



Claren Kidd Shares Africa Trip

Master Gardener Claren Kidd shared highlights of her trip to Africa with CCMGA members at our January meeting. It was fascinating to see animals and plants and all the beautiful scenery she enjoyed during her stay.



Speaking at the February Meeting...

Julie M. Butler, PhD, is the February guest speaker on the topic of successful seed/plant production. A lifelong gardener, Julie currently practices the best "scientific" organic methods in her home vegetable garden. She earned her BS in Botany and her PhD in Plant Physiology from OU, and earned an Associate in Applied Science-Horticulture and a Certificate in Horticulture from OSU. Julie also completed extensive pre- and post- doctoral training and is published. Since 2005, she serves as an adjunct professor at OSUOKC teaching classes including Garden Flowers, Principles of Horticulture, and Home Garden Fruits and Vegetables (which will be offered this spring.) Her presentation will include examples for "show and tell" to help us with production at the home garden scale. The program will begin at 10, but come early for snacks and conversation at 9:30. See you there!

SEED AND PLANT ORDERS! Don't forget to review the seed and plant catalog to pre-order your plants before the Garden Party. Bring your orders to the Feb or Mar meetings—remember they must be prepaid!

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President's Posting

By Fred Schneider

Thank you all for once more agreeing to put up with me for another year. I particularly want to thank Theresa January for her leadership over the past year. She has provided a good road for me to follow. All of you are to be congratulated for your efforts and support of insuring CCMGA's success in fulfilling its goals and objectives. In our new year let us continue our support of our varied educational and service activities. Please sign-up to serve as a desk mentor! Also, don't hesitate to thank Phyllis Blackwell for insuring we do not "starve" at our monthly meetings! And please thank Celeste Stonecipher and Marilyn Solomon as past and present program chairs for providing interesting and educational speakers. Nancy Logan has continued to "count our pennies" and has kept us on the straight and narrow with our financial records. Finally! Remember the Weeder's Digest is YOUR newsletter and not Elaine Dockray's. Its success is dependent upon your contributions of information, news, articles, photos, recipes, etc. We have a great newsletter and let's make sure that it has continued success.

Fred Schneider



Seed and Plant Order Information

By Nancy Logan

The Greenhouse Committee has emailed a catalog of plants available for preorder from Prairie Wind Nursery. A separate ORDER FORM has also been sent by email. For those who need a printed catalog and are unable to print to their home printer, a few catalogs will be available at the February meeting. Please take one ONLY if you cannot print to your home printer. Order forms will also be available at the meeting.

Orders will be taken from February 12 through our March meeting on the 11th. PAYMENT is required with your order. Credit cards are accepted, along with checks and cash. Plants will be available for pick up on April 14 from Noon to 4pm and April 15 from 8am till Noon.

The catalog will have abundant perennials, herbs, succulents, groundcovers and annuals. We will make money on every plant you purchase, so buy lots of plants!



PR Prattle

By Judy Kautz

CCMGA Cookbooks are still available...cost is \$10. Copies have been placed in the Extension office and can be picked up there. If you have corrections, please send or give them to me. We will publish a correction sheet that you can place in your cookbooks.

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



The greenhouse crew has been working on cuttings, fighting bugs and planning has begun for the garden party & plant sales. Thanks go to members who are taking on the care of beds when prior caretakers needed to cut back. There are still some areas that need new caretakers or apprentices. Think about volunteering, we all have a good time working and socializing in the garden and new ideas for existing beds keep the garden fresh. Things are still quiet in the garden now but some work will start up this month and the garden budget will be presented to the membership at the Feb. meeting. For now, we can get our seeds ordered and make plans while we wait for Spring.



January 23 was the beginning of the spring gardening classes. Tracey presented the lawn selection and maintenance sections of the class. She was followed by Cathy Bowden's presentation on composting and Rick Ault's explanation of how to create a rain garden. The second spring gardening class was Jan. 30th with presentations on selection and planting of trees and shrubs for Oklahoma. There was also a presentation on xeriscaping. February 6 Cathy Bowden showed us the proper way to prune roses. March 3 at 7 p.m. there will be a presentation on installing a rain barrel system by Chris Ward from the Cleveland County Conservation district. The workshop on how to install a rain barrel on March 3, at 7 p.m. is at the West Wind Unitarian Universalist Church and our members are invited to attend.



