



The Weeders' Digest

Julie Butler Shares Seed Tips

Julie Butler shared seed and plant viability tips with CCMGA members at the February meeting. Julie, like many of us, suffers from SAD in winter months: Seed Acquisition Disorder! Her seed viability chart is included on page 10.



Speaking in March...

by Marilyn Solomon

Iris Kay Holder, a member of our own CCMGA, speaks at the March meeting on highlights of the American Iris Society's National Convention held in Portland, Oregon. Included in her presentation are tours of individual gardens in Washington and Oregon, Sebright Hosta demonstration garden, Adelman Peony Gardens, Oregon Botanical Garden and other beautiful and interesting gardens. Kay graduated in the class of 2008 and faithfully nurses the Demonstration Garden's Tropical bed and the plants therein. She holds membership in the Oklahoma Iris Society, Norman Area Iris Society, American Horticulture Society and the Oklahoma Horticulture Society. The program will begin at 10, but come early for snacks and conversation at 9:30. See you there!

SEED AND PLANT ORDERS! Don't forget to review the seed and plant catalog to pre-order your plants before the Garden Party. Bring your orders to the March meeting—remember they must be prepaid!

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I would like to continue bringing to your attention those who make this organization possible. One of the unsung heroes of any organization is the Secretary. Vada Edwards has provided important records of the Executive Committee and the CCMGA Meeting. It is important to record our discussions and decisions to remind us of "where we've been and where we are going"! Laura Eckstein and Sonya Fallgatter have provided us with the "push" and organization to develop a most successful program of speakers, classes and workshops. We are light years ahead of where we were just a few years ago in our education programs. Of course, there is also the "Wonder Woman" otherwise know at Judy Kautz. Judy's limitless energy has provided Public Relations second to none. We can thank her for her outstanding newspaper articles, the development of door hangers, the cookbooks, calendars, MG badges, presentations, help with the newsletter, recent efforts at development of our web site, and her operation of two garden beds. The previous individuals are to be thanked for their efforts. Also, stop by the office now and then and give Cherry Slaughter the acknowledgement she deserves. We owe her much gratitude for her cooperation and help. She has played an important part in insuring our success.

Remember, CCMGA is not a garden club! We are a volunteer organization providing service to OSU Extension, providing service and education to the public, and providing service and education to one another. There are many opportunities throughout the year to participate in service activities. A few upcoming events include: the Garden Party on Apr 9; the Info. Table at Home Depot on Apr 16, and Earth Day on Apr 24. Of course, there will be many opportunities to serve as a mentor at the Master Gardener Desk in the office. Let's look forward to another great year!!

Fred Schneider



Seed and Plant Order Information

By Nancy Logan

THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR YOUR PLANT PRE-ORDERS IS THE MARCH 11 MEETING! PAYMENT is required with your order. Credit cards are accepted, along with checks and cash. Plants will be available for pick up on April 14 from Noon to 4pm and April 15 from 8am till Noon.

Our greenhouse has geraniums, caladiums, Polka Dot plant, ornamental peppers, Profusion zinnias, prostrate rosemary, Black-Eyed Susan vine (white), and others growing to be sold the day of the Garden Party on April 9. We will also have some tomato and pepper plants, along with some additional plants from Prairie Wind.



PR Prattle

By Judy Kautz

CCMGA Cookbooks are still available...cost is \$10. Copies have been placed in the Extension office and can be picked up there. If you have corrections, please send or give them to me. We will publish a correction sheet that you can place in your cookbooks.

Calendars are available in the Extension office. They are \$10.

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



March starts regular Tuesday garden work days. There is always a lot to be done this time of year in order to be ready for the garden to open for tours and, of course, for the Garden Party! The April 9 Garden Party & Plant sale will be here before we know it. The greenhouse crew has been working to have plants ready and there will be more of the plants from Prairie Winds available for sale. Looking forward to seeing everyone out there and social/work time. I do enjoy working in the demo garden because it is not just working alone like at home. Thanks in advance to all volunteers for the work that makes our garden shine.

Pictured at right, lovely blooms on the rosemary in the demo garden!



