

The Weeders' Digest

Useful Rain Barrels

Chris Ward, Education Director for the Cleveland County Conservation District, presented a delightful program on rain barrels and water-wise gardening at the June meeting. Chris waters her entire landscape using five 55 gallon rain barrels. *Pictured, Chris Ward and her demo rain barrel.*



At the July Meeting...

by Linda Wren

Our guest speaker for July is Andrew Sartain. Andrew graduated from OU with a degree in Sustainable Business. He had planned since childhood to dedicate his life to the natural wonders of this world. He has always been an organizer and utilized natural management skills in creative ways. This mindset led to the decision to found the company Earth Rebirth six years ago. Earth Rebirth is an organization dedicated to bridging the gaps between our economic and environmental problems, primarily targeting food, energy and water. The meeting begins at 10, but join us for snacks and conversation at 9:30 AM.

Come and Visit our Demonstration Gardens!

The gardens are beautiful right now and it is the perfect time to visit. We have some new gardens, plants have changed, and our weather has created enormous beauty throughout the garden. Saturdays from 9 to 12!

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President's Posting

By Jeanne Parker

The State Master Gardener Conference in Drumright, Oklahoma was educational and a fun experience. The Thursday evening wine tasting and tour of the Tidewater Winery gave us the history of Drumright and how it grew during the oil boom. The Tidewater Winery was built as a school during that time for the growing population. The Creek County Master Gardeners were hospitable, the food was great, and I have to admit that Oklahoma wines are getting better. On Friday, we had 36 Master Gardeners attending the U Can Grow It Conference at the Central Technology Center. What a great turnout!

Now is the time to start thinking about nominating one of our members for the Distinguished Service Award. The purpose of the award is to recognize a member who has been an outstanding contributor and asset to the CCMGA. See the information concerning the award on page 23 of the directory. All nominations must be made by September 1st.

I think we have all noticed and appreciated the wonderful food at our monthly meetings, and I would like to thank all who have participated. Cindy Mullens and Patti Hayes (Hospitality Committee) - here is a special shout out to you. Your creativity with tablecloths and decorations representing holidays and seasons always makes it special.

Jeanne Parker



Education Updates

By Kathi Farley

Here are upcoming classes being offered:

- ♦ July 22, 10 AM, Fall Veggies, Classroom C, presented by Theresa January
- ♦ July 28, 9 AM—2:15 PMo, Learning Lab—Weird Veggies, Weird Bugs, Weird Plants, SW OKC Library presented by Tracey, Annie and Courtney, Hort Advisors
- ♦ July 29, 10 AM, Composting, Classroom C, presented by Claren Kidd
- ♦ August 19, 10 AM, Photography in the Garden, Classroom C, presented by Judy Kautz



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: Thanks to all who continue to volunteer to be tour guides at our demonstration garden on Saturdays. We appreciate you!



The garden is still looking good as we cruise into the hot part of the summer. We will have the Oklahoma Gardening show from OSU come in July and August to record a piece on our garden to be featured on the show later this year. I think this will be the third time our garden has been featured. Everyone pat yourself on the back for a job well done. We already have new volunteer caretakers for the herb garden bed; Vicky Morris and Sherry Burnett will be looking after it. To all workers and tour guides, please remember to stay hydrated and aware of how you are feeling in the heat – also watch out for each other. We need to be careful and not over do when it gets hot.

Garden tip for a dry summer: MULCH.

(Pictured below, several of our hard working gardeners on Tuesday workdays. Thank you Jim McDaniel for the photos!)



Below left, sleeping baby birds found in a fern in the yard. Below right, a black walnut forgotten by an industrious squirrel. *Submitted by Vada Edwards*



More of Jim McDaniel's beautiful demo garden pictures. Thanks, Jim!



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!



Book Title: Gardening for Butterflies: How You Can Attract and Protect Beautiful, Beneficial Insects

Author: THE XERCES SOCIETY

Xerces was established in 1971 after the extinction of Xerces, a blue butterfly (*Glaucopsyche Xerces*), to help conserve invertebrates. Butterflies are declining at unprecedented rates on every continent. So why do butterflies matter and why are they in trouble?

Five threats to butterflies are: 1) Habitat loss is most significant to butterflies. In an altered and fragmented global landscape, butterflies are suffering from lack of flowers. Some yards, gardens, and parks provide NO food for these insects. 2) Climate change; 3) Disease; 4) Pesticides; 5) Invasive plants

Butterflies and moths make up the second largest order of insects. Butterflies play a role in eco-systems. Bees are most important for plants of all kinds. Butterfly excretions (AKA frass) are an important nutrient for soil. North America has over 11,000 moth species. They are a food source for bats, tree frogs, song-birds, and small owls. In the world, there are over 140,000 identified moth species, compared to 20,000 butterfly species.

