



The Weeders' Digest

Tim Vermillion Talks Trees!

Tim Vermillion of Norman Urban Forestry presented at our August meeting, once again via ZOOM. He gave a very interesting slide show on trees, complete with great photos. Below, Tim offers some tips on tree-climbing! If you have questions for Tim on his presentation or on trees in general, you can contact him at tim.vermillion@normanok.gov.



Cherry is back at work part time! She continues to make progress on her recovery from her knee replacement, and is grateful for all the cards and letters she received from you!

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President's Posting

By Joan Barker

Congratulations to Jackie Engleman for winning the prize of 4 hours of Courtney's expertise and time! Thank you so much to Courtney for offering a different and unique fundraising opportunity. Courtney has indicated that she is willing to do this fundraiser again next spring. Thank you also to Brenda Williams for organizing and coordinating the drawing. See you in the garden!

Joan



Left, top, Donna Wright shares: In 2019 I filled in an old swimming pool. I had a struggle to not always see the shape of the pools until I put a pallet board walk way through it. And bottom, this is my first daylily it was acquired when Molly Monaghan was cleaning a Master Garden bed and shared plants with the 2019 class. This will always be my favorite. I don't have any idea of the name. I just love the color, the double petals, and how it came to me.

Below, Vada Edwards writes: Rogue field pumpkin from last years decorative squash! Sprawled 8-10 feet!



Photo
Booth





Kathi Farley is not able to be in the demo garden on Tuesdays for the remainder of the season. Look for the days she will be there on Teamup. She is usually there on Mondays. That will give you more flexibility in your schedule if you are looking for another day to work in the garden. Many beds have tons of grass and, of course, walkways always need attention. Come see Kathi in the native bed on Monday if you need guidance. For those wanting more distance from others and to do some outdoor work there, these off days will provide that! Thank you



Photo Booth



Rick Ault shares his interesting milkweed variety in his butterfly garden.





Hummingbirds enjoy the purple salvia and mini hollyhocks in my garden. I moved the hummingbird feeder from the backyard to the front porch. Many hummingbirds are visiting the feeder in its new location. They were attracted by moonflowers blooming in a flower bed in the front yard. The orange esperanza is finally blooming, as is the milkweed. There were no monarchs on the milkweed this summer.





Left, top and middle, Kay writes: the bees love my Abelia and my marigolds. Middle right, a young monarch caterpillar on the showy milkweed. Bottom left and right, the bananas trees like the heat.





Kennedy Elementary School Pollinator Garden

I wrote and was awarded a monarch butterfly garden grant for Kennedy Elementary School. The grant is a partnership with the Oklahoma City Zoo, Okies for Monarchs, the Myriad Botanical Gardens, and The National Wildlife Federation. We received \$1500 to allow us to install a pollinator garden at the elementary school. The monarch population has plummeted by 80% in the last 20 years. This is primarily due to the loss of habitat, GMO homogeneous farming, urbanization, over mowing, and the use of both herbicides and pesticides. Oklahoma is very important to the monarch species because the Monarchs travel through Oklahoma. As a master gardener candidate it is important to me to inspire children to love gardening and to do so in responsible ways. Most people have positive memories regarding the Monarch butterfly and if they are able to name or correctly identify any species of butterfly the Monarch is the most likely species they will choose. During our workshop days we visited the Oklahoma Zoo butterfly gardens and the butterfly gardens at the Myriad Botanical gardens. I would encourage all of the master gardeners to visit if it has been a while. The gardens have some really great Oklahoma Native plant species in them. I would also like to encourage all master gardeners to learn more about how they use their gardening expertise to help us prevent the loss of the Monarch species. Monarchs need milkweed to lay their eggs, so that the caterpillars have food when they emerge. Milkweed is the ONLY plant Monarchs will lay their eggs on. And the Monarchs also need nectar plants in both the spring and the fall for energy on their journey to and from Mexico. If anyone wants more information, I would be happy to share. They can email me at teresadwagner@gmail.com. Please include Monarch Information Request in the subject line.

The schools that receive these grants are partnered with mentors to help with the garden installations. I know one of the mentors was a Master Gardener although I did not catch which county. I know they are looking for more mentors, if anyone is interested. They can contact Rebecca Snyder at rsnyder@okcsoo.org for more information. And if anyone want to help install our garden at Kennedy, we would welcome it. Social distancing and masks would be required and special permission would need to be obtained ahead of time. The students and their parents are not allowed on campus at this time, so we cannot ask them to help with the installation.



