

# The Weeders' Digest

## Day of Caring—A Wonderful Event!



Every September the United Way hosts a Day of Caring, a large volunteer event to enable non-profits to receive assistance with tasks they might not otherwise have the resources to complete.

This year CCMGA applied for help. Our bridges were sanded and refinished, bed borders removed and replaced, unwanted shrubs and trees were removed, as well as a variety of other things. Thanks to all master gardeners who helped during the workday too! More photos are located on pages 6—8.

### At the October Meeting....

*by Jo Ann Dysart*

Speaking at the October meeting is Mariah Menzie, a Master Gardener and an ISA Certified Arborist at Tree Wizard. She grew up in Norman and has gotten the opportunity to travel to tree climbing competitions and workshops around the world, including being the female tree climbing representative for the Midwest chapter of the ISA in the 2019 world championship. She is passionate about fruit trees and increasing our urban canopy.

Since trees are a long-term investment, it is critical to understand how to assess the quality of the product. We will cover the procedure for inspecting trees before you purchase them in a nursery. Since many of the issues with unfortunate nursery stock is related to root growth after planting, we will touch on planting trees properly, as well. We will look at strategies for dealing with poor nursery stock if that is an option, and the situations in which you should just walk away from the plant. The meeting begins at 10 am but come early for snacks and conversation.

### Don't Miss the Harvest Feast!

The Harvest Feast is November 4. Food sign ups can be made at the October meeting. We will graduate our new master gardeners, too!

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## President's Posting

*By Joan Barker*

September was a busy month! The Cleveland County Fair was fully open and well attended. Thank you to Julie Johnson for coordinating the Master Gardener volunteer efforts for the Fair and to all the Master Gardeners who volunteered. Also, thank you to Kathi Farley and all the volunteers who worked in the Demo Garden for the United Way Day of Caring – 30 employees from Johnson Controls and Home Creations, Master Gardeners and several MG husbands. Many projects were accomplished. Special thank you pages were created and attached to boxes of pastries from La Baguette – creative Georjana Mauldin at work - and delivered to Johnson Controls and Home Creations.

*Joan*



## In Sympathy—the Passing of Helen Morrison

It is with sadness that we report that Helen Morrison, class of 1991, passed away on September 24th. Helen was a great contributor to CCMGA and especially the newsletter. She had a terrific sense of humor and was always presenting some humorous snippet to publish in The Weeder's Digest. She had a ready smile and loved coming to our meetings and visiting with everyone. She certainly will be missed. Please keep her family in your thoughts.



## Treasurer's Report

*By Nancy Logan*

Beginning balance as of August 31, 2021 is \$24,078.76. No income for the month. Expenses include \$206.94 Irrigation Supplies; \$105 Maintenance/Repair Keys & Locks and \$1575 Mowing Sept. 3 thru Sept. 20 for total of \$1,886.94. Balance at September 30, 2021 is \$22,191.82, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \$12,573.36 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$1,112.00, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$8,506.46.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



What a month we've had in the Demo Garden. We had 30 volunteers from Care Day thru United Way come help us out! Look for the pictures on pages 7-10. The amount of work done was huge. Areas were cleared, cleaned out, pergolas sealed, bridges stained, cinder blocks sunk, and old landscape timbers removed and hauled off. It was something we could never have gotten done on our own. Like Georjana said about the new Red Hummingbird Bed, they got done in 4 hours what would have taken her 3 months! Please, come check it out. Bring friends and family. We need more visitors for our Saturday tours and hopefully the beauty will encourage word of mouth advertising.



## Photo Booth

*By Sonya Fallgater*

These are trial gardens at the Dallas Arboretum, which I visited earlier this month.







I got the Yellow Muskmallow a few years ago from Bustani Plant Farm. It has re-seeded in my garden every year since then. I had a fig pizza today with the figs from my Petite Negra fig tree. It dies to the ground in cold winters and puts on lots of new growth every summer. The Red Coral Bees also died to the ground during the cold winter but survived and looks as beautiful as ever. The Salvia leucantha is one of my favorite late blooming perennials. I had several and they died this last winter due to the extreme cold. I purchased three this Spring and they are all beautiful.



