Volume 27, Issue 3

March 2017



Association

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County Master

Cleveland

he Weeders' Digest

Sherry Burnett Shares Essential Oils for the Garden and Gardener

Our own Sherry Burnett enlightened CCMGA members on the use of

essential oils in the gardenden and for the gardener. These oils have many applications in the garden, from attracting beneficial insects to repelling mosquitos. They are also useful for those frequent sore muscles we experience in the garden. For more information, see page 4 of this newsletter.



At the March Meeting...

by Linda Wren

Our speaker at the March meeting will be Lori Coats, a graduate of OU, and currently the Volunteer Coordinator at the Myriad Botanical Gardens where she manages the Gardens Volunteer Program. She has been an Oklahoma Master Gardener since 2008, and is the owner of My Raggedy Herbs — a teaching space where a community of those interested in herbs can learn and interact together. The meeting begins at 10, but join us for snacks and conversation at 9:30 AM.

More help needed for Bugfest!

Tracey still needs some help at Bugfest, March 15 from 9 am to 12 pm at the Norman Library. If you can help, please contact her.

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his Issue



Spring is almost here, or is it, 86 degrees one day and 25 degrees two days later; that's Oklahoma. Anyway, with spring in mind, March is the time we start our regular demo garden workdays each Tuesday morning (weather permitting). It's always a great way to socialize, and learn from our fellow Master Gardeners. We have already gotten a good head start thanks to all of you who participated in several very productive workdays in February. Theresa January, has planted the onions and potatoes. Les Brown has started a new section for container gardening in the old compost bin. The blocks are in place for Cathy Bowden's new rose garden, and all of the beds now have owners. Thanks to the greenhouse crew plants in the greenhouse are looking good for the Garden Party April 15th.

We also have some very exciting news about our new Cleveland County Master Gardener Association web site. Thanks to Judy Kautz and Lois Cox our new informative and interactive web site is well on the way.

Jeanne Parker



Education Updates

By Laura Eckstein and Sonya Fallgatter

Here are classes being presented for this month:

- The Moore Station Classes at 700 S. Broadway St. Moore, OK (preregistration classes) on 3/1 (Basics of Vegetable Gardening), 3/8 (organic/traditional gardening), 3/15 (Greenhouses, high-tunnels, etc.), 3/22 (Harvest & Food Preservation). All on Wednesday at 6 pm.
- ♦ 3/15, 9-12 Wednesday. Bug Fest at Norman Public Library by Tracey Payton-Miller
- ♦ 3/16 6:30pm, Thursday. Composting/Vermicomposting South OKC Library by Cathy Bowden & Pat Welty.
- ♦ 3/18, 10am, Sat. Native Plants in at Cleveland County Fairgrounds in Norman, Classroom C, by Fred Schneider
- ♦ 3/25, 10am, Sat. Dividing, Thinning, and Transplanting Plants at Cleveland County Fairgrounds in Norman, in Classroom C by Pat Hardre



Nancy Logan presented "Gardening from Seed" February 4th at the Norman Public Library.



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

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Things have really been busy out in the Greenhouse and there are lots of good looking plants. Greenhouse and Demonstration Garden crews will be working hard to be ready to show off and sell plants at the Garden Party on April 15. I am happy to report that the Easy care perennials bed has a new caretaker in Cindy Nestoly as does the Backyard garden bed in Pat Sparks. The large Oklahoma Proven bed really needs more help and I know someone will come through. We have had some productive workdays in the garden in Feb., and had a Potluck Brunch and general meeting 2/28 to get ready for the start of regular Tues. workdays this month. It seemed that Spring started early and so did we. Thanks so much to those who have volunteered for new jobs and a continuing request for someone to take on the job of spraying the weeds in the garden pathways.





Vada Edwards shows a photo (left) of her new raised bed with a seat on each side, a product of the amazing Randy!





Here is a Fast Fact:

Q: What are the earliest last frost or freeze dates in this area?

