

The Weeders' Digest

CCMGA Members Attend Senior Day at Myriad Botanic Gardens Crystal Bridge

Several CCMGA members attended the Senior Day at the Myriad Crystal Bridge and Conservatory on Jan 26. In fact, about 1/3 of the attendees were our members! We enjoyed a tour of the conservatory, a superb presentation by our own Lori Coats, Volunteer Coordinator for the gardens, refreshments, and we even made our own garden markers. Consider attending the next Senior Day at the gardens February 23 from 10am to 1 pm. You can find more information at their website.



At the February Meeting...

by Linda Wren

The speaker for February's meeting is Sherry Burnett, one of our own Cleveland County Master Gardeners. She graduated from the 2015 class. Sherry was raised on home-grown organic produce, which sparked her love for gardening at an early age. She has been using essential oils for nearly a decade, and can attest to their efficacy in numerous applications. She teaches classes and workshops on yoga, meditation, and the various uses for essential oils. Her topic for the meeting is: "Essential Oils for the Garden & Gardener". The meeting begins at 10, but join us for snacks and conversation at 9:30 AM.

Welcome to our New Officers for 2017

Jeanne Parker, President, Laura Eckstein, Pres Elect, Vada Edwards, Secretary, and Nancy Logan, Treasurer—thank you for your willingness to lead. Thank you, also, to the new and returning committee chairs!

Inside This Issue

President's Posting	2	Photo Booth	3
Education Update	2	Treasurer's Report	5
PR Prattle	2	The Recipe Box	6
Garden Gossip	3	Upcoming Events	7
Garden Guru	4-5		



President's Posting

By Jeanne Parker

I would like to start out by saying thank you for the opportunity to serve as the 2017 CCMGA President. I especially want to thank Fred Schneider for his leadership and support over the past year. I know this year will be exceptional just like last year because of all of you. It's amazing that a volunteer organization can make this all happen. Thank you for that, Tracey, and without Cherry I don't know what we would do. Thank you Nancy Logan (Treasurer) for keeping the money safe and Vada Edwards (Secretary) for reminding us what was discussed at the last meeting. Thanks Laura Eckstein for stepping up as President Elect and your continued effort on the Education Committee along with Sonya Fallgatter. A big thank you to our newest members of the Educational Committee Kathy Farley, Joan Greenleaf, and Carol Craig, Hospitality Committee Cindy Mullens & Patty Hayes, Programming Committee Linda Wren, and Fundraising Committee Alice Humphrey. Kathy Kelly will be joining Theresa January, Garden Director, in the Demo garden. Thanks Theresa and Kathy. If it wasn't for Judy Kautz and Elaine Dockray we would not be reading this informational, educational, and fun newsletter each month. Thank you to all the speakers and volunteers for their time and knowledge at our many programs and activities.

We have many activities planned for this year which gives us the opportunity for educational hours and to participate for service hours. Our monthly meetings also count as Education hours. We also have our newest class of Master Gardeners ready for mentors, please sign up to mentor at the desk and meet our new members in the demo gardens. March starts our regular Tuesday garden workdays. Looking forward to another great year.

Jeanne Parker



Education Updates

By Laura Eckstein and Sonya Fallgatter

We have presentations coming up at the South Oklahoma City Library at 6:30 p.m. on SW. 134th and Pennsylvania:

- ◆ Feb. 16: Marilyn Solomon will do the Oklahoma Proven presentation.
- ◆ March 16: Cathy Bowden will speak on composting and Pat Welty will speak on vermicomposting.
- ◆ April 13: Xeriscaping will be presented by Julia Linger or Kathi Farley.
- ◆ May 11: Cathy Bowden will speak on Vegetable gardening and Barbara Tunney will do a presentation on herb gardening.
- ◆ Nancy Logan will speak on gardening from seed February 4 at the Norman Public Library at 10 a.m.

Many thanks to our members who do these presentations for our organization.

The education committee met in January to set up classes for the new year. If you have any ideas about topics we haven't covered or that you would like to see again, please let us know. We would like to offer a class for teachers on fall gardening, so we are looking for someone to give that presentation. Also, we will need volunteers to man a booth at Home Depot on April 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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.

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



Thanks to all who submitted budget requests for their garden beds. Sorry we were unable to announce the request in advance at the regular January meeting. We do have two beds that need caretakers, the "Easy care perennials" and "Backyard garden". Let me know if you are interested in them or if you have questions about them. Some work will begin in the Demo Garden this month, rather than regular Tuesday workdays we will watch the forecasts and try to work when the weather is not too cold. If you need to start work on your bed and need help, let me know so we can get an e-mail out to recruit help for you.

Thanks to those who have volunteered for new jobs and a continuing request for someone to take on the job of spraying the weeds in the garden pathways. Looking forward to working and chatting with you all out in the garden again and that first potluck lunch!



Photo Booth

Submitted by Celeste Stonecipher



A year in my yard: This year will be interesting for me and I think you all might like to hear about it. Come what may, I am determined to have the ground contour corrected and decent Bermuda grass planted. We have lived here for 16 years and only the mint has thrived. The mint in the picture is just outside the border of a new planting of several varieties of mint last year. The Henbit is also getting started. And I may just let it grow unimpeded this year.

