



Dendrochronology—Study of Trees Through Time



Tony Pascall, Oklahoma Forestry Services, showed us how to read the history of trees by analyzing their rings. He brought several small tree slices so we could each have our own specimen. We were all

amazed at how much we could learn about the life of a tree through its rings. We enjoyed meeting at The Well—it was a nice change. Thanks to all who brought snacks, too!

Programs....

by Patty Cummings

Our March speaker will be Mike Schnelle, who will speak to us about Plants for All Seasons. He has a Ph.D. and currently serves as Extension Specialist and professor of Floriculture in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at OSU in Stillwater. His specialty is in floriculture and woody plant production and culture. He has interests in areas of ornamental horticulture from flowers to trees as well as edible crops. Currently he is focusing on working with the Oklahoma Nursery and Landscape Association as well as applied research on Rose Rosette disease in the field, native vs non-native plants and plant materials for water conservation. We will meet in our regular room at the extension. Snacks are at 9:30 am and the speaker will begin at 10 am with the meeting following at 11 am.

Garden Workdays have begun!

Join us on Tuesdays and/or Fridays from 9 am to 12 pm in the Demo garden. Our goal is to prepare the gardens for our upcoming Spring Plant Sale and Garden Party on April 15th!

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President's Posting

By Jeannie Kline

I hope everyone is ready to get back into the Demo Garden! Our First Annual Brunch and Learn Day was on February 28th. It was well attended and we received good information and motivation for working in the garden. Our first work day is Tuesday the 6th. The Garden Party and Greenhouse Committees are hard at work preparing for our Plant Sale and Garden Party on April 15th. It is our biggest fundraiser of the year and a great way to reach out to our community. Come be part of the fun! Looking forward to seeing you at the March 15th meeting. Spring is almost here!!!

Jeannie



Junior Master Gardeners

By Lois Cox Marshall

We will have an information table at the raffle table at the Garden Party. Patty Hayes will be there to answer questions as well as to find out what groups are out there to come to a class. Once we have the interested groups, we will be scheduling some classes.



Community Education Committee *By Donna Wright & Linda Dolezal*

Join Cathy Bowden as she explores the care of roses on March 18. She will demonstrate the best pruning tools and techniques and talk about varieties of roses. The class will meet at the Cleveland County Extension classroom "C", on the northwest corner of the building at 601 East Robinson. See flyer on page 5.



Garden Gossip

By Kathi Farley

Gardeners and interns, It's time! We are starting back in the garden Tuesday and Friday. Go ahead and mark your calendars for Tuesday and/or Friday 9am-12. Also, put on your calendar the last Tuesday of every gardening month (thru October) for our gardeners potluck (11:30 in classroom C). It's our way of celebrating the month and getting to know each other better.

Mark your calendars! OU's Big Event: Saturday April 1, 10am to 2pm with time off for lunch. Location: In the Demo Garden. OU students will come help us clean up walkways, seal benches and help clean beds for bedheads that show up. So, bring couple extra hand tools and let's get ready for The Plant Sale!

April 15 is so close now! If you have not posted the flyers, please pick up some at the March meeting to post everywhere you can get away with it!

Pictured below are the two items for the raffle. Valerie Green made the lap quilt. Patty Hayes and Cindy Mullins donated the garden bench! Thanks so much ladies! We will have them at the March meeting and you can purchase tickets early! We get benefits for being master gardeners—we get to spend more money than the average shopper at the sale! Tickets will be \$1/each or 6 for \$5. There will be separate containers for your entries to allow you to put your money on the item you hope to win.

We need several of you to work the children's tables at the garden party. Here is what I have so far and what I need:

- ◆ Scavenger Hunt – Sonya Fallgatter and Debra Howse
- ◆ Stepping Stones – Linda Dolezal
- ◆ Monarch Information Booth – Mary Engel
- ◆ Face Painting –
- ◆ Pine cone/peanut butter bird feeders –
- ◆ Planting seeds for them to take home – Joan Barker
- ◆ Worm hotel –
- ◆ Leaf rubbings –
- ◆ Any other craft ideas???

