

The Weeders' Digest

Welcome New Master Gardeners!

Congratulations to our new Master Gardeners who received their certification at our Harvest Feast on November 10th. We welcome all of you to our association and hope to see you at our monthly meetings as well as all our other activities. Being a Master Gardener provides us an opportunity to give back to the community, and to educate others on sound horticultural practices. Besides, it is just good fun! *Pictured below are all our new graduates...more photos of our Harvest Feast are located on pages 4-5.*



December Meeting Starts at 9 am!

Social time begins at 9 am with great snacks, and our meeting will begin at 9:30. We'll have our gift exchange at 10 am—if you want to participate, bring a garden gift valued at \$10. We round out the day with a sumptuous potluck at 11 am...bring your favorite dish! Let's celebrate the season with joy and fellowship! New Master Gardeners, please join us!

Hours and Dues are Due!

Treasurer Nancy Logan will accept annual hours and dues for 2017 at our Dec and Jan meetings. Be sure to turn them in to maintain your status as a Master Gardener.

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Once again the Harvest Feast was an "orgy" of food. What a fun activity. Thank you to all who brought food, and those who helped with the set up and clean up. All you "old hands" be certain to welcome the new Master Gardeners and encourage them to participate in our organization. Also, congratulate and thank our new recipient of the Distinguished Service Award Nancy Logan for all her contributions to the success of CCMGA. She has been a great asset to our association.

We now look forward to our annual Christmas meeting and another food feast. Bring your goodies and your appetites. I assume we will have another round of Dirty Santa?

Fred



Condolences



It is with sincere sadness we report that Charlie Altom passed away on Monday, Nov 28th. Charlie was a member of the 2008 MG class and his wonderful smile could light up a room and make anyone feel welcome. An avid OU fan, he enjoyed discussing OU football, his granddaughters, gardening and growing tomatoes. Charlie was instrumental in helping Kathy Whittle establish the Medicinal garden area in the demo/teaching garden. At Charlie's request, no services are planned at this time. A private family memorial service will be held at Lake Saint John, LA at a later date. Donations may be made in his memory to: The Sparrow Project , c/o Madelin Altom, 10632 Woodridden, Oklahoma City, OK 73170 or Cleveland County Master Gardener Association (CCMGA), c/o Nancy Logan, Treasurer, 601 E Robinson, Norman, OK 73071. (Note "Medicinal Garden" in check memo section) Boomer Sooner, Charlie! You will be missed.



PR Prattle

By Judy Kautz

Doorhangers are still available for you to distribute in your neighborhood or local businesses who have lovely winter displays. Tell them how much you appreciate their efforts to make our environment beautiful!

CCMGA Cookbooks are still available...cost is \$10. Copies have been placed in the Extension office and can be picked up there. Don't forget to pick up the correction sheet that you can place in your cookbooks.

Garden Tours: If you are interested in taking charge of this important function in the garden, please see Les Brown. He will be glad to provide information on what is involved in this rewarding activity.

Patches: We still have patches for your attire. They are \$3 each and will also be available at the meeting.

Calendar for 2017: *Do you want to have a 2017 calendar as we have had in years past?* Let me know of your interest...we are trying to determine if this is a worthwhile and useful tool for our membership.



The garden work went on for a long time this year, due to our very late freeze. Overall it was a very successful year. The landscape beds were beautiful and the vegetable beds produced 522 pounds of produce donated to Food & Shelter for Friends. As always you dedicated and hard-working Master Gardeners were responsible for everything. Thank you so much!! Enjoy your holidays, and then start thinking about your plans and those budget submissions for the new year. Next year the plan is to hold a "Garden Orientation" for the trainees and we are hoping to offer the newly certified MGs an area to do their own thing in the garden.



Harvest Feast Thanks

By Donna Carter

I would like to thank everyone for helping make Harvest Feast a delicious success. The eagerness of the newest class and members to help by bringing food, decorating and clean-up was outstanding. We served approximately 125. Thank you.



Congratulations to Nancy Logan for her selection for the Distinguished Master Gardener Award for 2016. Nancy is such a contributor to our association, running the greenhouse, serving as Treasurer, managing a garden bed, and a myriad of other duties. She performs all of them well and with a smile! Well done, Nancy—we are proud of you!

**Cleveland County Master Gardener Association
Harvest Feast
Nov. 10, 2016**

Congratulations to our 2016 Graduates!