Over one billion pounds of insecticides are used each year in the U.S. Does this surprise you – more insecticides are used in urban areas than in agriculture. A new insecticide, Neonicotinoids, is very similar to nicotine. It blocks nerve impulses in insects and other invertebrates. Neonicotinoids go into streams causing threats to birds, moths, butterflies, and aquatic invertebrates, and soil dwelling invertebrates. In recent years, neonicotinoids have led to the loss of millions of honey bees. Neonicotinoids have systemic modes of action. It is taken into every part of the plant, including nectar and pollen. After a single application, it can persist in plants and soil for up to six years. Did you know that of the one million species of animals on earth, 94% are invertebrates?

So what can we as gardeners do to help butterflies and other beneficial insects? We can have an eco-lawn by over-seeding turf grass with low growing Dutch white clover (*Trifolium Repens*). The clover provides nectar for butterflies and other insects and is a host plant for several common butterflies such as the Gray Hairstreak (*Strymon Melinus*), the Eastern Tailed Blue (*Cupido Comyntas*), the common Sulphur (*Colius Philodice*), and the Orange Sulphur (*Colius Eurytheme*). The clover fixes nitrogen to help the companion grass, which eliminates the need for chemical fertilizers. We can also replace non-native turf grasses with low growing native buffalo grass. Buffalo grass tolerates foot traffic, requires less mowing, and has deeper, more drought resistant root systems. A well-designed butterfly garden has an abundance of beneficial predators that attack garden pests such as spider mites, aphids, and stink bugs, thus eliminating the need for pesticides



NOTE: I am planning a red and white garden in the Demo Garden this year. It will include Crimson Red Clover, Dutch White Clover, Will Rogers (giant heirloom) red zinnias, Polar Bear (giant heirloom) white zinnias, and a giant red dahlia from Holland. It's the long bed behind the monarch way station. The Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Catalogue says the Crimson Red Clover is pretty enough to be in any garden, so hopefully it will live up to its reputation and bring in many bees, moths, and butterflies.

Left, this is the first time I've seen a great picture of a butterfly's long tongue. It's a reminder of how magical even the smallest creatures are.



Q and A with Claren Kidd

Background and Significant Gardening Influences: I grew up on a wheat and cattle farm in the North Canadian River Valley north of Geary, Oklahoma where I graduated from high school with 31 classmates. During those 18 years I helped in the vegetable garden, chickens, drove a wheat truck and sometimes milked the cow. I played ½ court basketball, and in summers taught swimming and life guarded in the town's WPA swimming pool.

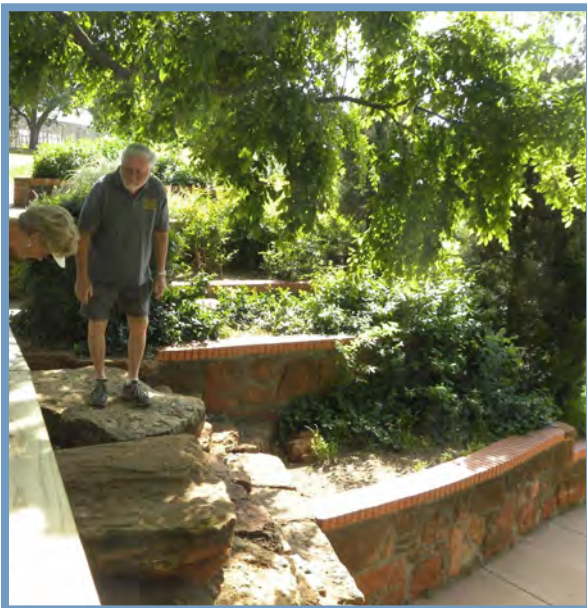


After graduating from the University of Oklahoma with degrees in Geography, I taught secondary school geography and earth science for several years before earning a degree in Library Science. For over 3 decades I enjoyed assisting people in the Geology Library and subsequently the L.S. Youngblood Library as Geology Librarian.

What led you to CCMGA and what year did you complete classes? For years before retiring from OU at the end of 2006, I dreamed about enrolling in the Master Gardener class and enrolled in 2007.

