



# The Weeders' Digest

## Fred Schneider Cited for Distinguished Service

Congratulations to Fred Schneider, recipient of the CCMGA Distinguished Service Award for 2015. Fred has been a significant contributor to our organization, serving in various capacities throughout his tenure as a Master Gardener. Thank you, Fred, for your service to CCMGA and the community!

*Pictured at right, Fred Schneider receives his plaque from President Theresa January.*



## Speaking at the January Meeting...

This month we will hear from another intrepid traveler, CCMGA member Claren Kidd, who will speak about her trip to southern Africa in 2014. She will present "Animals, Landscapes, and a Famous Garden of Southern Africa." The program will begin at 10, but come early for snacks and conversation at 9:30. See you there!

**Remember to pay your dues for 2016 and to turn in your hours for 2015! These all go to our Treasurer, Nancy Logan.**

### Inside This Issue

President's Posting	2	Movie Review (New!)	8
Upcoming Ed Events	8	December Minutes	6-7
Christmas Party Photos	3, 10	The Recipe Box	5
PR Prattle	2	Treasurer's Report	7
Garden Guru	4	Upcoming Events	9
		New Ag/4H Educator	8



I enjoyed my year as CCMGA President and appreciate your support and attention as I made it through the year with that gavel whacking on the table. I know that we will be in the best of hands next year with Fred Schneider as President. Looking back, I do believe that much was achieved by the group in 2015.

There were 13 new Master Gardeners certified, some of whom have already attended meetings and joined committees. They and more who did not certify were mentored at the desk by our members.

There were 34 educational events (classes, information tables, consultations) that reached an estimated 2,269 people. This remarkable total was made possible by member volunteers (total does include Bug Fests and Earth Day).

There were 1,464 people who toured the Demonstration and Teaching garden and approximately 686 lbs. of produce was donated to Food & Shelter for Friends. As always, the garden was a learning, service, & social activity for members and it is beautiful!

The Garden Party was an awesome event which included more educational and entertaining activities in addition to the greenhouse plant sales, helping us raise funds. The greenhouse provided a learning experience for our members.

The Flea Market, with work from many members, helped raise funds.

Lawn judging was provided for two local neighborhoods.

We put out a calendar and a cookbook.

We served the County Fair by running the horticulture section of the fair, busy and interesting work by many members makes this happen every year.

We enjoyed many fine speakers at meetings, toured member gardens and made trips to The Dallas Arboretum and to the Botanical Garden in Stillwater.

The group awarded a scholarship to an OSU horticulture student and recognized Fred Schneider with our Distinguished Service Award for 2015.

The Harvest Feast, Christmas Party and all the potluck meals were really, really great.

The newsletters for the year were full of information and continue to be a credit to our group, having covered many things I am neglecting to mention here.

*Theresa January*



**CCMGA Cookbooks** are now available...cost is \$10. Copies have been placed in the Extension office and can be picked up there.

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





# December Christmas Meeting Photos



## Dirty Santa Highlights







## Battle of the Butterfly Bush

Few garden plants are truly “controversial”, but Buddleia is. A native of China, *Buddleia davidii* is a showy, vigorous species of the beloved butterfly bush. The same ample bloomheads that make this species attractive also produce an abundance of seeds (over 100,000!), which lets them swiftly colonize open spaces. Their fantastic adaptability to poor, dry soils also makes them very capable of taking over wild areas. Since their introduction they have naturalized in several parts of the UK, North America, New Zealand, and Australia. The shrubs are so robust and determined to grow that they have even been spotted growing in cracks in the concrete!



Many conservationists have been alarmed by the prolific nature of this foreign species and have

taken action against it. *B. davidii* is listed as a weedy or invasive plant in 30 states. It seems to especially thrive in the Pacific Northwest. In Oregon and Washington, *B. davidii* is banned for sale out of concerns that it might overrun the landscape and inhibit natural reforestation. Fans of the species fail to see the problem with having an abundance of beautiful butterfly-feeding shrubs around. Butterflies seem just as content to feed from this Chinese species as from native species, and anything to help the butterfly populations is good.

### Non-Invasive Alternatives

Bans, restrictions, and general bad press have had a strong negative impact on *Buddleia* breeders, but recently they’ve found a solution: sterile cultivars. Interspecific cultivars like ‘Miss Molly’, ‘Miss Ruby’, and ‘Miss Violet’ and several sterile cultivars (producing less than 2% viable seed) like ‘Asian Moon’, ‘Inspired Pink’, The Flutterby™ Series, and the Lo & Behold® Series have all been recently exempted from this rule and are now legal to sell in Oregon. These sterile cultivars must be distinguished, however, by being sold under a different name, like ‘Summer Lilac’ or ‘Orange Eye’.

