



The Weeders' Digest

Keyhole Gardening

Freddy Hill shared his knowledge and experience of Keyhole Gardens at our May meeting. Freddy explained the history of keyhole gardens as well as how to build and maintain them. He showed photos of keyhole gardens from other parts of the world as well as one he has constructed in his own back yard.



Freddy's talk was very informative for those who may wish to build a keyhole garden of their own.

Pictured, Freddy Hill explains keyhole gardening.

At the June Meeting...

by Linda Wren

Our guest speaker for the June 9th meeting will be Chris Ward who will speak about rain barrels. Chris has been the Education Director for the Cleveland County Conservation District for 24 years. She enjoys helping people live a greener life. She is an organic gardener and practices water conservation with five 55 gallon rain barrels in her garden. 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 rain in May has Oklahoma looking very green. The Demo Garden has never looked better, but we couldn't show it off for two Saturdays because of the rain. We all know that living in Oklahoma we never complain about rain even when it comes on Saturday or in abundance. On May 18 we had what the weathermen called a downburst with winds over 70 MPH in south Norman. It uprooted 8 large trees behind my house and the cleanup is still going on a week later.

On another note; Oklahoma Gardening is featuring what is happening in the counties. Each County will have a show consisting of 4 or 5 segments that are about 5 minutes long. They want to promote the vital role horticulture extensions provide. It's an opportunity for valuable exposure about our Cleveland County Extension. The shows will air in July to late summer. Details will follow soon.

On June 10th at 10 AM, Claren Kidd will have a class on water-wise gardening. What do we do when the rain stops?

Hope to see you all at the State Master Gardener Conference June 15th and 16th.

Jeanne Parker



Education Updates

By Kathi Farley

Here are classes being presented for this month:

- ♦ June 3, 9 AM to 3 PM, Info Table at Home Depot
- ♦ June 10, 10 AM, Waterwise Gardening, Classroom C, presented by Claren Kidd
- ♦ June 17, 10 AM, Inviting Hummingbirds & Pollinators Into Your Garden, Classroom C, presented by Mary Engel



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!



Everything is coming along in the garden and looks good this year. We have survived some heavy rains and wind without damage. Remember last year when two of the South long beds were in the middle of reconstruction? This year they look great and the continued renovations of bed borders have been such major projects. Some beds have new workers, bringing new ideas and changes that keep the garden fresh. We even have a new bed between the original pergola and the container garden area – so go check out the Zen garden, **pictured at right**. This month I want to offer special thanks to those members who are not caretakers of a particular bed and help out wherever they are needed. That is a vital contribution. Also special thanks go to the members who cannot come during weekdays but sign up and do Saturday tours. If you can, come join us on Tuesday mornings, we can always use more hands and we have a good time in the garden. *(Pictured below, several of our hard working gardeners on Tuesday workdays. Thank you Patricia Arthur for the photos!)*





The plant hunt flowers my grandson found at the Garden Party!

Submitted by Vada Edwards



This is a Rat-tlebox Tree purchased at our Garden Party last year. I'm so excited that it's starting to bloom!

Thought I'd share.

*Submitted by
Patty Hayes*

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!



"Eau de Rotten Eggs" on the Menu will Chase Deer Away!

Deer eat over 600 kinds of plants. To make sure yours aren't on the menu, puree 2 raw eggs, 2 cups of water, 1 to 4 cloves of garlic, and 2 tablespoons of hot sauce at high speed in a blender. Allow this tonic to sit, covered, for several days. Then pour or sprinkle the mixture over any and all vulnerable plants. Guess what? Deer will turn up their noses and eat out in someone else's backyard! This really does work!

I had a beautiful red rose bush in the back flowerbed. One afternoon, I watched a deer eat leaves from my rose bush but, when it started to eat the roses, I chased it away. If I had had this formula at the time, maybe – just maybe – the beautiful red rose bush would have survived.

