

The Weeders' Digest

Rahmona Thompson Goes Viral!



CCMGA Master Gardener Rahmona Thompson presented program on Plant Viruses at our April meeting. It was very interesting and told us so much about different types of viruses and their causes. 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 7-8.

At the May Meeting....

by Jo Ann Dysart

At our May meeting, our own Rick Ault will be presenting a program entitled "Parks and Gardens of Scandinavia". It will begin with a visit to Copenhagen Denmark, then to Schwerin and Rostock Germany. These will be followed by a trip to Tallin Estonia before heading to St. Petersburg in Russia. We will then visit Helsinki in Finland and finish in Stockholm Sweden.

Rick became a Master Gardener in 2008 and was President of CCMGA in 2011. 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.

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President's Posting

By Joan Barker

Our first in person CCMGA monthly meeting in over a year was held on April 21st and was awesome! It was so good to see everyone. Thank you to Rahmona for a very informative program on "Plant Viruses." Thank you to Courtney for organizing the logistics of both an in person and Zoom meeting at the same time. 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 March 28, 2021 is \$24,425.15. Income includes \$70 Gloves Sold and \$80 Tool Sharpeners Sold for Total Income of \$150.00. Total expenses of \$150.00 for April Mowing Demo Garden. Balance at April 27, 2021 is \$24,425.15, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \$15,878.87 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$1,112.00, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$7,434.28

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



We are still struggling getting beds cleaned up, some more than others. Large beds notoriously need more help. There are a couple of beds (mine!) that need a lot of help. Feel free to come help. Watch emails for changes and updates to weekly schedules.

I still have 3 beds with no bed heads in charge of them. One is small and easy; the 2nd is medium size and a moderate amount of work. The last is large and could use a team of at least two or the bed could be split in half.

Benches and a table have been stained or sealed but I still have about 5 that need to be either re-stained or re-sealed. The bridge also needs to be re-stained. Those not interested in garden work but are willing to help in these areas, email me (Kathi Farley). Eventually we will need someone willing to help get the West pergola in a better working condition.

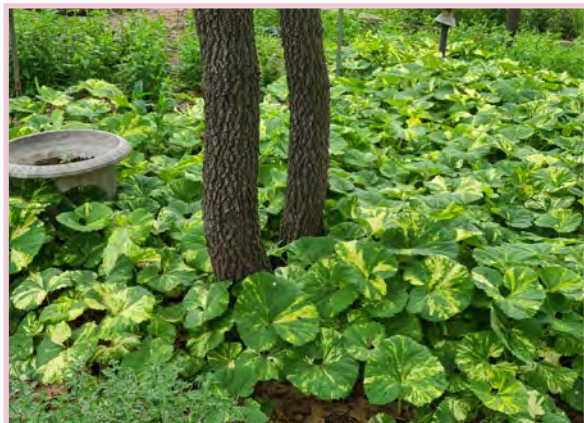
Budgets: we are still treating our budgets gently and trying to not put much strain on the treasury due to no fundraisers for two years.

Tours are being talked about restarting this summer. My opinion is we need to make sure the gardens look really good before they start. We are advertising our Master Gardener program to a lot of people and we want to put on our best face.



Photo Booth

By Judy Kautz



Left is the butter bur, a plant originating in Scotland. It is used for medicinal purposes, and makes a lovely ground cover. The growth here is from one plant! Right, some of my favorite columbines!





Photo Booth



"Kay & I saw at least 6 lady beetles feeding on aphids on this one plant today (April 13) in demo garden. Some are under leaves."

Submitted by Jo Ann Dysart.



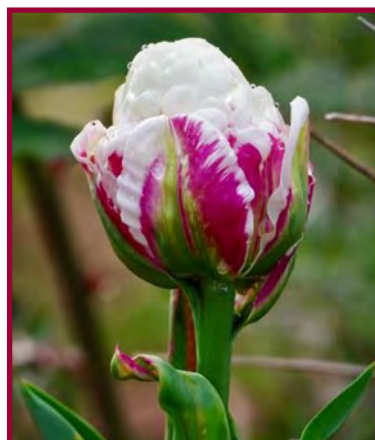
Above, **Vada Edwards** says, "This is what is growing out of control in the OK Proven garden. In my garden my philosophy is "let it grow"! Left, **Barbara Tunney** says, "These clematis are in my backyard near the house. They were sheltered from the wind. I really didn't think they would live through all the crazy weather, but they never bloomed this well before."