Upcoming Events

September 12, 10 – 11 AM: Beautiful Bulbs, Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Building, OKC. Event ID 32439. There is nothing quite as satisfying as watching your bulbs come up year after year with very little effort. Autumn planted bulbs like tulips, daffodils and alliums can provide years of color in your garden. You will learn where to find sources to purchase them, how to prepare for planting and feeding them as well as which kinds work best here in Oklahoma! Presented by the Oklahoma Garden Association. Advance registration required at <https://www.okc.gov/departments/parks-recreation/will-rogers-gardens>. Cost: \$5

September 26, 10 AM: Gardens Walking Tour, Myriad Gardens OKC. Expand your knowledge of Oklahoma plants and find inspiration for your own garden with our educational walking tours. Each month will feature different plants from our outdoor collection that make great choices for our 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:

- Pre-registration is required to attend – the tour is still free! Register at Myriad Gardens website.
- We encourage all attendees to wear a mask for the walk.
- All attendees must social distance in order to participate. The guide will be wearing a mask and a microphone so everyone can hear them.

October 3, 9 – 10:30 AM, Gardens Walk and Talk, Will Rogers Gardens and Arboretum, OKC. Event ID 32889. Come enjoy the beautiful Gardens and discuss with the staff those questions that you need answers to, like fall plant care and winter color. Pre-registration required. Cost \$5. Register at <https://www.okc.gov/departments/parks-recreation/will-rogers-gardens>.

November 7, 10 – 11 AM, Landscape Design, Will Rogers Gardens, OKC. Event ID 32440. A landscape consists of living and non-living elements. Depending on how these components are arranged will either leave you pleased or dissatisfied. Join the Oklahoma Garden Association as they present this class so you can improve upon your own home landscape. Cost: \$10. Register at <https://www.okc.gov/departments/parks-recreation/will-rogers-gardens>.

SAVE THE DATE: November 7, TREE FOR ALL, Myriad Gardens, OKC. Our annual tree giveaway and sale, Tree For All, will be in its fourth year this November with a greater variety of smaller trees and a range of prices. Trees are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. 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.



Two-Tone Swirl Bread (Taste of Home)

by Rick Ault

Ingredients

4 c. unbleached flour, divided
1 pkg active dry yeast
1 1/2 t. salt
1 1/2 c. warm milk (120 to 130F)
2 1/2 T shortening
2 c. unbleached flour
2 1/2 T. sugar
1 pkg active dry yeast
1 1/2 t. salt
1 1/2 c. warm milk (120 to 130F)
3 T molasses
2 1/2 T shortening
2 1/4 c. whole wheat flour

In a large mixing bowl, combine 2 c. flour, 2 1/2 T sugar, 1 pkg yeast and 1 1/2 t salt. Add warm milk and shortening and beat until smooth. Stir in 1 1/4 to 2 c additional flour to form a soft dough (which will be sticky). Turn onto floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, about 6-8 minutes. Place in a bowl coated with cooking spray, turning once to coat top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour.

For Molasses Dough: In a large bowl, combine 2 c. unbleached flour, 2 1/2 T sugar, 1 pkg yeast and 1 1/2 t salt. Add the warm milk, molasses and shortening and beat until smooth. Stir in 2 2 1/4 c. whole wheat flour to form a soft dough (which will be sticky). Turn onto floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, about 6-8

minutes. Place in a bowl coated with cooking spray, turning once to coat top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about an hour.

Punch doughs down. Divide each dough in half. On floured surface, roll one portion of each dough into a 12 x 18" rectangle. Place the rectangle of molasses dough in the rectangle of plain dough. Roll up jelly-roll style, starting with short side. Pinch seam to seal and tuck ends under. Place seam side down in an 8 x 4 x 2" loaf pan coated with cooking spray. Repeat with remaining dough. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 30 minutes. Bake at 375 F for 35 to 40 minutes, or until browned. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely. Makes 2 loaves.

Gorgeous bread - looks impressive and tastes good, too!



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of July 25, 2020 is \$25,245.68. Income includes \$5 Worms Sold and \$252 Courtney Raffle for Total Income of \$257.00. Expenses were \$300 Demo Garden for Total Expenses of \$300.00. Balance at August 25, 2020 is \$25,202.68, less budgeted expenses not yet reimbursed of \$12,743.68 and less reserve for greenhouse repairs of \$1112.00, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$11,347.00.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



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.