A few months ago, both Ron and I were in the kitchen when I saw what looked like a big dog. It turned out to be a small deer. I yelled out, "OMG, look at that." What followed were two more small deer and two adult deer. A few days later, when I was working in the driveway bed, I noticed the tops had been eaten off of three small Rose of Sharon bushes. To my surprise, a month later all of them had leafed back out. Guess that is why I have eleven Rose of Sharon bushes. They are tough plants. Even the deer cannot kill them.



Book Title: Bees: An Up-Close Look at Pollinators Around the World

Authors: Sam Droege and Laurence Packer

If there are flowers, there will be bees pollinating them. Bees, obscure and delightful, co-inhabit the world with us. We are surrounded by bees and cannot always see their beauty with the naked eye. Bees are small things, but very important. There are 20,000 named species of bees, but it is estimated there are another 20,000 bees yet to be named.

The Masked Badass (palaeorhiza species) found in Australia is almost hairless and looks dangerous. They carry their pollen and nectar internally, not trapped in external hairs. Sawtooth Sputnik bees have hairy eyes. The Redtail Cuckoo bee invades other bees' nests, eating the eggs from another species, and then the female lays her eggs. The Pillow Bee Black Daddy Long Legs uses front legs to collect oil from plants. They use this oil instead of nectar as food for their larvae. The Black-Winged Cuckoo Orchid bee is polished metallic green. The male collects nectar scents from orchid flowers. These bees have a rainbow of colors – the gaudiest of bees.

Nature is wonderful in the way it plays with evolution to create solutions to problems we don't know even exist. The Tomato Colored bee is colorful. The Long-Nosed Sandlover bee found in Chile has an enormous long head and mouthparts with a very thin body. There are many different species that produce honey, not just honeybees. There are many stingless bees, but some still bite. Carpenter bees are the largest bees found anywhere and are found around the world. Most bees life cycle is only one year, but the carpenter bee female can live up to three years.

Deserts with little diversity are hot spots for many different types of bee species, which may surprise many people. Some bees with short hair carry pollen under the abdomen rather than on the legs. How do bees get transported around the world? Bees hitch a free ride aboard



ships.

This book is filled with photos of bees which can be downloaded for free (www.flickr.com/photos/usgsbiml). The authors suggest you print your favorite picture of bees and put it on your refrigerator since it is filled with food thanks to bees. While we eat, work, and sleep, bees are busy around the world.



Linda Wren announced our speaker, Freddy Hill. Mr. Hill became a Master Gardener of OKCMGA in 2002. He will speak on "Key Hole Gardening".

Alice Humphrey is taking orders for T-shirts. A sign-up sheet was passed and Alice will send the order as soon as she receives the money for the shirts.

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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the members. Jeanne asked for approval of April's minutes. Laura Eckstein made a motion for approval and Theresa January seconded the motion. The new Master Gardener cards are ready. They can be passed out at classes and other events. The web site is running. Be sure to visit it often as pictures change often. We had over 300 visitors during Earth Day. Jeanne introduced two guests, Barbara Broughton and Mariah Menzie. Barbara is the sister of Joan Kemmet Greenleaf and is from NY. Mariah would like to be a Master Gardener.

Treasury Report: (Nancy Logan) To date profit for 2017 is \$4,897.35. This does not include the 25% from Prairie Wind sales.

Committees:

Public Relations: (Judy Kautz) There are door hangers available to leave for nice gardens around town. Tracey reported that Oklahoma Gardening wants to do a segment on the Master Gardeners of each county. This will take place in July. Ideas are needed on which aspect of our garden we would like showcased. Suggestions such as the compost bin, Medicinal Garden, Vermiculture were voiced. It was suggested that the show's producers come on a Tuesday to view the garden and they could decide which area to film.