A: It would be almost impossible to answer the "frost" question, since frost doesn't always occur with similar weather conditions. However, the earliest last freeze is an easier question to answer. For Oklahoma City, it is February 21 (this occurred in 1905). Norman's records are too incomplete to provide a good answer, but it probably is very similar.

This information is from Cheryl Sharpe, Meteorologist, NWS Forecast Office, Norman, Oklahoma

Submitted by Vada Edwards

Celeste Stonecipher continues with a year in my yard: I have decided to not take time away from quilting to pull any weeds this year out of my lawn. New grass is going to be trucked in or seeds planted. The picture shows how sparse the grass currently is. The runners grow out We, but don't take root. We have fertilized, put down pre-emergents, used a mower that mulches, picked up the grass that has been cut, aerated the soil, etc. Astro-turf would be great, but I don't like green lawns in the wintertime. The search is going to begin for someone to deal with this.

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!

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Essential Oils for the Garden

If you follow organic gardening practices, consider using essential oils for pest management, to stimulate companion planting vigor, and more! Essential oils are volatile aromatic compounds found in seeds, bark, stems, roots, flowers, and other parts of plants that give a plant its unique smell, protect it from environmental threats like pests and fungus, and play a role in pollination. For the best results, and if you plan to use essential oils on your body or your garden produce, I recommend selecting a brand with traceable quality controls to ensure the purity of the oils. When oils are pure, they can be used aromatically, topically, and internally for both the garden and gardener.

Essential oils are powerful concentrates, with a single drop of peppermint oil equating to 28 cups of peppermint tea. Essential oils are 50-70 times more powerful than herbs, so err on the side of frugality - less is more!

To apply topically, use the following ratio: 12-15 drops to 8 oz water. You can add 1/2 teaspoon of natural liquid soap to the above mixture to help it adhere to plant surfaces. Spray or use a small brush to apply to areas that need more precise application. Repeat as needed.

ESSENTIAL OIL	PEST MANAGEMENT	COMPANION PLANTING	OTHER USES
PEPPERMINT	Spiders, Rodents, Ants, Aphids, Beetles, fleas, flies, moths, plant lice	Cabbage	
MELALEUCA (Tea Tree)	Ticks		Fungicide, cleaner
LAVENDER	Chiggers, fleas, flies, mosquitos, moths, spiders, ticks	Green Beans, Apples, Grapes	Attracts pollinators, cleaner
ROSEMARY	Cabbage Caterpillars, Fleas, Flies, Mosquitos		Attracts pollinators, keeps cats out of the garden
CEDARWOOD	Aphids, Moths, Plant Lice, Roaches, Slugs, Snails, Weevils		
BASIL	Flies	Asparagus, Green Beans, Broccoli, Potatoes, Toma- toes	Attracts pollinators
LEMON			Combine with 1/2 cup vinegar in a bowl of cold water to wash veggies & fruits, cleaner
ORANGE			Attracts pollinators; clean veggies
TERRASHIELD	Broad-based insect repellant		
ONGUARD			Cleaner for garden tools, fungicide

To use aromatically to attract pollinators or repel insects, soak cloth in diluted water/oil solution & hang near plants to diffuse the scent. You can also soak a cotton ball in the mixture and place in the garden, plant container, greenhouse, or near house plants.

To use internally for companion planting effects, add the essential oil to your watering can.

If you are interested in ordering pure essential oils for you or your garden, or to learn more about the many ways to use essential oils, contact Sherry Burnett at (405) 314-0716 or sherry.burnett@holisticzenwellness.com

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Dare to Be Wild

Directed by Vivienne de Courcy, starring Emma Greenwell and Tom Hughes (currently plays Prince Albert in Victoria on PBS). 102 minutes. 2016

This film is based on the real story of an Irish gardener, Mary Reynolds. In 2002, Reynolds became the youngest (she was 27) gold medal winner of the Royal Horticulture Society's Chelsea Flower Show in London.