Thanks for those who signed up to help with the set up and take down! That is a



huge job with great volunteers plus a truck and trailer! It will make the job easy to accomplish. I also have a nice group of gardeners to work at the registration table. All we need now are the customers!



Brunch and Learn

by Judy Kautz & Lois Cox Marshall



CLEVELAND COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

EDUCATIONAL CLASS

At this **FREE** meeting

The Care of Roses

Saturday, March 18th

10:00-11:00



Photo credit:
Clemson Cooperative extension

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GROWING ROSES?

Cathy will emphasize how to correctly plant, and prune branches to encourage a positive direction of growth, eliminating crossed branches and increase airflow, which are all important to the future health of the rose bush. She will display examples of pruners, hand shears and saws that can be used for pruning your roses. Cathy will discuss putting your roses to rest for the winter weather.

Come join the Free Saturday Community Education Class as Cathy helps us grow healthy roses.

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



**Presenter: Cathy
Bowden**
Master Gardener



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The Cleveland County
Master Gardener Association
invites you to their annual



Spring Plant Sale and Garden Party

children's activities | scavenger hunt | Gertrude the Gardener
crafts | Mariah the Walking Tree | lots & lots of plants
bring your clean styrofoam to recycle in the Densifier

April 15, 2023

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Cleveland County Master Gardener
Demonstration Gardens
Cleveland County Fairgrounds
615 E Robinson, Norman, OK 73071

For more information, call the
OSU Extension Office at 405-321-4774





Want to Spend Less on Your Landscape?

Gardening and maintaining a beautiful landscape can be an expensive proposition, especially if you have a limited budget. Saving for the next growing season is a year-round process, but if you change just a few habits you may save some cash and gain more garden bang for your buck! Here are a few tips on how to spend less on your landscape!

One thing you can do to save money is to buy off-season. Wait for plants to go on sale. Shop during the dog days of summer, after major holidays and in fall when business is slow. If your supermarket has a temporary garden center in the parking lot, find out when it closes for the season and show up then. Get great discounts because they must move the inventory.

Store-bought mulch has its place, but it is a major expense when it comes to large beds. Find a local source that gives away wood chips. In Norman, we are fortunate, in that we can obtain free mulch from our local Sanitation Compost Facility. You can have them load your vehicle for a small cost, or you can load it yourself, and pay nothing. The facility produces good quality mulch: they use a natural process that does not require starters or additives. The compost is turned and watered at certain temperatures and moisture content. This type of composting takes just a few days longer to produce but provides a high-quality compost at a low cost to residents. Find more information at <http://normanok.gov/utilities/sa/sanitation-compost-facility>.



Use free wood chips from our local sanitation composting facility to save costs in your garden.

Another way to save is to let your plants self-seed instead of buying new seeds or plants each year. The secret to keeping self-seeding flowers is letting the fading flowers go to seed. At the end of the growing season, resist deadheading blooms. Some of the best self-seeders include rudbeckia, sunflower, cleome, zinnia, calendula, poppies, cosmos and bachelor buttons.

Plan to re-use your containers. Recycling plastic nursery pots is good but reusing them is even better. Use the pots and cell packs to raise new plants and turn larger containers into storage for hand tools. Or remove the bottoms and place the pots upside down around prized plants to protect them from rabbits and other wildlife looking for a snack. If you re-use your own containers from previous years, be sure to wash them with a mixture of bleach and water to ensure no diseases or insects remain.



The term “damaged goods” tends to have a negative connotation, but frugal gardeners may disagree. Retailers often sell broken bags of soil and mulch at a discount, and they also often put out a sale rack of distressed plants. Buy perennials that are leggy, overgrown or not in bloom. With some tender loving care and attention, they may survive to make great additions to your landscape.

Try using less soil. Line the bottom of large containers with packing peanuts or pieces of broken Styrofoam before filling them. It takes less soil to fill them, and it also makes the pots lighter and easier to move. Put the packing peanuts in a sealed plastic bag or cover with landscape fabric to prevent them from mingling with the soil.



Bachelor buttons are a great choice in your garden because they re-seed easily.