Demonstration Garden: (Theresa January): Most everything looks good in the garden. There are a few bare spots. Two segments of the quad beds need work and Theresa will try and contact the leaders of those beds. The irrigation system will be checked for leaks next Tuesday. Make sure your bed has an ON/OFF valve and make sure it is on. The irrigation system is turned on every other day. It has rain sensors to keep it off during rain. Kathi Farley asked that no one water her xeriscape garden. It is to showcase flowers in Okla. that don't need additional water. Also, please don't pick vegetables. They are for donating. A leader for the Oklahoma Proven Bed is needed. The compost isn't being used as fast as needed so is available for use in the demo garden or for member's home gardens. The refrigerator in the gazebo isn't working and it's unknown whether it is broken or if the ants have messed up the electrical outlet. Bud Hightree will consult with the county on this. It was suggested using Borax to control ants but more research is needed to make sure it won't harm plants. Judy Kautz and Kathi Farley have started a Zen garden between the pergola and the container garden. If members need help in the beds they need to let Theresa know so she can direct volunteers.

Garden Tours: (Les Brown, Jeane Hardy): There have been 657 visitors in the garden to date. Publicity was good for the Garden Party, as there were 474 visitors for the Garden Party. Two weekends in April were rained out.

Greenhouse: (Nancy Logan): There are no plants left in the greenhouse. \$500 worth of plants was distributed to beds around the garden. \$350 worth of plants was donated to OKCMGA to decorate around their extension office. 6 flats of plants were given away during Earth Day. If there are any plants you would like in your beds, let Nancy know and they can obtain seeds and grow them next year. Volunteers are needed to bring tables into the greenhouse. There were pepper plants near the compost area that are free. They had mealy bugs. Tracey does want the pots back.

May Meeting Minutes (continued)

Special Events: (Donna Carter, Thressa Guidice) Thressa thanked everyone that helped with the Garden Party. The Easter theme worked out nicely.

Fundraising: (Alice Humphrey, Brenda Williams, and Linda Wren) Alice has started a sign-up sheet to order T-shirts and sweat shirts. They will be ordered as soon as the money is turned in.

Hospitality: (Cindy Mullens, Patty Hayes) The committee thanked the providers of our food.

Newsletter: (Elaine Dockray) The newsletter always needs book reviews, gardening movies and pictures. The deadline for getting information to Elaine is the 25th of each month.

Programming: (Linda Wren, Brenda Williams) In June our speaker will be Chris Ward with the Cleveland County Conservation Dept. She will speak on rain barrels. Andrew Sartain with Earth/Rebirth will speak in July. Jim McDaniels will speak on irrigation repairs in August and Linda is still working on a speaker from the Audubon Society for October. The committee has been working on field trips but Lori Coats won't be able to host us in June and they are still working on the Zoo. Suggestions are Freddy Hill's garden or Will Rogers Park.

Special Projects: (Julie Johnson) Joan Barker has joined the committee. Lawn judging will start soon. Bricks for Bob Seaton and Bill Yost have been sent to the engravers.

Joan Baker reported on Earth Day. The weather was fabulous. 300 people visited our table and they were interested in everything.

Community Education: (Kathi Farley, Carol Craig, Joan Greenleaf) Moore Home Depot has requested an information table on 6/3. A volunteer sheet was passed to members. Life Style Magazine at May Fair and the article will be in July's issue. Volunteers helped clean up the Norman Police Memorial. Marcum Nursery donated many plants for the memorial. Several members had mentioned celebrating Grandparents Day in the garden. A coordinator is needed for this event if members would like to present it. Upcoming classes in Classroom C: 5/13-Theresa January speaking on Planting Vegetables, 5/20-Lori Coats speaking on what to do with herbs after you've grown them, 6/10- Claren Kidd will present water wise gardening, and on 6/17 Mary Engel will speak on pollinators.

Cathy Bowden reported that the roses in the rose bed were destroyed and she is planting different varieties.

Claren Kidd reported that K & K Nursery was acquired by Marcum Nursery. The free bulbs they gave us bloomed nicely. One of their employees will take the Master Garden class.