Education Updates

By Laura Eckstein

Mary Engle will be presenting "Inviting Hummingbirds and other Pollinators to Your Garden", March 19th at 10 a.m. at Wildbirds Unlimited on 36th and Robinson in Norman. Seating is limited, so please call and reserve your spot at 321-8686. If you haven't heard Mary speak or just want a refresher, you will be in for a treat. Jim McDaniel will teach us how to construct a drip irrigation system on April 2 at 10 a.m. in the classroom. He makes it easy to understand. Rick Ault will speak on Raised Bed Gardening at the Moore Library April 5, at 7 p.m. We will have an information table at Home Depot on April 16th. We will also have an information table at Earth Day on April 24th from 12 - 5p.m. Please support our speakers by attending these events.



Photo Booth



The OK Native Plant Society held their 2016 Indoor Outing titled Monarchs, Pollinators and Natives Saturday February 6. Fifteen Cleveland County Master Gardeners were in attendance. Here, several are taking a quick lunch break between programs. *Submitted by Kay Holder*



My apricot trees are already blooming! We're not the only ones ready for spring! *Submitted by Vada Edwards*



Q and A with Cathy Bowden

Background: As an only child, I had plenty of time to entertain myself! At age 10, my family moved to a new home that had apple trees growing in a swale near the house. Beautiful wild violets grew in the moist soil there. Taking a cooking spoon from Mom's kitchen (she wasn't thrilled!), I dug the violets and planted them in similar moist soil in the shade but where they could be seen. When the house was sold 50 years later, progeny of those violets were still growing there. Since that time, I've been fascinated with growing anything from avocado seeds to the abandoned domestic violets in the grocery store bargain section.

Significant Gardening Influences: Although my Mom said she was through gardening when she left the farm and got married, for a few years she still grew bachelor buttons and wildflowers when I was a girl. I also followed my Uncle around his small vegetable garden when he came home from work, and as he picked tomatoes, he gave them to me to carry. I wanted a garden of my own from a young age. As a poor college student, I splurged on a sweet potato and grew a vine in the kitchen window. Plants have always been part of my life.

Do you have a gardening "specialty" or just love it all? In the Demo garden, I take care of the rose bed. I had to learn how to care for roses when we purchased a home in Las Vegas that had 32 bushes! Growing roses in the desert, rarely were there fungal problems due to low humidity. We have a vegetable garden, a shade garden and are "stuck on" our blackberry bushes that have taken over an area we had designated for something else.

What led you to CCMGA and what year did you complete classes? When I decided to retire from my training consultancy, I had already committed myself to being a lifelong learner. I'd always wanted to become a Master Gardener and got the "real" hard plastic name tag with the class of 2011.

What do you enjoy about CCMGA? I enjoy the friendships with a diverse group of gardeners who bring experiences from around the world. The guest speakers provide practical expertise and subjects I'd only imagine! Also, our meals prove that gardeners are great cooks.



Other interests you'd like to share: I began my OU studies as a vocal music education major and continue to enjoy singing in the church choir. I enjoy taking classes in the computer lab at the Norman Public Library. Now that husband, Doug, has retired, we are able to travel more and attend grandchildren's school activities around the state.

Is there a photo you'd like to share? I'm usually behind the camera, so there are few photos of me! This is Christmas in Guthrie with our granddaughter and husband, Doug, who helps with transporting things to places when I lead the Seedball activities!



Book title: The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World

Author: Andrea Wulf

Publication date: 2015

This is one of several gardening related histories by Wulf (a previous newsletter reviewed *The Founding Gardeners*). Humboldt (1769 - 1859) was, in his time "rock star" famous as an explorer, scientific observer, botanist, etc. but has been largely forgotten despite many places and creatures around the world that were named after him. He conceived of living things as part of an interdependent whole and regarded scientific measurements and artistic appreciation of nature as equally important. We owe him the concept of climate zones from his observations of the similar plants that are found at similar altitudes around the world. Wulf makes the case that he can also be regarded as a father of ecology & environmentalism. He made significant observations of the devastating impact on the environment of deforestation and the colonial system's extraction of cash crops from the Americas. His appreciation of nature was different from the prevailing view that it needed "improvement" by being converted into orderly fields and pastures.