Here are just a few more ideas. Grow plants that tolerate drought and require less water to save on your water bill. Or buy solar lights to save electricity. Water plants in the morning or at night to avoid evaporation. Finally, try keeping your grass a little longer so it won't need as much water to thrive.

Hopefully, you now have some ideas on steps you can take to reduce expenses when you are planning for the next growing season! And while you are planning for spring, visit the Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, southwest corner adjacent to the gravel parking lot. And find some top quality plants at the Spring Plant Sale and Garden Party on April 15th in the demonstration gardens. We will offer activities for kids and the best plants to purchase for your gardens. Don't miss it!



Re-use plastic nursery pots to raise new plants.



February Meeting Minutes

By Loreen Upton

The meeting was called to order by president, Jeannie Kline
Green house (Nancy Logan) The green house is full of plants. Will also be purchasing plants to resell at the Garden Party. The Hobby Greenhouse is completed. Still need water and electricity
Program Committee; Dr Mike Schnelle is the speaker for the March 15 meeting. Topic will be "Gardening for all seasons

A tour of the Tulsa botanical garden is scheduled for 4/5/23. A tour of the OSU botanic garden will be 6/1/23.
Education Committee (Donna Wright): A class on vermicomposting will be held on 2/18/23. Cathy Bowden will teach a class on rose care in the garden on 3/18/23.

Garden Party (Lois Cox-Marshall): Several children's activities are planned for the Garden Party on 4/15/23. Flyers to promote the event are available for MG members to distribute. Will post an advertisement on Facebook.

Junior Master gardeners (Lois Cox-Marshall) Needing volunteers to host events.

Public Relations (Judy Kautz) there is a Facebook page is available for CCMGA members only. Deadline for newsletter articles is the 28th of each month. Will need 30 tee shirt requests to place an order.

Demonstration Garden (Kathi Farley) A "Brunch and Learn" pot luck event is scheduled for 2/28/23 from 9:30 am to noon. Our "OU Big Event" is scheduled for 4/1/23 from 10:00 to 2:00. Bed managers are asked to be present if they want help with their bed. Our first workday will be 3/7/23. We will continue with Tuesday and Friday workdays for this season. Garden tours to start in May. Tour hours have changed to 10:00 to 1:00 to give time for visitors tour to after the farmers market closes. We are still in need of garden tour guides.

Membership (Rayge Johnson) Thank you to all who have signed up to be mentors and ambassadors for our new members. Still need 11 more mentors.

Home Tours (Jeanne Kline for Evan Taylor) We have 1 sign up for home garden tour. Need to more to sign up.

Hospitality (Sherry Garner) Thank you to all who helped set up and take down tables and chairs for the association meeting.

Farmer market (Claren Kidd) The MG information table will be located in the breeze way area this season. Need people to sign up to help.

Dates to Remember (Jeannie Kline)

2/18/23	Vermicomposting
2/18/23	Rose care in the garden
4/15/23	Garden Party
6/18-22/23	International MG conference
10/6-7/23	State MG conference in El Reno

Respectfully submitted, *Loreen Upton, Secretary*



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of January 31, 2023 is \$27,604.93. \$480 2023 Dues, \$15 Gloves Sold and \$30 Donation for Total Income of \$525.00. Expenses were \$884.07 Greenhouse, \$269.90 Two Years Website License, \$478.32 Late Invoice 2022 Plants Purchased and \$22.96 Hospitality for a total of \$1655.25. Balance at February 28, 2023 is \$26,474.68, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \$7,126.87 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$1,913.00, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$17,434.81.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Logan



El Minuto's Cheese Crisps

Ingredients

Vegetable oil, for frying
1 (10-to-12-inch) flour tortilla

1/2 c. grated cheese
(ideally equal parts
Cheddar and Monterey
Jack)

Preheat the broiler.

Cover the bottom of a frying pan with 1/2 inch of oil, just enough to completely cover the tortilla. Heat over medium-high until shimmering but not smoking.

Slide the flour tortilla into the pan and fry it for about 30 seconds until lightly golden, pressing

down with a spatula to keep it flat.

Remove tortilla to a plate lined with paper towels to drain and get crisp.