As a girl growing up on a farm in Ireland, Mary was surrounded by nature. She sometimes could even hear the whispering of plants. She dreams of becoming a landscape designer. After a short failed stint at a garden design studio in Dublin, she applies to one of the most prestigious garden design competitions in the world, the Chelsea Flower Show. Although her plan was accepted, she had no funds to create the garden, which was a Celtic-themed natural garden consisting of 500 native species including mature Hawthorn trees, as well as Celtic stone structures. What is this young gardener to do? After the twists and turns of a love entanglement, a trip to Ethiopia, and search for sponsors and collaborators, she manages to build her dream garden in time for the show.

This movie has not received high ratings by the general viewers, but I believe gardeners will have more sympathetic eyes. I enjoyed the melodrama, a bit of Irish culture, and a backdoor view of the famed gardening contest. Although this film seems to be available only through limited sources now, I highly recommend it if you have a chance to see it.

Additional information: Last year, Mary Reynolds authored a book called, The Garden Awakening: Designs to Nurture our Land and Ourselves. She advocates "forest gardening" an age-old way of living harmoniously with nature. (The book is forwarded by Larry Korn who translated The One-Straw Revolution by Masanobu Fukuoka.)





Seen in the garden: Laura Eckstein (left) and Cathy Bowden, Shelly Henry and Cindy Nestoly (above).

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Q and A with Judy Kautz

Background and Significant Gardening Influences: I have always loved gardening, from the time I was a child. My mom encouraged me, although she wasn't a gardener herself. My grandmother had a green thumb and grew the most beautiful dahlias I have ever seen. Some were the size of dinner plates! Her yard was always beautiful, full of roses and other flowers. She was my inspiration!

Do you have a gardening "specialty" or just love it all? I love it all, but specialize mostly in flowers. I am always buying something and then trying to decide where to put it in my garden. Pink is my favorite color, but I do love daffodils for their endurance, bright yellow colors, and repellence to critters!

What led you to CCMGA and what year did you complete classes? During my last year in the Air Force, while I was deployed to the Middle East, my good friend Jennifer emailed me and said we were going to sign up to be master gardeners when I returned. That's exactly what we did, only in Oklahoma County, Class of 2007. I transferred to Cleveland County in 2010. So glad I did!

What do you enjoy about CCMGA? I appreciate the sharing nature of this group... everyone is not only friendly, but willing to share whatever knowledge they have. I love working in the garden side by side with Theresa or Claren or Patricia or Patti, or any number of other members, and discussing various garden topics with them.

This group is also so friendly, and they are also wonderful cooks! What fun it is to share recipes!

Other interests you'd like to share: I serve on the international board of a worldwide service organization that works to empower women through service and advocacy. I also sing in the Tinker AFB Chapel Choir and play hymns on Sunday. I try to do Jazzercise daily and love spending time in my own yard working side by side with my husband of 45 years. We also love to travel in our motorhome!



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Book Title: Pollinator Friendly Gardening

Author: Rhonda Fleming Hayes with Forward by P Allen Smith

Bees are fuzzy and hairy. They are great for collecting and storing pollen. On a single trip honeybees visit 50 – 100 flowers, making up to 30 trips a day and produce ONLY 1/10 teaspoon of honey in her lifetime. It takes 2 million flowers to make a pound of honey.

Butterflies are less efficient than bees, but MOST popular because of beautiful colors, flight, and long proboscis (tongue). Unlike bees, butterflies can see red.

DYK hummingbirds only exist in America. The only other pollinator bird in North America is the Honeycreeper, found only in Hawaii.

Some unusual pollinators are lemurs in Madagascar, honey possums in Australia, many lizards and skunks.

Do pollinators rest? Yes, hummingbirds are the smallest warm-blooded creature on earth, so they must generate internal heat to stay warm. They find a place to rest that is safe from predators.

Do pollinators sleep? Bees sleep inside flowers or hanging down from a branch. The author had photos of bees sleeping. Butterflies do not have eyelids so it's doubtful they sleep.

Hummingbirds depend on flies, gnats, mosquitoes, aphids, and other insects, but especially spiders to fatten up for migration. Insects (protein) make up 60 - 80% of their diet, especially before migration.