No matter where you live in the country, we encourage you to choose non-invasive *Buddleia* cultivars just to be sure you aren’t inadvertently introducing a problem into the ecosystem. Just look for “Summer Lilac”!

### Resources

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/NurseryChristmasTree/Pages/ButterflyBush.aspx>

<http://www.chicagobotanic.org/sites/default/files/pdf/plantinfo/buddleja2015.pdf>



## Curried Pumpkin Soup

*Master Cook*

### Ingredients

1/2 pound fresh mushrooms, sliced  
1/2 cup chopped onion  
2 tablespoons unsalted butter  
2 tablespoons flour  
1 teaspoon curry powder  
3 cups chicken broth  
1—15 oz can solid-pack pumpkin  
1—12 oz can evaporated milk  
1 tablespoon honey  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

In a large saucepan, sauté the mushrooms and onion in butter until tender.

Stir in the flour and curry powder until blended. Gradually add the broth. Bring to a boil. Cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened.

Add the pumpkin, milk, honey, salt, pepper and nutmeg. Heat through. (Garnish with fresh or frozen chives if desired.)

Per Serving (excluding unknown items): 125 Calories; 7g Fat (48.2% calories from fat); 6g Protein; 11g Carbohydrate; 1g Dietary Fiber; 19mg Cholesterol; 520mg Sodium. Exchanges: 0 Grain (Starch); 0 Lean Meat; 1/2 Vegetable; 1/2 Non-Fat Milk; 1 Fat; 0 Other Carbohydrates.

NOTES: I substitute 1/2 c. diced celery and 1/2 c. diced carrots for the mushrooms. This soup is wonderful!

Serves 7

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](mailto:rdsefd@aol.com).



Meeting called to order by Theresa January and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Theresa asked that all cell phones be silenced for the meeting.

A short presentation about Blue Thumb was presented by Karen Chapman. Blue Thumb is sponsored by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and USDA Natural Resources Service. Blue Thumb is a group that helps monitor non-source pollution in Norman's waterways. They are having volunteer training in January at the Cleveland County fairgrounds. Flyers were handed out and to get more information or register call Kim Shaw at 405 522-4738 or email at Kim.Shaw@conservation.ok.gov.

Minutes from October were approved and seconded.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Logan reported on the budget. Cash balance as of November 25 was \$9,916.14. Funds in excess of budget are \$8,664.26. Nancy asked that all expenses for reimbursement be submitted before the end of the year. Membership dues and hours worked should also be given to Nancy. A log of hours can be done on-line also.

### **Committees:**

**Demo Garden:** Rick Ault reported that there will be a Garden planning meeting on January 5th at 09:30. Garden budgets will be submitted and a list of maintenance items can be discussed also. Theresa commented that the two long beds to the south need their edging replaced with a more permanent type of edging. The pathways need more gravel and the beds need new signage, possibly including the smart phone app. The native plants beds are available to be worked also. Please bring suggestions and budgets to the meeting.

**Greenhouse:** Nancy Logan reported on work in the greenhouse. Cuttings were started but a mealy bug infestation started so planting will be postponed until things can be sterilized. Nancy had learned that alcohol can be used to kill the bugs. This year, members, friends and family will be able to pre-order plants from Prairie Wind Nursery prior to the Garden Party plant sale. There will be order sheets at February's meeting and on-line. The orders will be pre-paid and due at March's meeting. The majority of the plants for the plant sale will be provided by Prairie Wind. Bill Farris is charging us wholesale prices and we are selling at retail so the organization will make a profit.

**Education:** Sonya Fallgatter and Laura Eckstein presented a list of classes presented in 2015. They also presented early 2016 classes. The Spring Garden classes are going to be January 23 and 30th from 9 -12. The topic is "Be Your Own Groundskeeper: Basic Turf and Tree Care." The first class will be "Lawn Maintenance" and the second class will be "Woody Species in the Landscape". The classes will have other topics related to the main theme, such as composting. There will be time for discussion and problem solving. There are materials and power points on all subjects but volunteers are needed to present.

**Programs:** Celeste Stonecipher reported that Marilyn Solomon will chair the Programming Committee next year. Please give her any ideas of trips we might like to make or speakers for our meetings.

**Fundraising:** No new information at this time.

**Hospitality:** Phyllis Blackwell thanked all the members that have helped during the year, especially Julie Johnson, who had been her main helper and Marilyn Solomon, who embroidered all the tea towels for the CCMGA.

**Public Relations:** Judy Kautz brought the cookbooks for sale at \$10.00 each. The binding allows the books to lie flat and the pages are spill resistant. Personal comments with the recipes were included.