Sherry Andrusiak Burnett
Jane Dye
Phyllis Ferrell
Theresa Giudice
Jianne Hardy
Shelly Henry
Terry Hall
Ellen Lack
Glenna Laird
Becky LeClair
Julie McDonough
Ryan McGowen
Janelle Miller
Cindy Nestoly
Robin Stead
Tom Walker
Brenda Williams
Linda Wren



CMMGA Presentations & Activities 2016

- Spring Gardening Classes
- Bone Pruning
- Vegetable Gardening
- Xeriscape Gardening
- Utilizing Native Plants
- Raised Bed Gardening
- Shore Tree Careway
- Retreat "Tom Locus"
- Demon & Teaching Garden Tours
- Hummingbirds & Pollinators in the Garden
- Drip Irrigation
- Water Wise Gardening
- Container Gardening
- Shade Gardening
- Small Fruits for the Backyard
- Fairy Gardening
- Seed Gathering
- Oklahoma Proverb
- Batterflies & Milkweed
- Garden Photography
- Vermoreaux
- Cleveland County Fair Superintendents
- The Butterfly Festival
- Earth Day at Reeves Park
- The Garden Party
- Home Depot Information Booth

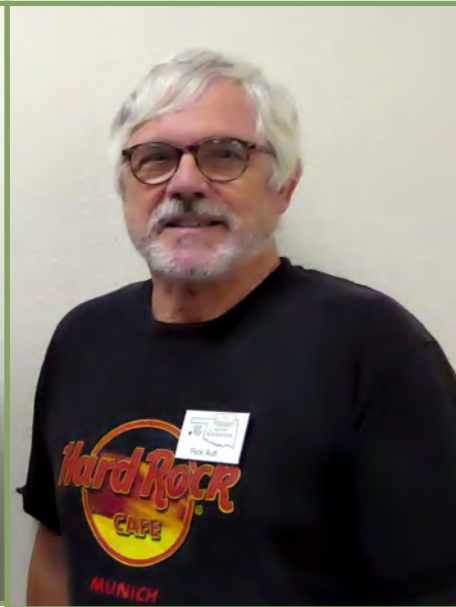
Thank you to all our volunteers & cooperators!

Do you have what it takes to be a Master Gardener? Take the quiz! →




Harvest Feast Fun





Harvest Feast



Tour of the Atlanta Botanical Garden

In October, my husband and I accompanied our goddaughter and her family on an evening tour of the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Not only were the plants gorgeous, but the gardens also displayed a Chihuly glass exhibit and Halloween decorations throughout. Being in the South, plants tended to be lush and large. Toad Lily plants popped up everywhere as well as Small-head Dolls Daisies. Most intriguing was the plant sculptor my “adopted grandson” called the Lady. During the Christmas season, lights festoon her hair, and throughout the year, various plants color her hair. I am such a fan of American Beauty and ferns of all kinds, and the gardens proudly featured plenty of those. In fact, various purple plants created many lovely mini-gardens with the Chihuly glass. Yellow plants and flowers also accented many groupings. These are just some of the outstanding features at the gardens: Fuqua Orchid Center: High Elevation House, Orchid Display House, Fuqua Conservatory, Tropical Rotunda, Desert House, Special Exhibits, Orangerie, Edible Garden, Rose Garden, Hydrangea Garden, Dwarf and Rare Conifer Garden, Hardy Palms, Cobra lilies, Summer Bulbs, Water Plants, Conservation Gardens, and Japanese Garden. As we entered the garden the fragrance of the Orange-Tea olive perfumed the main entry. This unusual, hard-to-find variety produces orange flowers instead of the typical white flowers and blooms from September into October. Sculptured landscapes were just breathtaking as well as the views from varying levels of the garden. Water features and ponds also provided endless beauty. I urge anyone visiting that part of the country to take a side tour of this garden. The website is atlantabg.org. The photos that I am providing are just a sample of those I snapped.





In last month's newsletter, Mary Engle provided a review of the book "The Forgotten Pollinators" by Stephen L. Buchanan and Gary Paul Nabhan. Mary promised to provide a list of the 12 most common pollinators and here they are:

BIRDS: Especially the hummingbirds are important pollinators.

BEES: Bumblebees, honeybees and native bees are considered generalists as they pollinate anything. There are 4,000 native bee species in the U.S.

SQUASH BEES: ground nesting

SWEAT BEES: Known to sip perspiration from the forehead of a human.