"Humboldt wrote about the destruction of forests and of humankind's long term changes to the environment. When he listed the three ways in which the human species was affecting the climate, he named deforestation, ruthless irrigation and, perhaps most prophetically, the 'great masses of steam and gas' produced in the industrial centres. No one but Humboldt had looked at the relationship between humankind and nature like this before."

The book is well written and covers Humboldt's life and examines his influence on later influential men such as Darwin, Henry David Thoreau, and John Muir. I enjoyed the book, in part because it shows how some of the famous discoveries we were taught were built on a foundation of earlier work which has been forgotten or ignored. For the first time I felt the need to use the bookmark and high light functions of my Kindle because I knew I wanted to be able to go back to some of those quotations.



Meeting called to order by Fred Schneider and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Fred welcomed 3 guests: Cheryl Stamper (a transfer from Bryan County), Ryan McGowen (a master gardener trainee), and Thressa Guidice (a master gardener from the last class). Tracey introduced Brad Seacroft, who is the new agriculture agent.

Celeste Stonecipher introduced our speaker, Julie Butler. Julie is a quilter, a weaver and a gardener. She will be talking about starting seeds.

A short break was taken and we then proceeded to the business portion of the meeting.

Minutes from January were approved and seconded.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Nancy Logan reported on the budget. Cash balance as of January 25th was \$11,862.83.

Community Education: Sonya Fallgatter passed a sign-up sheet for volunteers to man the booth at Home Depot on April 16th and also for Earth Day on April 24th. Joan Barker and Tomoko Yoshida will coordinate that event. Laura Eckstein asked for more support for our members that are giving classes. You can also get education hours by attending the classes. She reminded all speakers to send a short synopsis of their class to Judy for the media. There are also packets in the office for speakers containing forms to pass out at the classes. They also contain a questionnaire asking for feedback on the classes. Several of our members are presenting classes outside our classroom. They are Julie Linger, who is speaking to the Brookhaven Garden Club on Xeriscaping, and Rick Ault, who is speaking at the Moore Public Library on raised beds. Norman Regional Healthcare has asked for a speaker to speak on healthy eating from your garden if anyone is interested. In our classroom we will present Drip Irrigation by Jim McDaniel on 4/2. Then on 4/9 we will have the Garden Party and Plant Sale in the demo garden.

Garden Director: Theresa January is the new garden director. She will try to have the garden open next Tuesday but the official opening date is March 3rd. There will be a potluck breakfast at 9:00, followed by work in the garden. She reminded us that an apprentice is needed for the Oklahoma Proven garden. Theresa submitted the 2016 budget for the garden. There was a question about item #17, mulch, soil, and sand with a total of 0 dollars. It was explained that any monies needed for these items would come from the contingency fund as there is no set amount for those expenses. There was discussion about increasing the amount of the fund to \$1200. It was decided to leave the amount at \$1000 with the caveat that more money could be requested. It was discussed to stop buying compost from Minick's and use the free compost from the city of Norman. Items on the 5 year plan have been completed and the remaining monies will be used for improving hardscaping and maintenance in the garden. The 5 year plan was completed in three years. The new budget was voted on with all ayes and no nays. Nancy said that we may need more fundraising events but she will review the budget. Theresa reminded everyone to update their signage in the garden. We are looking into using Smart Phone ids for identification.

Greenhouse: Nancy Logan sent the pre-order form and a list of plants to everyone's e-mail. If you didn't receive one please see Nancy. She will take orders in the greenhouse Thursday between 9 and 11:30. The last order day is at the general meeting on March 11. Plants will be available the week after the Garden Party. Additional plants not sold at the Garden Party will be available also. She will take check, cash or credit card. This is an important fundraiser and a chance to get good plants at wholesale prices.

Hospitality: Phyllis Blackwell thanked the members that provided food for our break: Rick Ault, Cathy Bowden, Judy Kautz Marilyn Solomon and Joan Barker. Robbie Johannesen broke her hip and is rehabbing at Grace Living Center. A card was passed for everyone to sign and will be sent to her. Kathy Whittle reported on Charlie. He has sold his house and moved closer to his son. He continues to fight cancer.