Transfer the tortilla to a baking sheet, top with the grated cheese, and broil it just until the cheese is melted and bubbly, 1 to 2 minutes. Serve immediately.

Notes: Just like what we had in Tucson in the 1960s! The original recipe indicated if you want to use less fat, you can heat the flour tortilla on a dry griddle or frying pan. Also, after removing from the oven you can top the Cheese Crisp with canned or fresh roasted strips of green chiles. I bet pickled jalapeno slices would be good too, like nachos.

Source: "Feels Like Home: A Song for the Sonoran Borderlands" by Linda Ronstadt. Date: 2022



Upcoming Events

Submitted by Elaine Dockray

March 11, 9 AM – 4PM: Myriad Botanical Gardens Oklahoma Gardening School - Blooms for Birds: Sustainable Gardening for Attracting and Supporting Birds, Bees, and Other Wildlife. Presented by the Meinders Foundation. Kerr-McGee Auditorium at Oklahoma City University's Meinder's College of Business. \$40 members; \$70 nonmembers; \$25 students with ID. Birds play a crucial role in a healthy garden ecosystem, from acting as a natural pest control to pollinating many of our flowers to spreading the seeds of our labor and connecting our gardens to the natural world that inspires them. This year's speakers will discuss techniques to attract birds to our gardens and how to support them throughout the year, as well as plants to consider adding to our own natural spaces and ways to be active participants in supporting the wildlife with which we coexist. The Oklahoma Gardening School at Myriad Botanical Gardens is the state's premier annual horticultural symposium that brings together hundreds of gardeners of all levels to learn from experts. Topics presented by renowned naturalists, authors, and horticulturists are timely and applicable to the cultivation of plants in Oklahoma and your own garden. Register at Myriad Gardens website.

March 18, 11 AM – Noon: How to Design a Small Native Plant Garden. Classes held at CommonWealth Urban Farms at 1016 NW 32nd, OKC. Did you know that the population of birds in this country has decreased by 1/3 in just the last 50 years? That is one reason that we should be planting more native plants: to supply food and shelter for the birds and other pollinators. Another big reason is that they are beautiful! Most will provide an explosion of color at various times of the year. Connie and Brian will offer ideas as to how you can design a native garden and transform your yard into a haven for pollinators. The class will include a walk through the nursery so they can point out some of their favorite native plants. (Hint: They are almost all favorites.) Instructors: Connie Scothorn is a licensed landscape architect specializing in creating sustainable site designs using native plants. She has created award-winning designs for residential gardens, parks, and streetscapes. In 1999 she was a founding principal of CLS & Associations. She and Brian Patric, also a landscape architect working at CLS, co-authored the book *Oklahoma Native Plants. A Guide to Designing Landscapes to Attract Birds and Butterflies.*

March 18, 9 AM – Noon: Pallet Gardening. Will Rogers Gardens, 3400 NW 36th, OKC. Event ID: 51077. Limited space in your yard or no yard just a balcony? This is a great solution for growing veggies in a small space. In this workshop you will be building your own half pallet vertical garden to take home planted and ready to go! Be sure to bring a vehicle that can accommodate an approximate 4' x 2' x 1' planter. If you own a staple gun and hammer, please bring them. Cost: \$35. Register at Will Rogers Gardens website.



Upcoming Events

Submitted by Elaine Dockray

March 25, 10 – 11 AM: Myriad Gardens Guided Tour. Myriad Gardens, Oklahoma City. As you stroll the grounds, we'll examine and talk about the seasonal flowers, shrubs, trees, and other vegetation that our staff looks forward to every year. Discover the projects the Gardens is working on and bring back useful gardening advice. Takeaway handouts are provided at the walk or can be downloaded from the website myriadgardens.org. Meet at the Conservatory's Visitors lobby. Free of charge. Wheelchairs and strollers are welcome on the trip.

March 25, 1 – 3 PM: Spring Pruning, Plotting, and Planning. Myriad Gardens, Terrace Room. Buds are swelling, tulips are blooming... It's Spring again, and whether our gardens are ready to go or an image in our head, there are some key things it's time to take care of to give them the best start to the year that they can have. This class will cover spring pruning and cleaning, identifying problems and points of interest, knowing what to expect as the weather warms up, overseeding, fertilizing, and more. We will cover what we do to keep our grounds grow ready and how we translate that to our own little slices of paradise. Register by March 22 at Myriad Gardens Website.

