plant Décor: The Design Stylebook for Houseplants by Kylee Baumle and Jenny Peterson, Additional: \$16.10

Oklahoma Gardening School, hosted by Myriad Botanical Gardens, is one of the state's premier horticultural events. This annual event showcases local and national experts in gardening, plant selection and garden design for the home gardener, professional horticulturist, garden designer, and landscape architect. This year's virtual symposium, Gifts of the Garden, will feature a quality slate of inspirational speakers to show us ways that gardens can become places of purpose and resiliency, offering us irreplaceable gifts in return for our time and attention. Registrants will hear from experts who will inspire, surprise, and engage us with their varied experiences. From cultivating a wild garden on Puget Sound to creating a refuge for self, native plants, and animals, to new ways of growing food alongside trees, shrubs, and flowers, and incorporating stylish house plants into interior design, Oklahoma Garden School in 2021 offers something for everyone.

Symposium Presentation Details:

Garden Design.

Windcliff: A Story of People, Plants, and Gardens, Presented by the Garden Conservancy, Dan J. Hinkley, Owner, Windcliff

This presentation was part of the Garden Conservancy's Fall 2020 Literary Series. Plant explorer Dan Hinkley will inspire us to dream big as he walks us through his latest book, *Windcliff: A Story of People, Plants and Gardens*. This new book follows the course of Hinkley's plant-obsessed life as he developed his latest garden on a high bluff overlooking Puget Sound in Indianola, Washington. As he reflects on his incredible property, he also reflects upon the principles of good horticulture gathered from over five decades of gardening. Hinkley also shares the memories associated with many of the plants in his garden, from far flung reaches of the world, and the many giants in the world of gardening who have influenced his life and approach to the craft. (Continued next page)



Oklahoma Gardening School (Continued)

Nature-Inspired Plantings

New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Home Garden, Kelly D. Norris, Creator, Three Oaks Garden. In this era of purposeful and thoughtful gardening, planting is a powerful verb. Planting gardens inspired by nature promotes authentic connections with land, environment and humanity. Why not make a garden that works and looks good doing it? Landscapes at home and in the public realm can be beautiful and ecologically functional if we deepen our understanding of plants and place. In this lecture especially tailored to garden enthusiasts with examples from around the world, plantsman and author Kelly Norris challenges audiences to plant the world to create a more beautiful, functional place.

Edible Landscapes

Foodscaping with Grains, Brie Arthur, Creator, Brie the Plant Lady. Best-selling author and lifelong home gardener Brie Arthur has fine-tuned her signature gardening technique of Foodscaping. This sustainable practice of landscape design embraces beauty and bounty. Combining expert advice from both of her books, Arthur aims to inspire attendees to think creatively about planting your favorite edibles alongside trees, shrubs, and flowers to maximize the space you grow in. Learn how to pair edibles for year-round harvests throughout your existing landscape. Easy planting strategies are explained, including creative ideas for deterring animals.

Houseplants

Houseplants for Health and Happiness, Jenny Peterson, Owner, J. Peterson Garden Design. Join Jenny Peterson as she talks about the healing power of houseplants. From plant and container selections to figuring out your own personal houseplant "style," Jenny will walk you through how to create your own indoor garden oasis guaranteed to elevate your happiness and well-being.

How this year's virtual symposium will work: Your registration fee provides you access to the four presentations. There will be no in-person or live events associated with Oklahoma Gardening School this year. All registrants will receive an emailed link to the pre-recorded video presentations on Saturday, March 13. These videos will then be available to watch through April 13. You do not have to watch the symposium on March 13; this is just the start date of the video availability.

You must register by March 12 in order to purchase an add-on speaker book. We recommend that you register by March 12 to ensure maximum video viewing opportunity. Those who register after March 13 will not have their video availability extended past April 13.



Oklahoma Gardening School (Continued)

Speaker Information:

Dan Hinkley is a modern-day plant explorer and collector. Washington State's Puget Sound is where he cultivates a 6.5 acre of a south-facing bluff overlooking the Salish Sea aptly named Windcliff. Hinkley will share principles of good horticulture gathered from more than five decades of gardening, share memories associated with the many plants in his garden collected from around the world, and inspire us to dream big in whatever garden space we have.

Kelly Norris has a passion for planting at the intersections of horticulture and ecology. The former director of horticulture and education at Des Moines Botanical Garden, he is the author of several books including his newest, *New Naturalism: Designing and Planting a Resilient, Ecologically Vibrant Garden Home*. Norris will show us that landscapes at home and in the public realm can be beautiful and ecologically functional if we deepen our understanding of plants and place. Norris, who presented at Oklahoma Gardening School in 2017, is creator of Three Oaks Garden, a repository of ideas and planting fields on an oak-covered hill above the Des Moines River.

Brie Arthur lives and works in Raleigh, North Carolina where she shares her expertise as an advocate for consumer horticulture and home gardening. Author of *Foodscape Revolution*, Arthur combines the art and science of landscaping and gardening, mixing ornamentals with vegetables to create practical and edible landscapes that are aesthetically pleasing. While the foodscaping concept is not new, Arthur will demonstrate new and creative ways to hide fruit, vegetables, herbs and grains amongst the trees, shrubs and perennials in the garden.

Jenny Peterson is an Austin, Texas-based author and designer who specializes in plants and gardens that promote healthy, wellness and balance. Combining interior design and indoor gardening, Peterson has elevated houseplant style from violets in the kitchen window and ficus trees in the corner. Using a variety of stylish containers, and plants, Peterson will demonstrate how to create contemporary garden displays inside. In addition to running her successful design firm, Peterson has been treated for cancer twice, and shares with others how gardening can help enhance quality of life, foster healing, and create balance and wellness. She is co-author of *Indoor Plant Décor: The Design Stylebook for Houseplants*, and the award-winning *The Cancer Survivor's Garden Companion*.

April 13, 10 AM – Noon: Landscape Design for Water Conservation. Native plant expert Adam Sarmiento will lead a class in landscape design for water conservation. Take a deep dive into the desired plant selections to make your Oklahoma lawn and landscape more resilient, weather-resistant, and pollinator-friendly. Registration required at squeezeeverydrop.com.

April 17, 9 AM – 2 PM: Earth-Kind Workshop. Will Rogers Exhibition Hall, 3400 NW 36th St., Oklahoma City. Event will follow current CDC and City of OKC COVID-19 guidelines. A virtual option will be available. Celebrate Earth Month by learning simple steps to improve your lawn and landscape. Gardening experts will discuss composting, soil health, water smart plants, and building a better garden that will thrive in Oklahoma. Registration is required. Visit the workshop and events calendar at squeezeeverydrop.com.



Updated Contact Information

Janelle Miller's new email address is:
janellemiller174@gmail.com

A Winter Gardening Project

Sometimes it seems forever before winter gives way & we are able to enjoy getting out in our gardens. My clever cousin, Aline, knows how I miss gardening during the winter and had a solution. For my birthday in January, she sent a fun & easy to grow 'Pink Oyster Grow Kit' which when harvested resulted in a rare sautéed buttery treat. To me, pink oyster mushrooms taste like grilled beef and the same kit is well into a second mushroom bloom that will be ready to harvest soon. With this success, I am thinking of trying the Reishi mushroom kit next. In case you are interested in growing organic mushrooms the easy way, my kit came from Nearby Naturals (nearbynaturalsfl.com). Happy gardening! Vicky Morris

Photos at left: Top, buttons starting. Bottom, Pink Oyster Mushroom Kit

MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

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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.