

The Weeders' Digest

Delightful December Meeting!

Our December meeting was a festive and entertaining event, full of fun and fellowship! Many thanks to those who brought the delicious food, both for our lunch potluck and snacks. Dirty Santa gifts were clever and useful, and a good time was had by all!

Pictured are outgoing Pres Fred Schneider and incoming Pres Jeanne Parker as they honor Cherry Slaughter for all her assistance to CCMGA.

More December meeting photos are on pp 4-7.



At the January Meeting...

by Marilyn Solomon

Our very own Rick Ault will entertain the CCMGA at the January meeting as he tells about his adventures in Spain. His photos are usually breathtaking, and his presentation is highly anticipated. The meeting begins at 10, but join us for snacks and conversation at 9:30 AM.

Hours and Dues are Due!

Treasurer Nancy Logan will accept 2016 annual hours and dues of \$20 for 2017 at our Jan meeting. Be sure to turn them in to maintain your status as a Master Gardener.

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President's Posting

By Fred Schneider

I want to thank all of you for your support and hard work to insure the continued success of CCMGA. It's a joint effort of the membership. Our success depends on the membership's support. I particularly want to thank the members of the Executive Committee for their tolerance of my leadership or lack of the same! I have no doubts that our new president Jeanne Parker will provide the necessary leadership to continue the record of CCMGA.

Fred



Education Updates

By Laura Eckstein and Sonya Fallgatter

We have some presentations coming up at the South Oklahoma City Library on S.W. 134th and Pennsylvania.

- ◆ Feb. 16: Marilyn Solomon will do the Oklahoma Proven presentation.
- ◆ March 13: Kathy Bowden will speak on composting and Pat Welty will speak on vermicomposting.
- ◆ April 13: Xeriscaping will be presented by Julia Linger or Tracey Payton Miller.
- ◆ May 11: Kathy 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 will be meeting 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. Happy New Year to all of you.



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.



Hope that everyone had a lovely holiday break, because ----- even though it is not outside work time yet, it is time for all garden bed caretakers to prepare and submit budget requests. Please e-mail them to me by the end of January or leave a copy in the Extension office. I would love a copy with your name and bed name even if the request is for zero dollars because that would help confirm that each bed has a caretaker for 2017. The plan is to submit the overall budget request at the February meeting. There will be work projects that need to be completed early, i.e., before regular work days, including digging grass and some plants in order to swap locations of the existing rose and Tepee beds. Another project will be removing the remaining compost from the large cinder block bin so that area can be set up to demonstrate container gardening. So, yes, there will be e-mails asking for help. We still have important garden committee positions that need to be filled; scheduling garden tours, spraying weeds in pathway areas, and a mentor for 2016 students who will be working on two sections of the quad bed. Thank you in advance for all your work in 2017.



Photo Booth

Submitted by Celeste Stonecipher

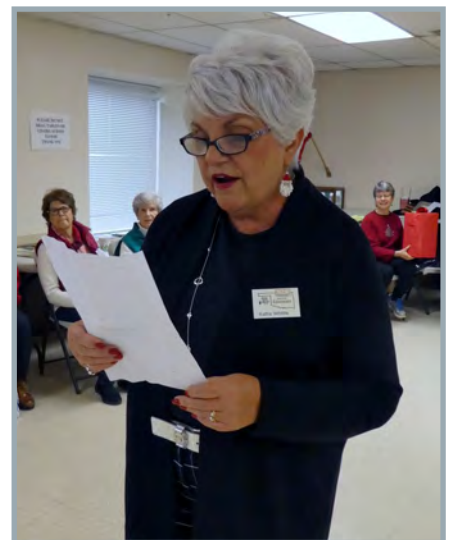


These were taken on the day the mulch was put on many of the beds in the Demo Garden. I think it was done in early November. The bright green at the door to the greenhouse is a sweet potato vine that didn't sell in April. It was a beautiful day to be in the garden. No one was happy to pull the annuals, but we needed to get the mulch put around the perennials.



December Celebration







December





All-America Selections Introduces New AAS Winners for 2017

All-America Selections, the only non-profit organization for plants that demonstrate great garden performance throughout North America, presents eleven exciting new AAS Winners for the 2017 garden season. Each of the following varieties was trialed in North America by professional, independent, volunteer judges during one growing season. Each was trialed next to comparison varieties that are considered best-in-class among those currently on the market.