## December Meeting Minutes (continued)

These are truly gift quality cookbooks. She also has patches for sale for \$3.00. Judy had copies of the newsletter available for members. A new brochure about CCMGA with an added insert about upcoming classes will be available at January's meeting. The insert will be changed quarterly to reflect upcoming classes.

**Newsletter:** Theresa asked that members please send suggestions for articles to Elaine Dockray or Judy Kautz.

**Membership:** Jackie Engleman reported that sign-up for desk hours is now on-line. Members that would like to be mentors can sign up on-line also.

Special Events: No new information available.

**Special Projects:** Julie Johnson reported that a close friend of Judy Kautz and longtime master gardener, Don Lavell, had recently passed away. Don was a member of OKC's Master Gardener program but was a big help and mentor in our garden also. A plaque will be placed on a bench he had donated to our garden and a brick will be placed in our walkway in his memory.

**Tracey Patton Miller:** Tracey thanked everyone for all their hard work during the past year.

**New Business:** A plaque for Distinguished Service Award was presented to Fred Schneider. This award is usually presented at the Harvest Feast in November but Fred could not attend. Fred was a graduate of the 2003 Master Gardener class and has been a huge asset to our organization and the garden as well. All the members were pleased to see Fred get this award.

Theresa thanked all the committee heads, as they were called to report, for all their hard work for the past year.

**Member Input:** Julia Linger asked for help in keeping her xeriscape garden clean and weeded. Several members volunteered to help Julia. Tomoko Yoshida reported on her sweet potato patch. 200 pounds of sweet potatoes were donated to Food for Friends who reported that most of the people liked the ordinary sweet potatoes instead of the Japanese sweet potatoes. Tomoko had Japanese potatoes to give away and asked for donations to buy more seed for next year.

Meeting was adjourned by the President.

CCMGA Christmas gift exchange and luncheon followed the business meeting.

Respectfully submitted, *Vada Edwards*



## Treasurer's Report

*By Nancy Logan*

Treasurer's Report as of December 31, 2015. Beginning balance, as of November 25, 2015, is \$9,916.14. Income includes \$620 2016 Dues; \$.25 Nametag Jar; \$50 Fair Judging and \$740 Cookbooks Sold for Total Income of \$1,410.25. Expense includes \$98.91 Demo Garden and \$180.65 Door Hangers for Total Expense of \$279.56. Balance at December 31, 2015 is \$11,046.83, less budgeted amount of \$972.32 for Funds in Excess of Budget at \$10,074.51.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Logan

**IN ORDER TO APPEAR IN THE 2016 DIRECTORY, DUES MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE JANUARY 8, 2016 MEETING. EDUCATION AND SERVICE HOURS RECORDED DURING 2015 ARE ALSO DUE. HOURS CAN BE EMAILED TO [nlogan@ou.edu](mailto:nlogan@ou.edu), LEFT AT OR MAILED TO THE EXTENSION OFFICE, 600 E. ROBINSON 73071, attn. NANCY LOGAN.**

**PLEASE TURN IN ANY REQUESTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF BUDGETED EXPENSES BY THE JANUARY 8, 2016 MEETING.**



**February 6, 10 am:** Rose Pruning, taught by Cathy Bowden, CCMGA demo garden.

**February 6:** Vegetable gardening, taught by Judy Kautz, St. Mark's Catholic Church.

**March 1:** Xeriscaping, taught by Julia Linger, Brookhaven Garden Club.

**Early spring 2016:** Drip Irrigation, taught by Jim McDaniel, CCMGA demo garden.

## Welcome New Agriculture/4H Youth Educator

---



Welcome to Bradley Secraw, Cleveland County's new Ag/4H Educator. Secraw comes to us from Grady County where he was also the Agriculture Educator. He grew up on a small dairy farm in northwestern Wisconsin and was active in FFA. He attended the University of Wisconsin—River Falls, where he received his bachelor's degree in Dairy Science with a minor in Agronomy. After graduation he worked in the prairie restoration field for several years.

Secraw honorably served his country in the Air Force for 10 years as a Spanish translator in San Antonio Texas. During his enlistment, he completed his Master of Business Administration degree from University of Texas at San Antonio. He is currently a paralegal in the Air Force Reserves at Tinker Air Force Base.