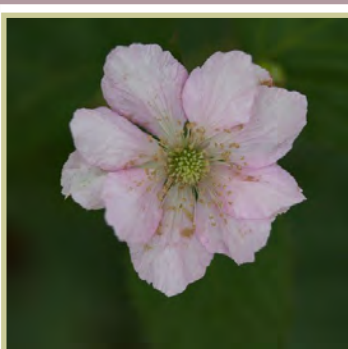


Left, stopping by to peek at the rain garden after a March downpour, I spied this Opossum wandering around the Demo Garden.

Submitted by Barbara Liz.

Right, Ice Cream Tulips from **Rick Ault's** garden!









April Meeting Photos

By Judy Kautz





Who Are These People?



COLUMBINE, *Aquilegia canadensis* L.

Family: Ranunculaceae (buttercup)

I do not know about you, but I adore little, prolific Columbine blooms. Columbines, also known as Granny's Bonnet, have bell-shaped spurred flowers, which range in color from light pastels to bright reds, yellows, oranges, purples, and bicolors. There are over 70 species. They look delicate but are very hardy and resilient—being deer-resistant and drought-tolerant.

The columbine plant (*Aquilegia*) is an easy to grow perennial offering seasonal interest throughout much of the year and offers hummingbirds a delightful treat. The Latin name, *Aquilegia*, derives from the word eagle, *aquila*. The long spurs that extend behind the flower petals resemble the claws of an eagle. Although they may enjoy full sun in most areas, they do not like extremely hot sites, especially in the summer. In Oklahoma, they are happier in partial shade with plenty of mulch to help keep the soil moist.

Columbines start easily from seed and can be directly sown in the garden anytime between early spring and mid-summer. Once established they will readily multiply. Plant pre-established plants in the ground with the crown placed at soil level. Blooms will not appear on seed-grown plants until their second year. Water-soluble fertilizer monthly will help produce brighter blooms and thicker foliage, and regular deadheading will encourage additional blooming. If self-seeding becomes an issue (which happens in my gardens) both the foliage and remaining seedpods can be cut back in the fall. However, self-sowing is generally recommended because columbine plants usually have an average three-to-four-year lifespan. Leaf miners can occasionally cause problems but can be controlled with neem oil. I have provided some Columbine photos from my garden.





BLT Bites

Ingredients

20 cherry tomatoes
1 pound bacon, cooked and crumbled
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/3 cup chopped green onions
3 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese
2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped

Cut a thin slice off the top of each tomato. Scoop out and discard pulp.

Invert the tomatoes on a paper towel to drain.

In a small bowl, combine all remaining ingredients. Mix well.

Spoon into tomatoes. refrigerate for several hours.

Serves 10

Crustless Quiche

by Judy Kautz

Ingredients

6 eggs
1 cup milk
1 cup cheese (grated (cheddar cheese, swiss cheese or mozzarella))
2 tbsp parmesan cheese (optional)
salt & pepper to taste
1 cup optional ingredients
Optional Ingredients:
cubed ham or crumbled cooked bacon
chopped broccoli
chopped tomatoes
sliced onions or green onions
chopped spinach
chopped asparagus
cooked cubed potato
Add a combined amount of additional ingredients to total 1 cup...about 1/3 cup of each

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Whisk together the milk, egg, cheese and salt & pepper.

Stir in any additional ingredients.

Pour the egg mixture into an pie dish, and bake uncovered for

about 45 minutes.

Or until the center is set, and not jiggly.





March 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 March 28, 2021 of \$24,425.15 with \$16,028.87 budgeted for the Demo Gardens, and \$1,102.00 reserve for greenhouse maintenance, leaving an excess funds of \$7,284.28. At the current time, there are no fund raisers scheduled. There will be a Greenhouse committee meeting on May 27. Any new Master Gardeners are invited to join the Greenhouse Committee.

Jo Ann Dysart (Programs) Rick Ault will give a summary about his Sweden vacation at the May meeting. Courtney will present a program on Sensory Evaluations of Food, and Jenny Hill will speak on Gardening Fitness in July.