This group of AAS Winners for 2017 includes:

Dianthus Supra Pink F1 (National)

Fennel Antares F1 (National)

Geranium Calliope® Medium Dark Red (National)

Penstemon Twizzle Purple (Regional -
Heartland and Southeast)

Pepper Mad Hatter F1 (National)

Tomato Chef's Choice Yellow F1 (Regional -
Southeast)

Tomato Patio Choice Yellow F1 (National)

Verbena EnduraScape™ Pink Bicolor
(National)

Vinca Mega Bloom Orchid Halo F1
(National)

Vinca Mega Bloom Pink Halo F1 (National)

Zinnia Profusion Red (National)



[See the entire article and links to the winners' profiles here.](#)



Q and A with Linda Wren

Background and Significant Gardening Influences: I grew up doing yard work. Mainly mowing (I love the smell of freshly cut grass) and trimming the many hedges we had in our front yard. My mother was a stickler for having a well groomed front yard. We would trim the edges of the grass by the curb with a hatchet, and we had to use hand trimmers to trim the grass between the cyclone fences....not an easy task. So, I guess you could say the love of gardening and yard work started with my Mom and Dad. My influences continue with my sister. She lives next door to me and we garden together. Actually, it is a competition. We buy the same plants and see who can keep them alive the longest. She has a great vision and I feed off of that.

Do you have a gardening "specialty" or just love it all? I am still trying to find my niche in the garden. I get great pleasure out of transforming a neglected flower garden/bed into a beautiful piece of art. Like painting a picture from a blank canvas, or even embellishing on an existing piece of art work, such is a flower garden!

What led you to CCMGA and what year did you complete classes? My sister is the one that led me to enrolling in the Master Gardener program. It is something that she has always wanted to do. We embarked on this endeavor together, as we do on many things, as a retirement project. I am so pleased she convinced me to do it (thanks Sis!!). I completed the class in 2015.

What do you enjoy about CCMGA? Since my retirement in 2015, I have felt the need to volunteer in some capacity. The Master Gardener program filled that need. I have enjoyed making new friends and hearing about their gardening experiences. I really enjoy the field trips and the continuing education programs. I also enjoy working in the demo garden and taking care of the Ethnobotanical garden. I am excited to get started as the new 2017 Program Chair. It is going to be a great experience!

Do you have a photo of your garden you'd like to share? Here is a picture of my herb garden that I planted this past summer. This is my first attempt at planting herbs.





Meeting called to order by Fred Schneider. Fred recognized Cherry Slaughter for her hard work with the CCMGA and presented her with a card and gift certificate. New members and students were also recognized.

Fred introduced Jeanne Parker as president for 2017. Jeanne announced the new officers: Nancy Logan--Treasurer, Vada Edwards--Secretary, and Laura Eckstein—President-Elect. Members were asked to volunteer for committees or to shadow a committee head to find out what that committee entails. Committee chairs were introduced and their replacements mentioned, if there was one. A sheet was passed with the committees and their chair. As they were recognized, several heads of committees explained what was happening with their committees. They will be listed below.

Treasurer's Report: (Nancy Logan) Hours and dues are due by the January meeting. Nancy explained some of the hours that have been accrued: 2 hours education hours for attending regular meetings and 3 hours for the garden trip to Tulsa. She also explained that donations in Charlie Altom's honor will be donated to the Native American Medicinal Garden. All requests for reimbursement need to be submitted before 12/31.

Cash balance as of November 25: \$14,530.04. Funds in excess of budget: \$11,191.00. We may have \$1400 in excess of budget going into the new year due to members not asking for reimbursements or spending less out of their garden budgets.

Committees:

Hospitality: (Phyllis Blackwell/Julie Johnson) New heads will be Patty Hayes and Cindy Mullins.

Newsletter: (Elaine Dockray) Elaine is looking for members who would like to share information.

Education: (Sonya Fallgatter/Laura Eckstein) Laura and Sonya want to phase themselves out. Kathi Farley has been shadowing them but does need one or two more members to partner with her. A listing of the year's classes is in the newsletter. The committee will meet after the holidays. They are always looking for new topics. Kathi recommended shadowing a committee head to see how it runs.

Programs: (Marilyn Solomon) Linda Wren has assumed the role of chair for the program committee.

December Meeting Minutes (continued)

Fundraising: (Susan Aikman) We will not have the flea market this year so need ideas for a new fundraiser.

Public Relations: (Judy Kautz) Judy will continue as head of the PR committee. She would like help if anyone is interested. She still has patches and cookbooks for sale. She asked if members would like a printed calendar this year and per show of hands it was decided not to print a calendar.

Special Events: (Donna Carter) Donna would like new ideas for children's activities for the Garden Party. She will have a meeting in January.