Right to left, Helen Morrison, Pat Pryor, and Mary Engel dress alike at the January meeting in honor of Mary's birthday! Now that's true friendship!



Collector's Choice for 2016: Magnolia, deciduous cultivars

Deciduous forms of magnolia are spectacular additions to any spring landscape. Among the most popular of deciduous forms are star magnolia (*M. stellata*) and saucer magnolia (*M. x soulangiana*), but several others are available along with their many hybrids, which provide a wide variety of flower colors from red to white, yellow, pink, or purple. The most common color available is pink, but others should be tried such as 'Elizabeth', an older selection with creamy yellow flowers, or 'Butterflies', a newer selection with deep yellow flowers. Flowers of deciduous magnolias appear just before or while the leaves are emerging in spring. Early flowering varieties can be damaged by late frosts; avoid placing plants in a southern exposure where flowers will open early. Deciduous magnolias can range in size from small to medium shrubs to large trees.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade; Soil: Prefers moist, well-drained, acid soil, but is adaptable; Hardiness: USDA Zone 4-9



Tree for 2016: Escarpment Live Oak, *Quercus fusiformis*

EscarPMENT live oak is a smaller version of the coastal live oak (*Q. virginiana*) growing slowly to 20 to 40 feet high and about as wide with picturesquely gnarled branches and evergreen leaves. Escarpment live oak is native to southern Oklahoma through central and western Texas to northern Mexico, which means it is also more drought and cold tolerant than coastal live oak. Because of its slower growth it is a perfect long-lived shade tree for smaller, urban landscapes. Branches provide excellent nesting sites for birds and small mammals. Acorns are elongated and eaten by wildlife. It is also the larval host of the Hairstreak and Horace's Duskywing butterflies. Exposure: Full sun or light shade; Soil: Alkaline to slightly acid, well-drained; Hardiness: USDA Zone 6-10



Shrub for 2016: Color Guard Yucca, *Yucca filamentosa* 'Color Guard'

Yucca is virtually a stemless evergreen shrub native to the southeast. 'Color Guard' is a gold-centered, variegated form with upright sword-shaped leaves that provide striking architectural features to the garden. Flowering stalks arise in late spring from the center of the plant bearing long, terminal panicles of bell-shaped, nodding, fragrant, creamy white flowers. 'Color Guard' yucca is free of pests and is tolerant of dry areas. It is excellent in borders, xeriscape plantings, containers, and as an accent plant. Exposure: Full sun to part shade; Soil: Dry to medium, well-drained; Hardiness: USDA Zone 3-8

Perennial for 2016: Sedges, *Carex* species

Sedges belong to the genus *Carex*, which is a genus of many species, most from wet areas such as bogs. Sedges have triangular, grass-like stems and panicles of short flower spikes. Foliage can be evergreen or deciduous and colors range from green, brown/rust, golden, blue, to variegated. Sedges are grown in groups or masses, as a lawn substitute, in naturalized areas, perennial borders, and habitat restoration. They are grown particularly in shady areas where the variegated varieties really shine. Some require damp or wet conditions while others are relatively drought tolerant. Exposure: Full sun to full shade; Soil: Dry to wet soils; Hardiness: USDA Zone 3-10



Annual for 2016: Annual Vinca, *Catharanthus* (Improved cultivars)

Annual vinca, also goes by Madagascar periwinkle and other common names, tolerates the heat and humidity of the southeast. Full sun and warm soil temperature is required for this species to thrive and it is tolerant of low fertility soils and is drought tolerant. Flower colors come in shades of white, pink, red, and purple. Plants grow 6 to 12 inches tall and 8 to 24 inches wide depending on cultivar. Improved cultivars provide an abundance of flowers on stocky plants and disease resistance, which is very important with this species. Improved cultivars include plants in the Cora series, Mediterranean series, Titan series, and many others. Exposure: Full sun to part shade; Soil: Well-drained, slightly dry; Hardiness: Use as an annual



The meeting was called to order by Theresa January. Tracy Payton Miller swore in the new officers for 2016. The new officers are Fred Schneider, president, Jeanne Parker, president elect, Nancy Logan, Treasurer, and Vada Edwards, secretary. Fred began the meeting by thanking Theresa January for the fine job she has done as 2015 president.