Not until 1975 did researchers study the migration of monarchs. But of course, residents in Sierra Madres, Mexico celebrated the arrival of the monarchs each season. Monarchs need trees, vegetation, for and water sources like the area in the Sierra Madres which is 2 miles above sea-level.

In 2013, only 50 million monarchs made it to Mexico – down from 1 billion.

(Mary Engel's Note: Do the math – a drop of 95%). Monarchs are not yet on the endangered list but their migratory lifestyle is threatened. Loss of habitat, especially milkweed, is the biggest threat to monarch migration. Chip Taylor says there are 9,000 registered "monarch waystations" but 9 million are needed.

To help all pollinators, the author suggested diversity. Plant trees, shrubs, vines, native plants, herbs, annuals, and perennials that bloom at different times of the year. And she suggested, "Don't

just improve your garden, improve the lives of those who spend the most time in it, beautifying it each and every day; the pollinators."

Be a Helper Bee The pollinators of the world - - including bees and butterflies - - help grow about one-third of the food we eat, but their populations are declining. This could cause food prices to rise in the years ahead. The good news, says author and gardening expert Melinda Myers: Simply adding pollinator-friendly plants like sunflowers to your garden can provide some sweet relief. Make yours - - and the world's - - garden grow and help grocery bills shrink.



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Meeting was called to order by Jeanne Parker. Linda Wren introduced our speaker, Sherry Burnett. Sherry is a current Master Gardener and her topic was "Essential Oils for the Gardener and Garden".

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

Jeanne Parker led the Pledge of Allegiance. She introduced new faces in the group, which included transfers from OKCMGA. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from December and January and the majority present voted to approve them. Lois Cox is working with Judy Kautz on the association's new web page. When it is ready, information from the garden can be linked to it. Jeanne encouraged everyone to sign up for the monthly member bio for the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: (Nancy Logan) The cash balance as of December 25th was \$15,542.62. Funds available for the 2017 budget are \$5,294.12. For a complete break-down of the budget please contact Nancy Logan. A question was asked about funds for the 5 year plan and Nancy reported there is \$700 budgeted for this. Nancy directed further questions about the 5 year plan to Theresa January, chairman on the Demonstration Garden. Committees:

Community Education: (Sonya Fallgatter, Laura Eckstein, Kathi Farley, Joan Kemmet Greanleaf and Carol Craig) Upcoming classes:

2/16, 6:60 pm, Oklahoma Proven Plants at South Oklahoma Library by Marilyn Solomon

2/26, 2 pm, Gardening 101 at Natural Grocers in Norman by Sherry Trammel.

3/1, Basics of Vegetable Gardening; 3/8, Organic / Traditional gardening; 3/15, GreenHouses, high-tunnels. All will be presented at Moore Station, 700 S. Broadway St., Moore, OK. Pre-registration is required and all classes start at 6 pm.

3/15, Bug Fest at Norman Public Library, 9 am-12 pm by Tracey Payton Miller.

3/16, Composting and Vermaculture, South Oklahoma City Library at 6:30 pm by Cathy Bowden and Pat Welty.

3/18, Native Plants at Cleveland County Fairgrounds Classroom C at 10 am by Fred Schneider.

3/25, Dividing, Thinning, and Transplanting Plants at Cleveland County Fairgrounds, Classroom C at 10am by Pat Hadre

We will have an information table at Home Depot on 4/1. Volunteer slots have been filled. Earth Day will be 4/23 and volunteers will be needed. Joan Barker and Tomiko Yoshida are in charge and will pass a sign-up sheet.

Hospitality: (Cindy Mullens, Patty Hayes) The committee recognized the members that brought snacks for the meeting. All the slots for volunteering to bring food are filled thru June. Another sign-up sheet will be passed closer to June.

Newsletter: (Elaine Dockray) Elaine passed a sign-up sheet for monthly members bios to be included in the newsletter. She is also looking for articles, book reviews, movie reviews. Anything that members find interesting will be included. Also, don't forget to submit pictures to the Photo Booth. We are all interested in what interests everyone.