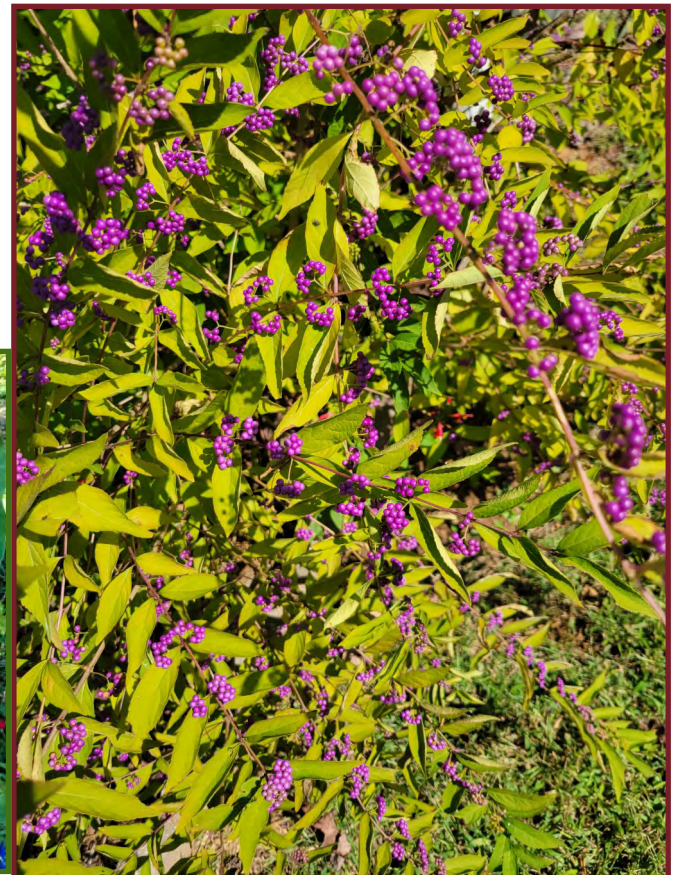




## Photo Booth



Top left to right, the Gulf fritillary caterpillars are having an abundant buffet on the passion fruit vine. *Submitted by Kay Holladay.* Bottom, left to right, *Marilyn Solomon* shared her photos of shrimp plant, elephant ears and American beautyberry.















## Helping hands

Joanna Roberts sands a bridge Friday at the Cleveland County Master Gardener Association during the United Way Day of Caring. Every September for the Day of Caring, United Way of Norman hosts a large volunteer event to enable nonprofits to receive assistance with tasks they might not otherwise have the resources to complete.

Kyle Phillips / The Transcript







## Fair Photos







## Fair Photos





# BARN QUILT CLASS

The Norman Area Quilters Guild is hosting a "Barn Quilt" painting class.

Barn Quilts are really a wooden board painted with a quilt block design. They are painted with house paint. They can go indoors or outdoors! I've attached a photo of mine on the fireplace mantel. And traditionally they have been hung on barns - see photo below. Georgiana Mauldin.

**WHEN:** 9am TO 4pm, November 18, 2021

**WHERE:** McFarlin United Methodist Church, Fenn Hall

**HOW MUCH:** \$40

What is a Barn Quilt? It is a single quilt block shape painted on a wood base. House paint is used so it can hang inside or outside!

Lindy Peterman will teach us how to paint a Barn Quilt. She provides ALL materials, and the guild will provide the space, table covers, her fee for teaching, etc. You will go home with a fabulous barn quilt hand made by you! The only thing you need to bring is a hairdryer, if possible. You MUST sign up and pay before Nov. 1, so Linda will know how much supplies to bring. The date is November 18, so please mark your calendars!

NAQG meeting and classes are held at McFarlin Methodist Church, 419 S. University Blvd., Norman OK.

CONTACT PROGRAM CHAIR, DONNA BARNES at [dk@losdos.org](mailto:dk@losdos.org) or 817-718-8276.







## Bulbs

I don't know about you, but I have been inundated over the last few months with "bulb" catalogs. Each new edition seems to have more beautiful specimens than the one before, and I tell myself that I will order some next week. I love bulbs, and when they bloom it seems like a miracle. Gardeners and botanists may differ in their use of the word "bulb". Botanists refer to bulbs as a specific botanical structure consisting of a stem, surrounded by fleshy, modified leaves. Plants from this definition of a true bulb are onions, daffodils, tulips, and lilies. A true bulb is a storage organ, usually underground, that is made up of fleshy scales, which are modified leaves, attached to a base plate that gives rise to roots. The fleshy scales store food for the plant.

When gardeners talk about "bulbs" they often are referring to plants that grow from a variety of underground structures, including true bulbs, corms, tubers, tuberous roots, and rhizomes. In nurseries, the term "bulb" usually refers to bulbs, corms, tubers, and other structures that can remain alive for two months out of soil.

When growing bulbs, the more the better, is a good guideline to follow. Another good guideline is to use the tried-and-true rule of matching the plant to the site. A good site for the type of bulb and good soil (even if it must be amended) is a must. The climate conditions for the time of year that the plant will bloom is also important.