The minutes were approved as read from the December meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Nancy Logan reported that the cash balance as of November 25 was \$9,916.14. Funds in excess of budget as of December 31, 2015 totaled \$10,064.51. Both the garden budget and general budget have \$1000 in contingency funds. So far 71 people have paid dues.

GARDEN: Theresa will be director of the Garden. She will need a committee to help with the various aspects of maintaining the garden. Improvements under consideration are permanent borders around beds and standardized signage. Fred Schneider's Ethno Botanical Garden needs a caretaker. Someone with an interest in grape growing is needed to take over the vines or they will be removed. Patty Cummings is looking for someone to apprentice in the xeriscape garden to learn with the intention of taking over that bed in the future.

GREENHOUSE: There is still a bug problem in the greenhouse. They have been spraying alcohol with some success. An order form from Prairie Wind Nursery will be available before the next meeting. Orders must be submitted and pre-paid on or before the March 11th meeting. Plants will be available for pick-up April 14 and 15. Payment can be cash, check, or credit card. No sales tax is charged to members. There will be perennials, some annuals, succulents, herbs shrubs and native trees offered. Plants for use in the demo garden beds will be sold at the wholesale price.

PUBIC RELATIONS: Judy Kautz reported that she will do a reprint on the cookbooks with some corrections and additions. She can add some comments or possibly some pictures. She asked that members who see some errors let her know in writing within the next two weeks. A full year calendar will be available at the February meeting. There are still Master Gardner patches available for \$3.00 each at every meeting.

NEWSLETTER: Elaine Dockray needs input for the newsletter from members. She asked for book and movie reviews, interesting magazine articles and photographs. Submissions do not have to be done regularly, but she does need help from members.

January Meeting Minutes (continued)

MEMBERSHIP: Debby Warren from the 2014 class is the new membership chairperson. The calendar for mentors at the desk is still in progress. Fred asked everyone to help mentor a new class member with their desk activity.

HOSPITALITY: Phyllis thanks Carol Craig, Lois Cox, Sylvia Zimmerman, Mary Engle and Mary Bruce for bringing snacks for the meeting. Julie Johnson will be working with Phyllis on hospitality.

PROGRAM: Marilyn Solomon will be program chair with Fern Garofalo assisting her.

EDUCATION: Upcoming events: 1/23 & 1/30 Landscape Maintenance, 2/6 Rose Pruning with Kathy Bowden, 2/6 Vegetable Gardening at St. Mark's Church with Judy Kautz, 3/1 Xeriscaping at Brookhaven Garden club with Julie Linger, 4/2 Drip irrigation in the classroom with Jim McDaniel, 6/11 container gardening with Marilyn Solomon and Judy Kautz, 7/9, Fairy Garden with Marilyn Solomon. We will have an information table at Home Depot mid-April. When we have a date we will send a sign-up sheet around. There will be an information table for Earth day. Joan Barker will send a sign-up sheet for that.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Donna Carter would like to meet with members on Jan. 21 from 1-2 to get ideas for the garden party. Audrey Brown will help Donna with the garden party. Julie Johnson has ordered a bar shaped plaque for the bench in the demo garden and a brick for the walk in memory of Don Lavell.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Laura Eckstein and Sonya Fallgatter for Vada Edwards*



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance, as of December 31, 2015, is \$11,036.83. Income includes \$400 2016 Dues; \$15 Patches; \$41 Garden Books Sold; \$225 Spring Garden Classes and \$240 Cookbooks Sold for Total Income of \$921.00. Expense includes \$39.99 Materials for Projects; \$16.32 Memorial and \$38.69 Garden Party-GH for Total Expense of \$95.00. Balance at January 25, 2016 is \$11,862.83. Budget for 2016 has not been compiled and approved at this time.