What do you enjoy about CCMGA? Learning and watching my grandmothers and mother, I have always enjoyed gardening. Now I appreciate a community of gardeners and the constant learning about Landscaping and plants.

Other interests you'd like to share: In addition to gardening, I relish the time as a docent in Fred Jones Jr. Art Museum, snow skiing, hiking, and traveling.



WILL ROGERS PARK TOUR







Regional Master Gardener Conference





Linda Wren introduced our speaker, Chris Ward. Ms. Ward works for the Cleveland County Water Conservation District and will be talking about rain barrels. Ms. Ward has worked for CCWCD as Education Director for 24 years.

After the speaker, a short break was taken and we then proceeded to the business portion of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Jeanne Parker, President. Jeanne led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. In the May minutes there was an error. The word "guilt" should have been written as "quilt". A move to accept the minutes was made and seconded. We welcomed a graduate that was completing her garden hours, Kathy Hines. We also welcomed OKCMGA transfers, Patty Pippins, Sandy Rhinehart and Elizabeth Ryans. Kathi Farley announced that we would not have a Grandparents celebration in the garden as no one volunteered to head it. Tracey Payton Miller sent Jeanne Parker a list of desk hours that needs a member to work them.

Treasurer Report: (Nancy Logan) Cash balance ending 5/25 were \$20,821.71. Funds available for 2017 budget were \$14,074.50. Money received for the quilt raffle was \$1,232. Amount for the bench raffle was \$343, for the Bonsai raffle was \$65 and total for the plant sale was \$6,224.26. The total doesn't include the percentage from Prairie Winds Nursery from members buying plants at the nursery.

Committees:

Greenhouse (Nancy Logan): There were many aspects that led to the increase in plant sales. There were more attendees to the Garden Party and therefore the plant sale. The humidity fans, consistent warmth and a cure for mealy bugs helped. Also, including the Easter theme and increased media coverage helped.

Community Education (Kathi Farley, Carol Craig, and Joan Kemmet Greenleaf): Tomorrow, June 10, Claren will present a class on Water Wise Gardening in classroom C. June 15-16 is the State Master Gardener Conference in Drumright. Mary Engles presentation on Pollinators is changed from 6/17 to 6/24 in classroom C. There is a food festival planned during the Farmers Market on 6/24 so it seemed appropriate to discuss pollinators at that time. Theresa will present Fall Gardening on 7/22. Tracey will present A Learning Lab- Weird Veggies, Bugs, and Plants at the South OKC Library on 7/28. On 7/29, Claren will present "composting" in the demo Garden. Fred Schneider complimented Kay Holder on her volunteer work at the Moore Home Depot. He said she was very knowledgeable about the plants and very eager to help the public.

Demonstration Garden (Theresa January): Theresa will call a meeting of the gardening committee to discuss future needs in the garden. The new shed needs guttering and several beds still need the edging replaced. The construction continues but is not as intensive as last year. Judy Kautz will work on replacing some signage and is working on the QR codes. Start thinking about what sites you would like to link your beds to, such as recipes, information from other states, etc. We need more 5 gallon white buckets. A volunteer is needed to spray the walkways for weeds and testing continues on the irrigation system. We may need to call Steve Parks to further investigate water leakage. The northeast corner of the quad beds is particularly bad. Continue to give Cherry your plant label requests.

June Meeting Minutes (continued)

Hospitality (Cindy Mullins, Patty Hayes): A volunteer sheet is being passed for monthly refreshments and for the student picnic on 8/4. The Hospitality Committee thanked the members that provided the refreshments for today's meeting.

Membership (Georjana Mauldin): Work on the Membership Committee continues.

Newsletter (Elaine Dockray): Judy Kautz thanked all that submitted pictures for the newsletter. Volunteers are still needed for the monthly member's bios. She will print copies of the newsletter to take to the conference.

Public Relations (Judy Kautz): Jim McDaniels made a power point to load to our web site. Also send pictures of education projects to be used at the conference. Remember members can gain education hours by visiting other gardens. Judy still has patches for \$3. She is working on garden signs and QR codes. Send information for garden sign changes and updates on classes to Judy for our web site.

Programming: (Linda Wren, Brenda Williams): July's speaker will be Andrew Sartain from Earth/Rebirth. Members had a field trip to Will Rogers Park and spoke to one of our 2016 graduates, Patricia Sparks. Her husband, Charlie Sparks, had been a horticulturist at Will Rogers Park and received a plaque for his work in the rose garden. After the rose garden was taken out due to disease, his plaque was taken down. But a memorial plaque was reinstalled for his long term work at the park.