## Movie Review

By Tomoko Yoshida

---

***A Little Chaos*** (directed by Alan Rickman; 2014 BBC Films Production; R-rated) A film about gardener romance? Yes, there is such a thing. ***A Little Chaos*** takes place in 17th-century France. Louis XIV (played by Alan Rickman) has moved his court to Versailles and is now having gardens constructed there. One area called Rockwork Grove is an outdoor ballroom featuring waterfalls. The king's head gardener, Andre Le Nortre (Matthias Schoenaerts) asks a widowed landscape artist Sabine De Barra to oversee the project. Sabine's garden design contains some elements of chaos. As Sabine directs the landscaping work, she gets involved in court intrigues and has a love affair with Andre. The story is fictional, but I still enjoyed watching the process of garden building in the magnificent settings of Versailles. This is a beautifully crafted movie for gardeners in down time. Available in DVD, Amazon videos, Vudu, among others.





## Upcoming Events

**January 8, 2016:** Cleveland County Master Gardener Meeting, North Classroom, Cleveland County Fairgrounds, Norman

**January 8 & 9, 2016:** Horticulture Industries Show and Conference, "Building Soils for a Secure Future." Tulsa Community College NE Campus, Tulsa, OK. Conference pre-registration and hotel reservation deadline is December 29. Phone: 405-744-6460

**January 16, 12:30-2 PM:** Terrific Terrariums, Family Cost: \$25 per terrarium. Register in advance at [okc.gov/active](http://okc.gov/active); Learn to build your own at-home terrarium. We'll look at planting media, popular plant selections and terrarium maintenance during this hands-on class. Pricing includes a standard terrarium, plus potting materials and plants. Bring personal items from home to customize your work. Will Rogers Gardens, OKC

**January 18, 2016 :** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day , Extension Office closed.

**January 21, 7-9 PM:** Third Thursday "All About Bouquets" All Ages Cost: \$25. Register in advance at [okc.gov/active](http://okc.gov/active) Join us the third Thursday of each month for our new flower arranging series. Each month you'll learn different techniques to turn your backyard blooms (or flowers from the store) into tabletop masterpieces. This month's theme: Bouquets! Will Rogers Gardens, OKC

**January 23 and 30th, 9 AM—12 PM:** Be Your Own Groundskeeper: If you've ever been confused as to how to care for your lawn or trees, this class for you! The Cleveland County Master Gardener Association is offering a two session course covering basic lawn & tree maintenance. Topics will also touch on xeriscape planting, rain gardens, Q&A sessions, and problem solving for your yard. Classes will be held at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds Room "C." The \$25 registration fee is due by January 19th, 2016 payable by cash or check (made to CCMGA). The fee covers both classes and includes instruction sheets and materials. Space is limited and your spot is held with payment. Please call the Cleveland County OSU Cooperative Extension office at 405-321-4774 if you have any questions. Registration forms are available online at <http://oces.okstate.edu/cleveland/horticulture>

**January 23, 11 AM – noon:** Faerie Discovery Tour (Weather Permitting); All Ages. FREE; Register in advance at [okc.gov/active](http://okc.gov/active) Do faeries dwell in the arboretum woods? Find out during our monthly Faerie Discovery Tour when we stroll through the Margaret Annis Boys Arboretum in search of these magical sprites. Along the way, learn about trees and plants that would grow well in your own garden. Will Rogers Gardens, OKC

**January 23, noon - 2 PM:** Faerie Gardening; All Ages; Cost: \$25 per garden. Register in advance at [okc.gov/active](http://okc.gov/active); Faeries are said to bring luck to any home! Discover these miniature worlds as you plant your very own sprite-sized garden to attract faeries into your life. A pot, starter soil, plants and an accessory are included in the class cost. Extra trinkets or treasures to personalize your garden are welcome. Adult accompaniment required for children under 10. Will Rogers Gardens, OKC

**January 26, 7 PM:** Oklahoma Horticulture Society Monthly Seminar. Speaker Rodd Moesel discusses Hobby Greenhouses. OSU-OKC Agricultural Resource Center, 400 N. Portland, OKC. FREE. Guests welcome.

**January 30, 10 - 11:30 AM:** Winter Indoor Herb Madness; All ages; Cost: \$5 per person; Register in advance at [okc.gov/active](http://okc.gov/active); Want to add just the right flavor to your winter soup or stew? Start your own winter herb garden with help from our expert naturalists. Get your hands dirty while potting up some delicious herbs to take home and grow! Will Rogers Gardens OKC

**February 6, noon – 2 PM:** Winter Pruning and Tool Care. Learn the basics of winter pruning and how to sharpen garden tools. Bring one tool to be professionally sharpened. Will Rogers Exhibition Center, OKC.

**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.



**More Dirty Santa fun!**

### 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](mailto:rdsefd@aol.com)

Newsletter Committee Members

Editor Elaine Dockray, Cathy Bowden, Mary Bruce, Judy Kautz and Emelie Schlueter.



**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).