February Meeting Minutes (continued)

Membership: Suzanne Perrine reported that the sign-up sheet for desk hours for the new class is available. Fred stressed the importance of mentoring as a learning experience for both the students and the members.

Newsletter Editor: Elaine Dockray couldn't be here but Fred reminded everyone to continue to submit things to her for the newsletter.

Programming: Marilyn Solomon has the speakers for our meetings lined up for the year. Kay Holder is next month's speaker and will talk about irises. Marilyn welcomes any suggestions for field trips. The State MG Conference will be June 3 in Langston with an evening social in Guthrie on June 2.

Public Relations: Judy Kautz has calendars for sale for \$10. Not only is it a good way to keep track of classes and other activities, it is also an adult coloring book. She also has patches for \$3. Judy passed an information sheet concerning developing a web site for CCMGA. It had a proposal for the web site and pros and cons. Judy and Lois Cox will act as web masters to keep the site updated. Lois just finished her Doctorate in Instructional Technology. This idea has been presented to the Executive Committee and has received their endorsement. All members in attendance agreed on the proposal.

Special Events: Donna Carter reported that the Garden Party and plant Sale will be on April 9. There will be demonstrations for adults and crafts for the children. She will set up on Friday from 4-8. She needs volunteers for set-up and to work the party on Saturday. A volunteer sheet was passed.

Special Projects: Julie Johnson reports that we will provide lawn judging again this year. The memorial plaque is ready for the bench and was given to Phyllis.

Fund raisings: Susan Aikman is in charge of the Flea Market this year. She is going to have it in the fall this year instead of the spring. She will monitor OU football games and other activities to make sure that they don't coincide.

New Business: Cathy Bowden brought up a topic that is very important to the environment. As master gardeners whose mission is to improve the environment she feels we are remiss when we use styrofoam cups and plates at our meetings. Styrofoam is not biodegradable and may contain carcinogens. Cathy is proposing that the CCMGA use paper supplies instead of styrofoam at our meetings and classes. All members were in agreement of this proposal.

Fred Schneider talked about the Heritage Seed Saver Exchange in Iowa. They are the largest seed collective in the world. It costs \$25 to join and includes a magazine, and discounts on many items. Their web site is seedsavers.org if you would like to join.

Meeting was adjourned by the President.

Respectfully submitted, *Vada Edwards*



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance, as of January 25, 2016, is \$11,862.83. Income includes \$180 2016 Dues; \$7 Garden Books Sold; \$180 Calendars; \$705.32 Plant Sale Pre-Orders; \$25 Demo Garden Donation and \$20 Cookbooks Sold for Total Income of \$1,117.32. Expense includes \$30 Speaker Honorarium for Total Expense of \$30.00. Balance at February 25, 2016 is \$12,950.15. Budget for 2016 has not been approved at this time, however the wholesale cost of the pre-ordered plants is \$715, leaving a balance of \$12,235.15 to be budgeted.

Respectfully Submitted, *Nancy Logan*



New Mexico Style Meatloaf

By Theresa January

Ingredients

1 lb. ground beef
2/3 C dry bread crumbs or crumbled crackers
1 egg
1/3 C milk
1 t salt
1 T dried chopped cilantro
1/4 t black pepper
1/2 t cumin
1 4oz. can chopped green chilies (more fun if you have your own frozen chilies with some heat)
1/4 medium onion chopped
1 or 2 cloves diced garlic

Heat oven to 350 F.

In large bowl, mix all ingredients

Form into flattened loaf and bake in covered casserole pan for 50 mins.

Zucchini Chocolate Chip Cookies

Ingredients

1 egg, beaten
1/2 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/3 cup honey
1 T vanilla extract
1 cup white flour
1 cup whole wheat flour
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp cinnamon
1/4 tsp nutmeg
1 cup finely shredded zucchini
12 oz chocolate chips

Heat oven to 350 F.