Do you have photos you would like to share of your yard or garden? If so, please submit them to Elaine Dockray at elaine.dockray@cox.net for inclusion in a future newsletter. Thanks!



Oklahoma Proven 2017!

Oklahoma Proven is a plant promotion program coordinated by faculty in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Oklahoma State University. The goal of the program is to recommend plants well-adapted for use across Oklahoma.



Collector's Choice 2017—Jujube or Chinese Date, *Ziziphus jujuba*

Jujube, also known as Chinese date is an excellent small to medium sized tree with shiny green foliage in summer and yellow leaves in fall. The naturally drooping tree is graceful, ornamental and often thorny with branches growing in a zig-zag pattern. Jujube can grow to about 15 to 30 feet high. It makes a great landscape tree with the added benefit of edible fruits. Commonly grown cultivars include 'Li' and 'Lang'. Fruit are round to elongate and mature from green to red, when they have a sweet, crisp flesh somewhat similar to an apple. After maturing to red/reddish brown, the fruits wrinkle and take on the appearance of a date. Exposure: Full sun to part shade; Soil: Prefers moist, well-drained, acid soil, but is adaptable; Hardiness: USDA Zone 4-9

Tree 2017—Fringetree, *Chionanthus* cultivars

Chionanthus virginicus is a deciduous, native shrub or small tree with a spreading, rounded habit that typically grows 12-20 feet tall and most often occurs in rich, moist woods and hillsides and moist stream banks. The common name fringetree refers to the slightly fragrant, spring flowers which feature airy, terminal, drooping clusters of fringe-like, creamy white petals. Fringetrees are dioecious (separate male and female plants), but also may have perfect flowers on each plant. Male flowers are showier than female flowers. Plants with perfect or female flowers may give way to clusters of olive-like fruits which ripen to a dark, bluish black in late summer and are a food source for birds and wildlife. Cultivars from the Chinese cousin is also available. Exposure: Full sun or light shade; Soil: Tolerates a wide variety of soils; Hardiness: USDA Zone 5-8



Shrub 2017—Dwarf Palmetto, *Sabal minor*



Dwarf palmetto favors the wet alluvial soil in swamps and river bottoms in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and North Carolina and is the only member of the palm family native to Oklahoma. This very slow growing, ground-hugging rugged fan palm produces pale green or bluish fan-like, evergreen leaves atop spineless stems arising from a crown of underground roots reaching 4 to 6 feet high or more. Flowers are yellowish-white in late spring followed by edible black, BB-sized fruits that taste like dates.

Dwarf palmetto provides interest and variety to a damp, shaded place. Although this plant grows native in areas of high to moderate moisture, once established it is fairly drought tolerant. It is the most cold-tolerant *Sabal*. In the landscape it works well as a specimen plant, in mass plantings, or in containers. Exposure: Sun to part shade (best in part shade); Soil: Organically rich, moderately fertile, moist; Hardiness: USDA Zone 7-10



The Garden Guru (*continued*)



Perennial 2017—Milkweed *Asclepias* species

Asclepias species are the milkweeds. Native to America they are well adapted to many soil types. Best known as the host plant for monarch butterflies, the milkweeds have gained a lot of attention lately and efforts across the country to reestablish lost habitat to help save the declining monarch population is taking the front stage for gardeners, butterfly enthusiasts, and conservationists. Butterfly milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, is the most popular of *Asclepias* species with bright orange to yellow-orange flowers on upright stems growing 1 to 3 feet tall. In fact, butterfly milkweed has been named the Perennial of the Year in 2017 by the Perennial Plant Association. Milkweeds in general grow in average, dry to medium, well-drained soils in full sun and are very drought tolerant and have no serious pest problems. Grow in native plant gardens, wild gardens, mead-

ows, naturalized areas, perennial borders, and cottage style gardens. Exposure: Full sun to part shade; Soil: Tolerates a wide range; Hardiness: USDA Zone 4-10.

Annual 2017—Firecracker Flower, *Crossandra infundibuliformis*

Firecracker flower, is native to India and Sri Lanka where it is a tropical evergreen subshrub that grows 1-3 feet tall. Flowers are apricot to salmon pink in color and form in terminal racemes. Yellow and red flowered forms are also available. Plants bloom throughout the summer and attract pollinators. Leaves of firecracker flower are shiny dark green. 'Orange Marmalade' has long lasting blooms on a plant that thrives with heat and humidity. Large clusters of frilly, bright orange flowers shine against the glossy green foliage.

Firecracker flower prefers light, organically rich, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun or part shade, but will tolerate bright full shade. Plants thrive in warm, humid weather and have no serious insect or disease problems. Firecracker flower is beautiful in beds, borders, containers or as a houseplant. Exposure: Full sun to part shade; Soil: Moist, well-drained; Hardiness: Use as an annual.