Special Projects (Julie Johnson, Phyllis Blackwell, and Joan Barker): Lawn Judging continues.

New Business: The winner of the quilt was Barbara Huff.

A suggestion was made to allow students to work in the garden on Saturday to get their volunteer hours if they can't work on Tuesdays. A leader of a bed that needs help would have to work with the student. Contact Jeanne if someone needs to complete their garden hours on Saturdays.

The convention is June 15-16. Last year we had more members attend than any other county. Don't forget to wear your CCMGA shirt to the convention.

Fred Schneider attended the Native Plant Conference at OSU. He said the speaker was very good. OKC Zoo and Botanical Garden is partnering with The Nature Conservancy over the next 5 years to support scientific research conducted at the Conservancy's preserves in Oklahoma.

Meeting was adjourned by the President.

Respectfully submitted, *Vada Edwards*



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of May 25, 2017, is \$20,821.71. Income includes \$20 Dues 2017; \$10 Garden Books Sold; \$449.94 T-Shirts; \$5 Quilt Raffle and \$300 Garden Party PW Commission for Total Income of \$784.94. Expense includes \$520.21 Demo Garden; \$30 Speaker Honorarium; \$1,000 OSU Scholarship; \$459.08 GP Sales Tax and \$460.56 T-Shirt Order for Total Expense of \$2,469.85. Balance at June 25, 2017 is \$19,136.80, less remaining budgeted expenses of \$4,277.36, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$14,859.44.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



Peanut Butter Bars

By Cherry Slaughter

Ingredients

1 cup sugar
1 cup white Karo syrup
2 cups peanut butter (I use Jif brand)
6 cups corn flakes
5 Hershey chocolate bars (broken into individual squares)
May use 12 oz chocolate chips instead of chocolate bars

Bring sugar and Karo syrup to boil in large pan. Remove from heat and add peanut butter. Mix well. Add corn flakes and mix well. Pat mixture into 9 x 13 pan. Immediately cover top with chocolate squares. When soft, spread chocolate like icing. Cool until chocolate is set. Cut into small squares.

Shortbread Bar Cookies

By Mary Engel

Ingredients

1 cup self-rising flour
½ cup (1 stick) softened unsalted butter
¼ cup granulated sugar
¼ cup brown sugar

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 9 inch square glass pan. Mix all ingredients, and then spread in bottom of pan. Bake 20 – 25 minutes or until light brown. Let cool and slice into small pieces.

NOTES: I like to add flavoring, like pure vanilla or pure almond. Also, I like adding ½ cup of finely chopped walnuts.

My husband received the Home Cooking with Trisha Yearwood signed cookbook as a Christmas gift from a friend many years ago. All of the recipes are easy to make.

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

July 14, 10 AM: CCMGA Meeting. Cleveland County Extension Office, Classroom C.

Jul 12, 6 – 7 PM, Wednesday @ Will Rogers Gardens, Second Season Gardening: 3400 NW 36th St. OKC, OK, Second Season Gardening. Sponsored by Oklahoma County Master Gardeners.

July 15, Aug 5, & Aug 19, 9 AM – 3 PM, Open House at the Botanic Gardens: OSU Botanic Garden, Stillwater, OK

July 24, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, On the Jelly Making Trail: OSU Extension Conference Center, 2500 NE 63rd St. OKC, OK 73111. Take a guided tour and pick peaches at the west orchard location. Return to OSU Extension Center for a jelly making workshop using the new electric water bath canners. Each participant will take home a jar of peach jam and recipes. Sponsored by Oklahoma County Master Gardeners.

July 29, Aug 27, and September 24, 10 AM, Myriad Gardens Walking Tour: South Lobby, Crystal Bridge, Oklahoma City

August 3, 8 AM—5 PM, Greenhouse Conference, Wes Watkins Center, OSU, Stillwater

August 9, 6 – 7 PM, Wednesday @ Will Rogers Gardens, Water Conservation: 3400 NW 36th St. OKC, OK

August 11, 10 am: CCMGA Meeting. Cleveland County Extension Office, Classroom C.

August 18 and 19, 8 AM - 5 PM, 2017 ANNUAL IRIS SALE: Will Rogers Park Exhibition Building in the Exhibit Hall. We accept check, cash and now CHARGE CARDS (visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, etc)!!!! Sponsored by the Oklahoma Iris Society



Welcome to new Master Gardener Kathy Hines, Class of 2015!

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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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.