It is difficult to generalize about the exact bloom-time for spring-blooming bulbs. So much depends on where one lives, and the location in a garden. Bulbs planted in a south-facing site next to a wall or fence will bloom first. The same species planted in a protected, north-facing site may be delayed for several weeks. Bulbs are not only for the spring, but there are also summer and fall-blooming species.

Below are just a few selections for each bloom time:

### Late Winter to Very Early Spring:

Glory-of-the-snow, Snow crocus, Dutch crocus, Hardy cyclamen, Snowdrops and Reticulated iris.

### Early Spring:

Grecian windflower, Trumpet daffodils, Squill, and some tulip cultivars

### Early to Midspring:

Hyacinth, Small-and-Large-cupped daffodils, Single and double early tulips.

### Midspring:

Wood and Snowdrop anemone, Bluebells, Jonquilla daffodils, and Lily-flowering tulips

### Late Spring to Early Summer:

Allium, Dogtooth violet, Madonna lily, Star-of-Bethlehem, Darwin, Fringed, Parrott and Peony tulip

### Summer:

Summer hyacinth, hardy gloxinia, belladonna lily, caladiums, naked ladies, cannas, and gingers

### Fall:

Ornamental onions, certain crocuses, specific lilies, squills, and Autumn daffodils.







## Dirt Pie

### Ingredients

- 1 box chocolate fudge cake mix, plus all ingredients required according to package instructions

### For the topping:

- 14.3 ounces Oreos
- 12.8 ounces hot fudge
- 3.4 ounces Hershey's Dark Chocolate instant pudding mix
- 1 3/4 cups milk



### For the dirt:

- 3.4 ounces Hershey's Dark Chocolate instant pudding mix
- 1 3/4 cups milk
- 1 tub of Cool Whip
- Additional hot fudge & Oreos, optional toppings

1. Make cake mix according to package instructions. Bake the cake in a 9x13 baking dish for 22-28 minutes, or until a knife comes out clean from the center. Allow it to cool for about 10 minutes.
2. Using the end of a wooden spoon or rubber spatula, poke holes in the top of the cake while it is still slightly warm.
3. Heat the jar of hot fudge in the microwave until it is smooth and can be stirred easily. Pour the entire jar over the cake and allow it to soak in through the holes you created. Let rest until the cake is cooled.
4. Prepare the pudding layer by mixing one package of pudding with 1 3/4 cups of cold milk. Immediately pour it over the top of the cake. Put the cake into the refrigerator and allow the pudding to set for about 15 minutes.
5. Mix the second box of pudding with 1 3/4 cups of cold milk. Refrigerate until set.
6. Place 3/4 of the package of Oreos into a gallon-sized plastic bag and crush them with a rolling pin.
7. Remove the set pudding from the refrigerator and mix with the container of Cool Whip. Add the crushed Oreos to the Cool Whip mixture and spread the contents over the top of the cake to create your "dirt" layer.
8. Top the cake with the remaining hot fudge and Oreos. Serve cold and store any leftovers in the refrigerator.

Looking for a delicious, sweet treat to make with the kids or grandkids? Look no further! This Dirt Pie is even better than the one you remember from childhood. Add gummy worms or a scoop of vanilla ice cream to really kick it up a notch!





## Blueberry Crumb Cake

### Ingredients

5 tbsp. Butter  
3/4 c. Sugar  
1 whole Egg  
1/2 tsp. Vanilla Extract  
2 c. All-purpose Flour  
2 1/4 tsp. Baking Powder  
1/2 tsp. Salt  
3/4 c. Whole Milk  
2 c. Fresh Blueberries  
FOR THE TOPPING:  
6 tbsp. Butter  
1/2 c. Sugar  
1/2 tsp. Cinnamon  
1/2 c. Flour  
1/4 tsp. Salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine flour, baking powder, and a salt. Stir and set aside.

Cream 5 tablespoons butter with cinnamon and sugar. Add egg and mix until combined. Add vanilla and mix. Add flour mixture and milk alternately until totally incorporated. Do not overbeat. Stir in blueberries until evenly distributed.

Grease a 9 x 13-inch baking pan. Pour in batter.

In a separate bowl, combine topping ingredients and cut together using two knives or a pastry cutter. Sprinkle over the top of the cake.

Bake cake for 40 to 45 minutes, or until golden brown. Cut into squares and serve.