BEETLES: May eat some if not all of a plant, but they are still considered a pollinator. A type of pollination called "mess and soil pollination" occurs in primitive flowering plants affected by beetles – so called because the beetles blunder around the flowers chewing on floral parts, eating pollen, and defecating.

BATS: Are great pollinators.

BUTTERFLIES: Butterflies are insects. We love butterflies, but those pesticides intended to kill mosquitoes, etc. also kill beneficial pollinators such as butterflies.

FLIES: Yes, those pesky little flies are pollinators. When moon flowers are in bloom, the flies cannot resist their sweet scent.

MOTHS: Most moths fly at night so we usually don't see them.

WASPS

WIND

WATER

The Pollinator Garden (a garden specifically designed to attract butterflies, hummingbirds and bees) dates back to the Schulgartens of the 17th century.

"Look deeply into nature and you will understand everything better".

Albert Einstein



DATE	TOPIC	GROUP/ACTIVITY	TRAINER/SPEAKER	ATTENDED
1/23,30	Lawn care, Composting, Rain Garden, Trees and Shrubs, Xeriscaping	Spr. Gardening Classes, NW Classroom	T. Payton Miller, C. Bowden, R. Ault, T. January, P. Cummings	11
2/6	Rose Pruning	Demo Garden	Cathy Bowden	4
2/6	Vegetable gardening	St. Mark's Catholic Church	Judy Kautz	50
3/1	Xeriscape, native plants	Brookhaven Garden Club	Julia Linger	8
3/3	How to install a rain harvesting (barrel) system	West Wind Unitarian Universalist Church	Chris Ward, Cleveland Cty. Conserv. Distr.	
3/15	Raised beds or healthy eating from your own garden	Norman Regional Healthcare System	Brenda Hill and Jamie	
3/16	Monarch Butterfly	Norman Garden Club	Susan Aikman	12
3/18	Tree Giveaway in Moore	State Forester, Moore Community Center area	P. Blackwell, R. McGowan, B. Swagerty	
3/19	Inviting Hummingbirds and Other Pollinators in Your Garden	Wild Birds Unlimited	Mary Engel	17
4/2	Drip Irrigation	Classroom/Garden	Jim McDaniel	30
4/2	Tours through 10/29	Demo Garden	Les Brown, coord.	
4/5	Raised beds	Moore Public Library	Rick Ault	35
4/9	Garden Party and plant sale	Demo Garden	Donna Carter, coord.	
4/11	Water Wise Gardening	P.E.O.	Claren Kidd	20
4/16	Info. Table	Home Depot	Tracey Payton Miller, coord.	78
4/16	Container Gardening	Moore Public Library	Cathy Bowden	20
4/22	Install native plants	WildCare	F. Schneider, J. Parker, coord.; V. & R. Edwards, K. Kelley, C. Stonecipher	
4/24	Earth Day Info. Table and plant give-away	Reaves Park	Joan Barker, Tomoko Yoshida, Coord.	1000
5/14	Info. Booth at Noble Library	Noble Farmers Market	Cathy Bowden, Mary Bruce	11
5/14	Info. Table	Norman Farmers Market	Laura Eckstein, Kay Holder, Fred Schneider	72
6/4	Shade Gardening	Demo Garden	Pat Hardre	17
6/11	Container Gardening	Classroom	J. Kautz, M. Solomon	21
6/25	Small fruits for the backyard	Classroom	Theresa January	12
7/9	Fairy Garden	Classroom/Garden	Marilyn Solomon	28
7/16	Seed Gathering	Demo Garden	Pat Hardre	29
8/6	Okla. Proven	Classroom/Garden	M. Solomon	6
8/23	Fairy Garden	St. Matthew Methodist, MWC	M. Solomon	10
9/3	Butterflies/Milkweed	Norman Public Library	Mary Engel	75
9/8-10	County Fair Hort. Entries	Fairgrounds	CCMGA President, coord.	
9/17	Garden Photography	Classroom/Garden	Judy Kautz	7
10/1	Butterfly Festival	Blanchard	Cathy Bowden, coord.	64+72
9/30-10/1	Flea Market	Cleveland Cty. Fairgrounds	Susan Aikman, coord.	
10/15	Butterflies/Milkweed	Classroom/Garden	Mary Engel	8