Respectfully Submitted, *Nancy Logan*



Tortilla Soup

Master Cook

Ingredients

3 Tbsp corn oil
4 corn tortillas, quartered
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 medium onions, chopped
4 tomatoes, skinned and chopped
1 Tbsp ground cumin
1/2 to 1 (depending on how hot you want it) minced jalapeno
8 cups chicken stock (or 4 cans condensed and 3 cans water)
1/4 cup fresh cilantro
Salt and pepper (optional)

Heat oil in 4 quart stock pot and fry quartered tortillas until crisp. Add garlic and onions and cook until onions are soft. Add remaining ingredients, bring to a boil, and simmer 20-25 minutes. Add salt and pepper if desired.

Garnishes: Crisp fried strips of tortilla, grated cheddar cheese, cooked julienne of chicken,

diced avocado, chopped cilantro.

NOTES: I've substituted 2 cans (14 1/2 oz. each) diced tomatoes for the 4 fresh tomatoes to save the steps of skinning and chopping them. Using canned tomatoes and canned broth, the recipe needs little or no extra salt to taste.

We will try to feature seasonal recipes and many of your own recipes in the Recipe Box through the year. Send us your recipes at rdsefd@aol.com.



Upcoming Events

February 12, 10 AM: CCMGA Meeting, Cleveland County Extension Center, Classroom.

February 14 – March 19: Deceptive Orchids – Survival of the Trickiest. Crystal Bridge, Myriad Gardens.

February 15, 2016 : President's Day , Extension Office closed.

February 23, 7 PM: Oklahoma Horticulture Society Monthly Seminar. Speaker Brian Truong discusses Orchid Selection and Care. OSU-OKC Agricultural Resource Center, 400 N. Portland, OKC. FREE. Guests welcome.

February 27, 10 – 11 AM: Myriad Gardens Walking Tour. Meet at South Lobby, Crystal Bridge.

February 27, 11 – 12:30 PM: Cold Frame Class. Myriad Gardens Terrace Room. Join Christina Reid, OSU Extension Horticulture Educator, as she walks you through the steps of building your own cold frame to take home.

February 27, 2 – 3 PM: How to Grow Orchids. Crystal Bridge.

March 9, 6 – 7:30 PM: Wednesdays at Will Rogers – presented by Oklahoma County Master Gardeners. Lecture will be What's New in 2016. Will Rogers Garden auditorium, 3400 NW 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK.

March 11, 10 AM: CCMGA Meeting, Cleveland County Extension Center, Classroom.

April 30, 9 – noon: The Grass is Greener – garden workshop presented by Oklahoma County Master Gardeners. Will Rogers Gardens Exhibition Center.

Public Rain Barrel Seminar

Conducted by Chris Ward, Cleveland County Conservation District

Hosted at West Wind Unitarian Universalist Congregation

1309 West Boyd
Norman, OK

Thursday, March 3rd
7:00pm – 8:30pm

Reservations expected-----
call Kathy Kelley with questions or your reservations
at 405-360-4543H or 405-209-7417C

Or
Josh King at 405-326-7267C

Get tips and instructions to set up your own Rain Barrel System
at your own house or business, to conserve water and collect
Mother Nature's Free Bounty to use anytime or especially during
the dry seasons, to decrease water utility expenses

Some light refreshments will be supplied

Free, but donations cheerfully accepted



Above left, Tracey Payton-Miller installs 2016 officers, (left to right) Jeanne Parker, President Elect, Fred Schneider, President, and Nancy Logan, Treasurer. Not pictured is Vada Edwards, Secretary. Above right, outgoing President Theresa January presents new President Fred Schneider with the gavel!

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.

The CCMGA newsletter is published as an educational service by the Cleveland County Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, 601 East Robinson, Norman, OK 73071-6616
 Office 405-321-4774 Fax 405-360-0319
 Email ccmg@okstate.edu
 Website <http://countyext.okstate.edu/cleveland>

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

Newsletter Editor: Elaine Dockray

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.