Serves 18

*Note: I took this Blueberry Crumb Cake to the MG class today for the lunch bunch. Several wanted the recipe*





## Sheet Pan Oklahoma Fried Onion Burgers

### Ingredients

1 onion, very thinly sliced  
2 lb ground beef  
2 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce  
1 Tbsp Montreal steak seasoning  
6 slices Cheddar cheese  
2 tomatoes, thinly sliced  
1 (8-oz) pkg shredded iceberg lettuce  
6 hamburger buns, split

Preheat oven to 425°F. Scatter onion on a lightly greased rimmed baking sheet.

Stir together beef, Worcestershire, and seasoning in a large bowl; shape mixture into 6 large, thin patties. Place patties over onions and press onions into patties; not all onions will be covered.

Bake 15 minutes or until patties are no longer pink. Top with cheese; let stand until melted. Serve burgers, onions, tomatoes, and lettuce on buns with desired condiments.

## Blueberry Cornbread

### Ingredients

1 cup cornmeal  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
½ cup white sugar  
3 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
2 eggs  
¾ cup milk  
½ cup vegetable oil  
2 cups blueberries

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Grease a 9-inch square baking dish.

Mix cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt in a bowl. Beat eggs, milk, and oil together in a separate large bowl. Add cornmeal mixture to the egg mixture; mix until just combined. Fold blueberries into the batter; pour into the prepared baking dish.

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, 25 to 30 minutes.





## Upcoming Events

*Submitted by Elaine Dockray*

**October 23, 11 AM – noon: Seed Saving and Sharing.** Myriad Botanical Gardens, Water Plaza Room & Garden Grounds. Learn how to properly harvest, save, and store seeds collected from your garden and beyond. We will discuss the benefits of seed saving and learn techniques to identify, collect, and store them. Learn about heirlooms and seed swapping before we take a walk around the Garden grounds to collect your own starter stash of seeds.

Member \$10; Nonmember \$12

Bradley Fowler, Horticulturist

Register by Tuesday, October 19, at [https://calendar.oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com/event/seed-saving-and-sharing/?instance\\_id=17269](https://calendar.oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com/event/seed-saving-and-sharing/?instance_id=17269)

**November 6, Noon – 3 PM: Tree for All.** Myriad Botanical Gardens. Tree for All returns for a fifth year as a pre-registered, drive-thru event. This program is designed to assist homeowners as they promote natural beautification and improvement of the environment through the planting of trees. Our goal is to diversify the green canopy in Oklahoma and ensure a sustainable and biodiverse landscape. We have narrowed our tree offerings to six of the most popular trees, Sawtooth Oak, Bald Cypress, Redbud, Blackgum, Shoals Creek Chaste Tree, and Nellie R. Stevens Holly. All trees do well in Oklahoma and will provide interesting and wonderful color. With your registration, you will not only receive the trees you purchase but also access to a website with resources for tree planting and tree care in Oklahoma. There will be reading materials and demonstration videos.

\$20 per tree. Pre-registration required.

Register by Monday, November 1 at <https://oklahomacitybotanicalgardens.com/tree-for-all-presented-by-cox-saturday-november-6/>.

Pickup through the Circle Drive off Reno Avenue

**November 13, 11 AM – Noon: Create a Pollinator Overwintering Habitat.** Commonwealth Urban Farms, 1016 NW 32<sup>nd</sup> St, OKC. When the leaves and temperatures begin to drop, many pollinators are looking for a place to spend the winter and it could be right in your own garden. Most pollinators prefer to stay at home and ride out the cold. The availability of nesting and overwintering habitat is very important in providing shelter and food for beneficial insects. We will construct a natural habitat at the pollinator rain garden and explore ways you can provide nesting and overwintering habitat in your own yard.

Instructor: Jody Lesch, Garden School coordinator and resident "Bug Lady."

\$10 per workshop, \$15 per couple/pair, unless otherwise noted. Or volunteer on a Saturday morning and get in free!

**November 20, 9 – 11:30 AM: Autumn Garden Tour.** Will Rogers Park Exhibition Center, 3400 NW 36<sup>th</sup> St., OKC. Event ID: 41694

Let's go for a stroll through the Gardens and see what is growing, flowering, resting, or holding onto its fruit late into November.



## Weed Killer Tool

When visiting back in Wisconsin this summer, a friend who is older than me was sharing the frustration of wanting to get rid of weeds. Bending is very difficult at their ages. He found this tool, the Smucker Green Weed Dauber. With this you can apply weed killer to plants without bending over. It also localized the weed killer so as not to put too much of it in your garden. You can search online to find a place to order it.

Submitted by Lois Cox



## 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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**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](http://www.oces.okstate.edu/cleveland).