In large bowl, combine first 5 ingredients. In a separate smaller bowl, combine remaining ingredients except zucchini and chocolate chips. Mix together with liquid ingredients. Stir zucchini and chocolate chips into other ingredients. Mix well.

Drop by spoonfuls onto greased baking sheet and flatten with the back of a spoon. Bake 10-15 minutes.

Makes about 2 dozen cookies.

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

March 9, 6 – 7:30 PM: Wednesdays at Will Rogers – presented by Oklahoma County Master Gardeners. Lecture will be What’s New in 2016. Will Rogers Garden auditorium, 3400 NW 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK.

March 11, 10 AM: CCMGA Meeting, Cleveland County Extension Center, Classroom.

March 12, 9 AM – 4 PM: Oklahoma Gardening School: The New American Prairie Garden, Devon Energy Corporation Auditorium, Oklahoma City, OK

March 19, 10 AM: Inviting Hummingbirds and Other Pollinators to Your Garden – presented by Mary Engle. Wildbirds Unlimited, 36th and Robinson, Norman, OK

March 19 9:30 a.m. – noon: Going Vertical, Cost: \$25, [Register in advance at okc.gov/active](http://okc.gov/active). Do you have limited space but lots of things to grow? Then go vertical with a pallet garden. It's the perfect solution for apartments, small home and balconies. We'll take standard construction pallets then fill them with soil and plants for you to take home. Great for veggies or ornamental plants. Bring a hammer or staple gun if you can. Will Rogers Gardens, Oklahoma City, OK

March 26, 10 – 11 AM: Myriad Gardens Walking Tour, South Lobby, Crystal Bridge, Oklahoma City, OK

April 2, 10 AM: Construct a Drip Irrigation System – presented by Jim McDaniel. Cleveland County Extension Classroom.

April 5, 7 PM: Raised Bed Gardening – presented by Rick Ault. Moore Library.

April 9, CCMGA Garden Party, Demo Garden

April 24, 12 – 5 PM: Earth Day, Reeves Park, Norman, OK

April 30, 9 – noon: The Grass is Greener – garden workshop presented by Oklahoma County Master Gardeners. Will Rogers Gardens Exhibition Center.

April 30, 10 – 11 AM: Myriad Gardens Walking Tour, South Lobby, Crystal Bridge, Oklahoma City, OK

Join us for a Garden Party

Usher in Spring with demonstrations, garden how-to classes, tours, children's activities and a plant sale, plus fun with Gertrude the Gardener!



Fun for kids!



Garden Demonstrations and classes!



Big Plant Sale!



Saturday, April 9, 2016 9 AM to 1 PM

Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens

Cleveland County Fairgrounds (Southwest Corner)

601 E. Robinson, Norman, Oklahoma (405)321-4774

SEED VIABILITY ESTIMATES				
	FEDCO	JOHNNY'S	VERMONT EXT.	IOWA ST. EXT
bean	2-3 years	2 years	3 years	3 years
beet	3-5 years	5 years	4 years	4 years
brassicas	3-5 years	5 years	3-5 years*	5 years*
carrot	2-3 years	3 years	3 years	
celery	2-3 years	5 years	3 years	
chard	3-5 years			
corn	2-3 years	2 years	2 years	2 years
cucumber	5-10 years	5 years	5 years	5 years
eggplant	2-3 years	5 years	4 years	
lettuce	2-3 years	5 years	6 years	5 years
leek	2 years	3 years	2 years	
melon (muskmelon)	5-10 years	5 years	5 years	5 years
melon (watermelon)	5-10 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
onion	1 year	1 year	1 year	1 year
parsnip		1 year	1 year	
parsley		1 year	1 year	
peas	2-3 years	2 years	3 years	3 years
peppers	2-3 years	4 years	2 years	2 years
radish	3-5 years		5 years	5 years
spinach	2-3 years	1 year	3 years	5 years
squash/pumpkin	2-5 years	4 years	4 years	4 years
tomato	5-10 years	5 years	4 years	4 years

In this chart presented by Julie Butler, you can see the projected viability of seeds by type of vegetable. Charts like this are available on the web.

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.

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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.