Judy Kautz (PR/Newsletter) She ordered the printed Banana Flags, and they will be available when the Gardens are open. People have been great about submitting articles and photos. She would like to receive some photos of home gardens.

Kathi Farley (Garden) 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. There are still beds with no Bed Head, and students are managing those right now. Certified volunteers are needed for the beds. There are still some benches and the bridge needing refinishing by volunteers. Kathi still wants people to use Team Up to work in the gardens so that no one works in the garden alone. If one does not sign up, but sees people working in the gardens, they can stop and help.

Rahmona Thompson (Membership) she encourages the wearing of name tags so that we can all put names to faces. She said that volunteers are needed for desk duty because Courtney is terribly busy right now in the community.

Courtney Dekalb-Meyers said that the class of 2019 had just started working at the desk when COVID closed everything, so she gave the students 48 questions to research answers. Now people are calling the office with plant questions, but she is getting so many projects that it is difficult for her to handle it. She has set up a back office away from the public from which volunteers can man the desk calls.

Education Committee needs a chair and co-chair.

Food and snacks at meetings are still on hold.

Cathy Bowden said Earth Day is tomorrow and she urged everyone to conserve water. The amount of effort in recycling Styrofoam has been tremendous. Farmer Bob received 496 egg cartons, and 134 bags of Styrofoam was taken to Durant. Facebook has a Churches Caring for Creation page, and Cathy will be in the gardens on Tuesday collecting Styrofoam.

Courtney thanked everyone who planted Milkweed in the rain at the Sutton Wilderness. Registration for the 2021 class is open. There were 16 students last year. There is an opportunity on May 5-6 to help do landscape design and plant landscape areas at the Fairgrounds.

Fred Schneider spoke about the lack of diversity in CCMGA and wants us to do a better job of advertising in such a way to attract everyone. Joan has contacted the Diversity Officer on the Council to obtain some guidance. Fred suggested some power point presentations on what we do, our meetings, our food spreads, and the information desk be shared with social groups, churches, and the like. He suggested a possible scholarship for people of color who may be unable to afford a class fee.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted, *Marilyn Solomon*



Upcoming Events

May 15, 9 AM – 3 PM: 31st Garden Festival. Will Rogers Gardens, 3400 N.W. 36th St., Oklahoma City. Join us at our annual Garden Festival in the Park. If you are looking for gardening related products there will be potted plants, nursery plants, ironworks, wood as well as natural products to use in your home. Activities geared towards children, fairy home scavenger hunt and Alpacas as well as scheduled guided tours of the Gardens.

May 15, 10 – 11 AM: Creating a Monarch Waystation. Myriad Gardens, OKC. Learn how to build your own waystation from the ground up, including planning and design, sourcing host and nectar plants, garden maintenance, and certification. Participants will head home with one host plant and one nectar plant. Register at Myriad Gardens website.

May 22, 9 AM – 2 PM: Composting Festival. Will Rogers Gardens, 3400 N.W. 36th St., Oklahoma City. Event ID: 34265. This informative workshop will cover a multitude of ways anyone can compost. We will cover home composting and the different composting methods available. We will also cover how to make compost tea and the benefits of using it in the garden and landscape as well as how to vermicompost and its uses and benefits. For those who want to participate in composting but have limited space or resources, we will introduce you to organizations that partner with individuals to make compost on a larger scale. From noon until 2 pm, the first 100 registered participants will receive a lunch and will also have access to the compost demonstration areas where knowledgeable composters will be available to answer questions. Register at parks.okc.gov.

May 29, 9 AM – 3 PM: Conservatory Plant Sale. A plant sale for those plants that will not be transferred to the renovated Crystal Bridge space, will be held Saturday, May 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. west of the Crystal Bridge. Garden Members will have early access to the plant sale from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. To join, please visit myriadgardens.org.

May 29, 10 – 11 AM: Guided Gardens Walking Tour. Myriad Botanical Gardens, registration required at Myriad Gardens website. 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. In keeping with recommendations and requirements from city, county, and state officials regarding COVID-19: Attendees must wear a mask for the walk. All attendees must social distance themselves in order to participate. The guide will be wearing a mask and a microphone so everyone can hear them.

In Sympathy We are sad to report that Aileen Allison passed away on April 19, 2021. Aileen was a member of the 1995 MG class. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time.



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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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.