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of December 25, 2016, is \$15,542.62. Income includes \$37 T-Shirt Orders; \$360 2017 Dues; \$75 Fair Judging Stipend; \$30 Gloves; \$10 Cookbook and \$20 Charlie Altom Donations for Total Income of \$532.00. Expense includes \$349.09 T-Shirt Order and \$754.62 2017 Garden Party-Greenhouse for Total Expense of \$1,103.71. Balance at January 25, 2017 is \$14,970.91, less proposed budgeted amount of \$8,826.79, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$6,144.12.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Logan



Nacho Potato Skins

Master Cook

Ingredients

Baking potato
Butter
Seasoned salt
Red pepper
Shredded cheddar cheese

Thoroughly scrub potatoes. Pat dry. Bake potatoes in oven or microwave.

Cut lengthwise into quarters. Scoop out potato pulp leaving 1/4" thick shells (reserve potato pulp for another use.)

Brush both sides of potato skins with melted butter. Sprinkle the insides of the potato pieces with seasoned salt and ground red pepper. Place potato pieces, skin side up, on unheated rack of broiler pan. Broil 3 to 4 inches from the heat

for 3 minutes.

Turn potato pieces skin side down. Sprinkle with shredded cheese. Broil for 2 minutes more.

Arrange on a warm serving platter. Serve with toppers: sour cream, salsa, guacamole, sliced olives, chopped tomatoes, chopped scallions, etc. Serves 1

Oven Fried Potato Skins ; Potato Dippers

Ingredients

Baking potato
Oil
1 T. Parmesan
1/2 t. paprika
1/2 t. Italian seasoning
1/4 t. salt
1/4 t. garlic powder
Bottled steak sauce

Similar to the recipe above, Oven Fried Potato Skins calls for brushing both sides of potato skins with oil and placing cut side up on a baking sheet. Then sprinkle 12 quarters with the mixture of parmesan and spices before baking at 425 F. for 10-15 minutes. This recipe suggests serving potato skins with sour cream or salsa.

Finally, another similar recipe, this one for Potato Dippers calls for placing potato skins, skin side down, on baking sheets and spraying with cooking spray before lightly brushing cut surface of potatoes with bottled

steak sauce and baking at 400 F. 20 to 30 minutes until crisp and lightly browned. This recipe suggests serving as an appetizer with melted cheese, salsa or sour cream.

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 9, 10 AM: CCMGA Master Gardener Meeting, Classroom, Cleveland County Fairgrounds.

February 11 & 18, 8:45 AM – 5:15 PM: Beginning Beekeeping, Will Rogers Park Senior Activity Center, 3501 Pat Murphy Drive, OKC. Tuition is \$100. Go to centralokbeekeepers.org for information.

Feb 12, 2 PM: Earth-kind Landscape Plants and Practices, Oklahoma County OSU Extension Building (New), 2500 N.E. 63rd in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma Horticultural Society, with the help of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, presents Dr. Steve George, the developer of the Earth-Kind® Environmental Landscape Management System and the national coordinator for the Earth-Kind® Rose Program.

February 20: Presidents Day; Extension Office closed.

February 23, 10 AM – 1 PM: SENIOR DAY OUT AT THE GARDENS: ALL ABOUT LAVENDER Crystal Bridge, Terrace Room and Water Plaza Room Members \$10; Non-Members \$12 Ages 62+ Register by Wednesday, February 22, noon Join us at the Gardens for a fun day away from the house and the cold weather. We will offer guided tours of the Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory, and a presentation on lavender from Children's Garden Manager, Abby Curry. This month's topic is All About Lavender. Widely known for its scent and beauty in the garden, it's not only a great draw for pollinators, but can also be used for a variety of home and cooking purposes. Each participant will make a lavender sachet to take home. Wrap up the day with some light refreshments and prizes—come ready to win!

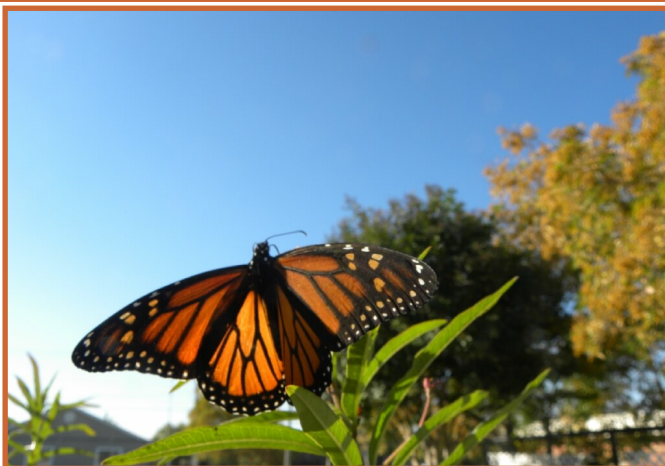
February 25, 10 AM: Myriad Gardens Walking Tour. Meet at South Lobby. Free

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

March 24 – 27: Oklahoma City Home and Outdoor Living Show. OKC State Fairgrounds.

March 25, 10 AM: Myriad Gardens Walking Tour. Meet at South Lobby. Free

May 31 (Save the Date): Native Plant Conference. Oklahoma State University Stillwater. More details to follow.



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 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.

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 ccmastergardener@yahoo.com
Website www.oces.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.