Brenda Williams reminded everyone to give the raffle tickets for the quilt to her. So far we have earned \$1,227 on the raffle. Winner will be announced in June.

Sandy Rineheart, one of our Master Gardeners, won the bench that was raffled off at the Garden Party.

Meeting was adjourned by the President.

Respectfully submitted, *Vada Edwards*



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of April 25, 2017, is \$20,060.71. Income includes \$20 Dues 2017; \$22 Garden Books Sold; \$30 Gloves Sold; \$20.12 T-Shirts; \$461 Quilt Raffle; \$10 Visor & Bubble CD Sold and \$1093.55 Garden Party Plant Sales for Total Income of \$1,656.67. Expense includes \$356.76 Demo Garden; \$30 Speaker Honorarium; \$405.56 NA Medicinal Bed and \$103.35 Business Cards Printed for Total Expense of \$895.67. Balance at May 25, 2017 is \$20,821.71, less remaining budgeted expenses of \$6,747.21, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$14,074.50.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



Strawberry Cheesecake Key Lime Pie

Master Cook

Ingredients

1 Refrigerated Pie Crust, at room temp
8 ounces cream cheese
6 tablespoons granulated sugar
1 large, white egg
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1 pint fresh strawberries
1/2 cup Seedless Strawberry Jam
14 ounces sweetened condensed milk
3 large egg yolks
1/2 cup key lime juice
1 cup whipped topping

Preheat oven to 425 F. Place pie crust in deep dish pie pan. Fold excess crust under and press to form thick crust edge and flute. Prick bottom and sides with a fork about 20 times. Bake for 5 minutes. Remove from oven and reduce oven temperature to 350 F.

In the bowl of an electric mixer, mix cream cheese, sugar, egg and vanilla until smooth. Pour into pie shell and bake 20 minutes at 350 F. Remove from oven, maintaining oven temperature. Let cheesecake cool while preparing strawberry topping and key lime pie filling.

Rinse and dry fresh strawberries. Cut in half. Heat strawberry jam in a small saucepan over low heat, stirring occasionally until melted.

In a large bowl, combine sweetened condensed milk,

yolks and lime juice. Whisk until smooth.

Arrange halved strawberries over top of cheesecake. (Reserve any additional strawberries for garnish.) Brush strawberries with melted jam. Carefully pour key lime pie filling over glazed strawberries. Return pie to oven and bake an additional 10 minutes at 350 F. Cool completely. Chill 2 hours before serving. Cut into 8 slices. Top each slice with 2 T. whipped topping and reserved strawberries.

Per Serving (excluding unknown items): 300 Calories; 17g Fat (49.1% calories from fat); 6g Protein; 33g Carbohydrate; 1g Dietary Fiber; 48mg Cholesterol; 150mg Sodium. Exchanges: 1/2 Lean Meat; 0 Fruit; 3 Fat; 2 Other Carbohydrates.

Cherry's Famous Apple Crisp

By Carol Craig

Ingredients

2 20-ounce cans Apples (not apple filling) – can use fresh apples
1/3 cup Sugar
1/4 cup Water
1/3 cup Brown Sugar
1 box Spice Cake Mix
1 1/2 sticks Butter (3/4 cup)
1 cup Chopped pecans

Butter bottom of 10 x 10 pan.

Mix apples, 1/3 cup sugar, 1/4 cup water, and 1/3 cup brown sugar. Add to pan.

Spread dry spice cake mixture over the above mixed ingredients.

Melt 1 1/2 sticks of butter and spoon over dried cake mixture.

Add 1 cup chopped pecans on top.

Bake at 350 degrees for one hour.

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

June 3, 9 AM – 3 PM: Open House at OSU Botanic Garden. Stillwater, OK

June 9 — 10 am: CCMGA Meeting. Cleveland County Extension Office, Classroom C.