Programs: (Linda Wren) Our March speaker will be Lori Coats, speaking on essential oils and herbs. April's speaker is Ruth Warren from the Bonsai Society, and June's speaker will be Chris Ward speaking on rain conservation. Linda is also working on a field trip to Tony's Tree Plantation.

Public Relations: (Judy Kautz) We still have door hangers and Judy hopes to have a new version at March's meeting. There are still patches for sale for \$3. She is working on a one page monthly calendar with up -coming classes and classes are also in the newsletter. If you are presenting a class or participating in an event, please send a short synopsis of the class or event to Judy so she can give to Tracey for the media. She needs it 6 weeks in advance to be printed in the OKC paper. Judy and Lois Cox are working on the web page.

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February Meeting Minutes (continued)

Demonstration Garden: (Theresa January, Kathy Kelly, Claren Kidd) A lot of work was done Tuesday. A care taker is needed for the large OK Proven Perennial bed. Help will be needed to swap the rose bed and the tee-pee bed. The budgets for all the main beds have been submitted. Last year \$4,882 was requested and this year \$5,362 was requested. The garden budget is usually over-budgeted with the overage returned back into the main budget. Fred Schneider moved to accept the budget and Pat Welty seconded the motion. The majority of the members voted to approve the budget. Pat Welty informed the members that K & K Nursery had free bulbs for their beds in the garden or at home. Someone suggested a fall class on bulbs. Theresa reported that the long term plans for the garden are proceeding, including replacing the wooden edging around the Butterfly Garden, and building a retaining wall between the Medicinal Garden and the Native Plants Garden. The garden committee is looking at prices for permanent signage for each bed. Thursday, 2/16, looks like a good day to work in the garden so it will be open. The regular work days start in March.

Greenhouse: (Nancy Logan) There are lots of plants growing in the Greenhouse. Bud Hightree built shelves underneath the tables to give more room for flats of plants. Thursday the last seeds were planted and all seem to be doing well. The plants seem to like the classical music playing in the greenhouse. There will be a different plan for members to buy plants from Prairie Wind Nursery. 4/17 and 4/22 are two days that have been set aside for CCMGA members only to come buy plants. 25% of the money generated will be donated to CCMGA. This includes all plants and also potting soil. The nursery will be open 9-close (whenever we are finished buying). Buying plants at the Garden Party and at Prairie Wind will help CCMGA's future budget.

Fundraising: (Alice Humphrey, Brenda Williams, Linda Wren) There will be no flea market this year. Linda and Brenda have made a quilt that will be raffled off in June. Tickets are \$1. Packets which contain 20 tickets are available for members to take to sell to friends or at other meetings. Please have all raffle money turned in by May. Include the buyers name and phone number on the ticket. There will also be a raffle at the Garden Party for a hand-made bench, tree and rain barrel. Again, the tickets for both raffle are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Other suggestions for fund raisers are appreciated.

Special Events: (Donna Carter, Theresa Giudice) A sign-up sheet for Garden Party volunteers was passed. A meeting will be held 2/16th in the extension kitchen. Bring ideas and suggestions for activities, demonstrations and Easter- themed ideas.

Special Projects: (Julie Johnson, Phyllis Blackwell, Joan Barker) No new information at this time.

Horticulture Educator: (Tracey Payton Miller) No new information at this time.

Georjanna Mauldin was introduced as the new chairman of the Membership Committee.

Extra raffle tickets can be obtained from Brenda Williams

Meeting was adjourned by the President.

Respectfully submitted, Vada Edwards



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of January 25, 2017, is \$14,970.91. Income includes \$260 Dues 2017; \$71 Garden Books Sold; \$35 Gloves Sold; \$4 Nametag Jar and \$211 Quilt Raffle for Total Income of \$581.00. Expense includes \$58.58 Demo Garden; \$229.95 Website and \$82.91 2017 Garden Party-Greenhouse for Total Expense of \$371.44. Balance at February 25, 2017 is \$15,180.47, less budgeted amount of \$9,305.35, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$5,875.12.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Logan

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Italian Meatball Meatloaf

Master Cook

Ingredients

2 pounds ground beef chuck or round

3 eggs

2 cloves garlic, minced

1 cup Romano cheese, freshly grated

1/2 cup Italian bread crumbs

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon garlic salt

1/2 teaspoon ground pepper

2 cups tomato sauce

Start 4 1/2 hours before you want to eat.