Special Projects: (Julie Johnson) A brick for long-time member Charlie Altom is at the engraver. The lawn judging will continue next year. Julie explained the use of the door hangers

Fred Schneider encourages more than one person be on a committee. In case someone is absent there will be others to assume their role within a committee or office. The association is doing so much more than 5 years ago. We need ideas on involving new classes in participation in the garden and in committees.

Alice Humphrey is in charge of orders for CCMGA tee shirts. Please see her with your order.

Claren Kidd still has gloves for sale and used garden books free or for a small donation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Beginning balance as of November 25, 2016, is \$14,530.04. Income includes \$295.66 T-Shirt Orders; \$520 2017 Dues; \$41 Garden Books; \$35 Gloves; \$6 Patches and \$340 Charlie Altom Donations for Total Income of \$1,237.66. Expense includes \$146.81 Demonstration Garden and \$78.27 2017 Garden Party-Greenhouse for Total Expense of \$225.08. Balance at December 25, 2016 is \$15,542.62.

Since it is the end of the 2016 budget period, no 2016 budgeted expenses have been deducted from the balance. The balance at December 25 will be the basis for the 2017 budget.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



Chinese Fried Rice

Master Cook

Ingredients

6 slices bacon
2 c cooked rice
3 T soy sauce
1/4 c water
3 eggs, beaten

Fry bacon on medium heat until crisp; remove and crumble.

Add rice to hot bacon grease and cook on medium heat until heated through.

Add soy sauce and water slowly and cook until no liquid remains.

Add crumbled bacon to the rice and stir until combined. Stir eggs into hot rice mixture and cook until set. Makes 4 servings.

NOTES: One cup uncooked rice cooked in 2 c. salted water will yield 3 c. cooked rice. I add the whole 3 c. rice to the bacon grease and the recipe turns out perfect!

Crock Pot Cashew Chicken

By Judy Kautz

Ingredients

2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken thigh tenders or chicken breast tenders
1/4 cup all purpose flour
1/2 tsp black pepper
1 Tbsp canola oil
1/4 cup soy sauce
2 Tbsp rice wine vinegar
2 Tbsp ketchup
1 Tbsp brown sugar
1 garlic clove, minced
1/2 tsp grated fresh ginger
1/4 tsp red pepper flakes
1/2 cup cashews



Combine flour and pepper in large Ziploc bag. Add chicken. Shake to coat with flour mixture. Heat oil in skillet over medium-high heat.

Brown chicken about 2 minutes on each side. Place chicken in slow cooker. Combine soy sauce, vinegar, ketchup, sugar, garlic, ginger, and pepper flakes in small bowl; pour over chicken. Cook on LOW for 3 to 4 hours. Add cashews and stir.

Serve over rice. Makes 4-6 servings. If you want like sauce and want to have some to pour over the chicken and the rice, double the sauce ingredients.

Note: This recipe is fairly salty; use reduced sodium soy sauce for less saltiness.

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.

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

January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Extension Office closed.

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

January 26, 10 AM – 1 PM: SENIOR DAY OUT AT THE GARDENS. Vegetable Gardening without a Garden: Clever Ideas for Growing Food on Patios or Balconies Crystal Bridge, Terrace Room and Water Plaza Room. Members \$10; Non-Members \$12 Ages 62+ Register by Wednesday, January 25 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, an interactive activity and a presentation by Lori Coats, the Gardens' Volunteer Coordinator, on how to grow delicious greens, herbs, vegetables and fruits even if you have little to no outdoor growing areas. You'll learn how to turn outdoor small spaces into food producing nooks and crannies by: using space-saving techniques; selecting specific varieties and correct planting dates. Take the hard work out of edible gardening and bring the fun back. Wrap up the day with some light refreshments and prizes—come ready to win!

January 28, 10 AM: Myriad Gardens Walking Tour. Meet at South Lobby. Free

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 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

Please take a moment to check your information in the 2016 CCMGA Directory. If all your contact information is the same, great! That is what will appear in the 2017 Directory. If you have a change in phone number, email address, or mailing address; please let Cherry know by January 13th. The new directories will be handed out at the February meeting.

Updates to member information

Lynn Diel – new email is deedee2914@gmail.com

Laura Eckstein - phone number 405-701-0406

Alice Humphrey – phone number 405-446-5548

Alice Humphrey – new email is alicemhumphrey@hotmail.com

Julie Johnson – phone number 405-821-1987

Jeanne Parker – new email is jeanneparkero7@gmail.com

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.

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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

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.