Pumpkin Pie Cake

Master Cook

Ingredients

2 eggs -- slightly beaten
 1 can solid pack pumpkin -- (16 oz.)
 3/4 cup sugar
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 1/2 teaspoon ginger
 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
 1 can evaporated milk -- (12 oz.)
 1 white or yellow cake mix -- (2 layer size)
 1 cup unsalted butter -- (2 sticks) melted
 1 cup chopped pecans
 Cool Whip®

Combine the filling ingredients in order given. Pour into a sprayed 9 x 13" pan. Sprinkle evenly with dry cake mix. Spoon melted butter over cake mix, covering completely. (To save fat calories, reduce the melted butter to 1/2 c. [1 stick]. It works just as well.) Sprinkle with pecans. Bake in a preheated 350 F. oven for 1 hour or until knife inserted comes out clean. Cool completely. Before serving, top individual Pumpkin Pie Cake squares with Cool Whip. (A friend advised she uses thinly sliced chilled butter on top of the cake mix instead of melted butter.)

A similar recipe for PUMPKIN CRUNCH directed lining the 13 x 9" pan with wax paper. The recipe differed in its construction in that the nuts were pressed into the dry cake mix before pouring on the 2 sticks of melted but-

ter. After baking, this recipe called for turning the cake out of the pan and frosting, when cool, with the following icing: 8 oz. cream cheese, 1/2 c. powdered sugar, 3/4 c. Cool Whip. Mix until creamy and spread over cake. (If pressed for time, simply spread the topping over the Pumpkin Crunch in the pan.) Refrigerate.

Per Serving (excluding unknown items): 291 Calories; 24g Fat (73.2% calories from fat); 3g Protein; 17g Carbohydrate; 1g Dietary Fiber; 83mg Cholesterol; 125mg Sodium. Exchanges: 0 Grain (Starch); 0 Lean Meat; 0 Non-Fat Milk; 4 1/2 Fat; 1 Other Carbohydrates.

NOTES: This recipe is absolutely WONDERFUL! It's a standard at our house during the holidays. I prefer this Pumpkin Pie Cake to pumpkin pie. But for old fashioned pumpkin pie, pour filling into an unbaked 10" deep dish pie crust (or two 9" shallow pie shells) and bake at 425 F. for 15 minutes, then at 350 F. for an additional 40 to 50 minutes (20 to 30 minutes for 9" pies) or until a knife inserted in center comes out clean. If using pumpkin-shaped pie pan, make above filling with only 10 oz. (1 1/4 c.) evaporated milk and bake 15 minutes at 425 F. and then 50 to 55 minutes at 350 F.



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of October 25, 2016, is \$14,049.16. Income includes \$12 T-Shirt Orders; \$680 2017 Dues; \$32 Pomegranate Plants; \$10 Gloves and \$40 Lawn Judging Stipend for Total Income of \$774.00. Expense includes \$150 Demonstration Garden and \$143.12 Hospitality Expense for Total Expense of \$293.12. Balance at November 25, 2016 is \$14,530.04, less budgeted amount of \$3,339.04, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$11,191.00.

Respectfully Submitted, *Nancy Logan*



December 9, 9 AM:
CCMGA Master Gardener
Meeting, Classroom,
Cleveland County
Fairgrounds.

**Sundays, December 11,
18, 6 – 9 PM:** Free admis-
sion to Crystal Bridge
(presented by OG&E).

December 14, 6 – 7:30 PM:
Wednesdays at Will Rogers.
Topic is Holiday Gardening.
Presented by Oklahoma
County Master Gardeners.
Free.

January 13, 10 AM:
CCMGA Master Gardener
Meeting, Classroom,
Cleveland County
Fairgrounds.

January 20 - 22: OKC
Home and Garden Show.
OKC State Fairgrounds.



Please join us for a holiday celebration

Friday, December 16, 2016

2pm to 5pm

at

1712 Montclair Court

Norman, OK

hosted by

Donna and Les Brown

Nancy Logan

Claren Kidd

Please respond to Nancy Logan by

e-mail (nlogan@ou.edu) or phone (405-364-6399)

before Dec.10, with a **yes**, **no**, or **maybe**,

so we can plan refreshments



Amazing creations by the Aults brought to our Harvest Feast—anti-gravity cake and a simple pile of brownies, made to look crafty and colorful! They were tasty, too!

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 race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, or status as a veteran, and is an equal opportunity employer.

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Tracey Payton -Miller
Extension Educator
Horticulture

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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Newsletter Publisher: Judy Kautz



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.