April 8 & 9, 10 AM – 5 PM: Myriad Botanical Gardens Tulip Festival. Myriad Botanical Gardens will host the first-ever tulip festival on Saturday and Sunday, April 8 and 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. View the eye-catching 30,000+ tulip blossoms as well as the distinctive creative displays, take classes, enjoy musical performances, take part in kid-friendly crafts and games, and dine and buy with dozens of regional merchants. Take wonderful pictures with your family, friends, and loved ones amid the tulips. Although admission to the event is free, personnel will be on hand to accept donations. Myriad Botanical Gardens relies on donations to maintain its lovely grounds and carry out its mission of offering community activity that is both free and reasonably priced.

April 23, 9 AM – 2 PM: EarthKind EarthDay Workshop. Will Rogers Exhibition Center, 3400 NW 36th St., Oklahoma City. Do you want a beautiful yard and garden without using chemicals and pesticides? Join us for a workshop full of information on natural gardening practices, choosing native and drought-tolerant plant selections, how to attract butterflies and other pollinators to your yard, and so much more. This workshop will be held at Will Rogers Gardens at 3400 NW 36th St., OKC, OK 73112. Lunch will be provided, we will have lots of give-a-ways, and it will include indoor and outdoor learning opportunities for only \$12.00. Registration required at parks.okc.gov.

May 13, 9AM – 4PM: OKC Flower and Garden Festival. Gardeners, cooking enthusiasts, home decorators and other plant lovers are invited to the Myriad Botanical Gardens' annual Oklahoma City Flower & Garden Festival, Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 9am-4pm. The event, which is free to the public, features flowers, herbs, succulents, jewelry, art, crafts, and other garden-related items sure to brighten anyone's home. Vendors will be arranged along S. Hudson Avenue between W. Reno and Sheridan avenues. Ample parking is available throughout downtown OKC.



CENTRAL CHAPTER EVENTS 2023

February 2nd:

Jacob DeVecchio, from Oklahoma Fungi Company, will present on medicinal, edible, and poisonous mushrooms and plant fungi relationships in Oklahoma.

March 2nd:

Gus Barksdale will present on winter fern botany.

April 6th:

Vonceil Harmon, a natural resources biologist, will be presenting how industries and organizations can use conservation agreements to benefit monarchs and other pollinators.

May 5th, 6th, & 7th:

ONPS Wonders of Wildflowers Weekend in the Witchitas. Three days of plant walks, presenters, and hanging out.

May 21st:

Jacob DeVecchio, from Oklahoma Fungi Company, will lead a mushroom walk.

Meeting at 2 pm at Martin Nature Park Center, 5000 W Memorial Rd, Oklahoma City, Ok 73142

June 3rd:

Plant Walk: Botanizing Disturbed Areas and Old Fields (DAOF) at the Deep Fork River

Meeting at 10 am in front of Shoe Carnival, 1701 Belle Isle Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73118.

We will caravan to the Deep Fork River, which is .5 miles from the meeting spot.

July 22nd:

Plant Walk: Plants of the Cross Timbers Ecoregion at Arcadia Lake

Meeting at 10 am at Arcadia Lake Park Office parking lot, 9000 East 2nd Street, Arcadia, OK 73007

August 3rd:

Dr. Chad King is a dendrochronologist that has studied Oklahoma trees and tree rings for the past decade. He will present his lab's decade of work across Oklahoma and will highlight several interesting findings regarding trees, their growth, and ages.

September 7th:

Grace Payne (they/them), herbarium research assistant at UCO and current biology graduate student at UCO will present their research on land-based education and invasive plant treatments in urban Oklahoma.

Indoor events start at 7 pm at Oklahoma City University
Dawson-Lawfler Science Center, room 208.

For all outdoor events, wear hiking clothing and bring water.



For more info and updates: OKNativePlants.org



At the Well

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 **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.