Fold a 2 foot length of aluminum foil in half lengthwise. Place the foil in a large slow cooker, pressing it against the bottom and up the sides. Grate the Romano cheese into a bowl.

In a large bowl, mix together all the ingredients except the tomato sauce. Shape the mixture into a loaf. Carefully place it in the slow cooker on top of the foil. Pour the tomato sauce over the top.

Cover and cook on high for 4 hours, or until an instant-read thermometer reads 165 - 170 degrees.

Carefully lift the meatloaf out of the pan using the ends of the foil as handles. Slide the meatloaf onto a serving platter.

Let sit for 10 minutes. Cut into slices and serve.

Per Serving (excluding unknown items): 596 Calories; 17g Fat (25.4% calories from fat); 34g Protein; 80g Carbohydrate; 11g Dietary Fiber; 637mg Cholesterol; 7881mg Sodium. Exchanges: 3 Grain (Starch); 2 1/2 Lean Meats; 6 Vegetable; 1 1/2 Fat; 0 Other Carbohydrates.

NOTE: Instead of making small meatballs, the ingredients are shaped into a loaf, known as a "polpettone" in Italian.

Healthy Peanut McButter Pie

By Jim McDaniel

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Ingredients

1—8oz pkg 1/3 fat cream cheese, softened

1—14 oz can sugar free condensed milk 3/4 cup low fat peanut butter, creamy or crunchy

1/4 cup Stevia

2 T lemon juice

1 t vanilla

1/2 cup (4 oz) sugar free Cool Whip, thawed

1 graham cracker crust

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese with mixer until fluffy. Add condensed milk and peanut butter, lemon juice, Stevia and vanilla,

beating until smooth.

Fold in the whipped topping. Mix well and spoon into pie crust. Cover and chill, or freeze.

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.

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March 10, 10 am: CCMGA Master Gardener Meeting, Classroom, Cleveland County Fairgrounds.

March 14, 6—7:30 pm: Butterfly Gardening and Seed Starting, OSU Botanic Gardens, Stillwater. The program is free and open to all. Please call or email the Payne County Extension Office in advance if you plan to attend, so they can be adequately prepared.

March 15, 9 am – noon: Bugfest, Norman Public Library Downtown March 16, 6:30 pm: Composting and Vermiculture, South Oklahoma City Library (SW 134th Street and Pennsylvania), presented by Cleveland County Master Gardeners Cathy Bowden and Pat Welty.

March 18, 10 am: Native Plants, Cleveland County Fairgrounds, Classroom C, presented by Cleveland County Master Gardener Fred Schneider.

March 24 – 27: Oklahoma City Home and Outdoor Living Show. OKC State Fairgrounds.

March 24, Noon – 1pm: Tree ID 101: Walk and Talk. Myriad Gardens, South Lobby and Garden Grounds. Jerí Irby, Forester and Educator with Oklahoma Forestry Services. FREE (\$5 Suggested Donation). Register by Monday, March 20. Learn about fantastic new trees to add to your plant palate in this fun and informative walk. Jerí will introduce you to plant identification techniques and show you some tricks for identifying the trees discussed.

March 25, 10 am: Myriad Gardens Walking Tour. Meet at South Lobby. Free

Apr 11, 2017, 6 - 7:30 pm: Garlic, Onions, and Perennials. OSU Botanic Gardens, Stillwater. The program is free and open to all. Please call or email the Payne County Extension Office in advance if you plan to attend, so they can be adequately prepared.

April 15, 9am—12pm: Garden Party, Demonstration Gardens May 31 (Save the Date): Native Plant Conference. Oklahoma State University Stillwater. More details to follow.

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MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

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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.