June 3, 9 AM – 5 PM; June 4, 9 AM – 4 PM: Central Oklahoma Cactus & Succulent Society Annual 2017 Show and Sale, Will Rogers Exhibition Center 3400 NW 36th St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 405-297-1392 Free Admission and hourly drawings for prizes

June 15 – 16: 2017 Master Gardener Continuing Education Conference. Drumright Central Technology Center, 3 Ct. Circle, Drumright, OK. Registration for the conference will be available by late April.

Thursday, June 15 – Evening Social at the Tidewater Winery

Friday, June 16 – Conference at the Drumright Central Technology Center

June 17, 10 AM – 1 PM: Stillwater Flower Show. Presented by the Oklahoma State Agronomy Club. Hosted at the OSU Botanic Garden

June 17, 9 AM – 2 PM: Oklahoma Gardeners Association Garden Garage Sale. Garden related items only for sale. The Urban Mission, 3737 N. Portland, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

June 19 – 25: National Pollinators Week

June 24, 10 – 11 AM: Gardens Walking Tour. Crystal Bridge, South Lobby.

June 24, 10:30 AM –

Noon: Infused

Honey Workshop.

Myriad Gardens,

Terrace Room. Buzz

in for a unique

workshop experience

that is sweet. Come

prepared to learn

about the amazing

honeybee and how to

infuse fresh herbs,

spices and fruits into

their golden nectar.

Tastings will be

conducted. Everyone

will leave with their

own four-ounce jar of

scrumptious infused

honey. Register by

June 20.

See Italy and the Italian Gardens!

Discover iconic cities and seaside towns at the pulse of Italy's vibrant arts and horticultural traditions. Venice brings romance to the forefront, with meandering, gondola-dotted canals. From the shores of Lake Como all the way to Florence, the presence of the world's greatest landscape artists can still be felt. And in Rome, history is ever-present, from sculptural gardens to the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. The people, the artistry, the way of life—experience what Italy is all about.

I have lead 10 different trips for EF Tours, including a very similar trip to this one, but this will be my first *Go Ahead* tour which are designed for adults (versus college students) and are upgraded on every level including hotels, meals, transportation and accommodation locations.

My special guest/guide on this tour will be the one and only **Linda Horn**, Marketing Director at Total Environment. She is one of the most incredible horticulturalists I have ever known and also a lot of fun!

Right now the trip cost is \$5399 with an OKC departure and 2 persons per room. If you would like to have a private room there is a \$400 supplemental cost. If you wish to make your own flight arrangements the cost will be \$1700 less.

Here is a link to my travel website and the itinerary. Note that if you enroll you will be locked into the price the website quotes you, but your cost could (and will likely) go down as we enroll more travelers. Your price goes down as we reach enrollment plateaus. I just like to start at the top price and then there are only good surprises! That is to say, your fee cannot go up but will more than likely be discounted by as much as \$300 or more as we fill the trip.

<http://julialaughlin.grouptoursite.com/>

You can enroll through the website or by calling 1-800-438-7672.

Please feel free to call me or e-mail me if you have any questions. Also feel free to invite anyone you would like to join us! It should be the trip of a lifetime!

Julia Laughlin

405-640-9363

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A Note From the Editor

Last month's newsletter contained an article about Master Gardeners helping to beautify Norman's Police Memorial. I inadvertently omitted the before and after photos of this important project and wish to correct that oversight in this month's newsletter. *Elaine Dockray*

The City Of Norman maintains the Memorial, but this year many of the plants were dead or very overgrown. The City removed the dead trees and cut the grasses.

The police department contacted Marcum's Nursery and Cleveland County Master Gardeners to beautify the Memorial. Marcum's Nursery donated a flat of red, blue and pink salvia and a flat of moneywort to replace the dead plants and add color to the memorial. Master Gardeners Kathi Farley, Mary Bruce and Jeanne Parker trimmed the overgrown rose bush that blocked granite memorial, removed dead plants and planted the salvias and moneywort. With the help of Mike from Marcum's Nursey, the City of Norman and the Master Gardeners the police memorial was ready for the May 19th honorary celebration.



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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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

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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.