



The Weeders' Digest

Survivor Tree—Memorable!

Mark Bays offered a memorable program about the Oklahoma Survivor Tree at the April meeting. This tree survived the Oklahoma City bombing in April of 1995. Participating with the rescue and recovery of the "Survivor Tree" at the Oklahoma City National Memorial since 1996, Mark helps spread its message of hope and healing, including information about cloned and offshoot trees presented each year at the remembrance event.



Speaking in May...

by Marilyn Solomon

Adam Price will speak to us about food! He is the Operations Manager for the Oklahoma Food Cooperative (OFC), which serves as a marketplace for local, sustainable farmers and producers to distribute their products statewide. Adam also serves on the Board of Directors of the OFC, and has been actively involved in the organization since 2008. Although not a farmer himself, much of Adam's work involves maintaining and growing a distribution network that benefits local-scale agriculture throughout the state of Oklahoma. Ultimately, Adam believes that we need many more people to take up the practice of sustainable farming, and he would like to help create a system that will encourage more Oklahomans to begin farming as an occupation. Adam is also involved in various other sustainability and urban agriculture initiatives in the Oklahoma City metro area. He is also in the process of converting as much of his urban OKC lawn to productive, food producing space as possible. The program will begin at 10, but come early for snacks and conversation at 9:30. See you there!

Yoga in the Garden!

Join us May 16, 18, 23 and 25 at 9 am at our demo gardens for a new opportunity—exercise and serenity! Don't forget to bring your yoga mats!

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President's Posting

By Fred Schneider

We have had a busy, but very successful month which has resulted in the participation of many members in a variety of activities - Drip Irrigation (Jim McDaniel), Raised Beds (Rick Ault), Garden Party and Plant Sales (Principals: Donna Carter and Nancy Logan, and many others), Info. Table at Home Depot), Container Gardening (Susan Aikman), WildCare Native Plants (Fred Schneider, coordinator), and Earth Day (Joan and Tomoko, coordinators). Thank you all for providing such excellent service and education to the public and our members.

Also, please mark on your calendars the State Master Gardener Conference on June 2-3 at Langston University. This is a great opportunity to network with our "kindred" from throughout the state, to listen to interesting presentations, and to have fun. Think about car pools!

Members: Elaine is looking for more of you to volunteer to be a Member of the Month. Her profile of Cathy Bowden in the March Newsletter was of interest and a great manner by which we learn more about one another. "Step up to the Plate"!

For some of the newer members as well as to the "aged" members: Look through Article II in our Constitution to remind yourself of the many ways to earn both Education and Service hours. There is something there for all members. While you're at it, also consult Article IV, Section 2, Item F titled Membership Duties. All of this is simply a reminder to all of us as to "who we are and what are our responsibilities and duties".

We have a Master Gardener Association second to none!

Fred



Seed and Plant Profit Information

By Nancy Logan

Garden Party/Pre-Order Sales 2016

Sales	\$7,814.09
Expense	<u>(3,587.70)</u>
Profit	\$3,798.39

Garden Party Sales 2015

Sales	\$3,461.18
Expense	<u>(998.59)</u>
Profit	\$2,462.59



PR Prattle

By Judy Kautz

Doorhangers are available for you to distribute in your neighborhood or local businesses. 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.

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.



The garden party was a great and successful event. Thank you muchly to everyone who worked, the musicians who entertained us, and, of course, the chickens. There have still been some plants left in the greenhouse for sale; check with Nancy Logan about them. This month should see the tropical plant and summer crops fill in the beds that have been empty. When it is dry enough, work will resume on demolition and rebuilding two of the original long beds. We are grateful to have some of the newer members step forward and take on beds that needed new caretakers. As a note to new and longtime caretakers, please add plant labels to help out tour guides. They should conform to the existing template and include common names, scientific names and variety names.



Education Updates

By Laura Eckstein

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with our information table at Home Depot and at our Earth Day table. Special thanks to Cathy Bowden for presenting her container gardening workshop at the Moore Library. Thanks also to the members who went to help at Wild Care.

The coming events are:

June 4 at 10 a.m. Shade Gardening in the garden unless there is rain. If it rains we will be in the classroom.

June 11 at 10a.m. in the classroom Marilyn Solomon and Judy Kautz will present container gardening.

June 25 at 10 a.m. in the classroom Theresa January will present Small fruits in the Backyard.

We look forward to seeing you at these presentations.



Photo Booth



I had a recent surprise visitor to my garden. The bird has been identified as a Chukar partridge. Chukar's are native to Eurasia but were introduced to the US in the 1940's as a game bird. In the wild they are found in the Great Basin area of the US. According to the OK Department of Wildlife they are being raised as either pets or game birds and occasionally one will escape from captivity. Our visitor was quite comfortable around humans and spent the day following us around. After a meal of bird seed and water I was treated to a concert from our roof before flying off. I just found out there is a game farm in Harrah that raises them.

Submitted by Julia Linger



Garden Party

Photos by Jim McDaniel, Elaine Dockray and Judy Kautz



GARDEN PARTY THANKS: Thank you to everyone that volunteered to help with the Garden Party. Even with cool temps and a brief shower we had over 300 visitors to the garden. *Donna Carter*



President Fred Schneider called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Fred reminded all members to cast their vote for or against reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the General Meetings. The ballots will be counted and to results given at the end of the business meeting.

Marilyn Solomon introduced our speaker, Mark Bays. Mark is the Urban Forestry coordinator and will speak on "The OKC Survivor Tree".

There was a short break and the business portion of the meeting commenced.

There was a correction in the February Minutes. Under Special Projects the minutes should read: The memorial plaque is ready and was given to Judy. The minutes for February, including the change, and for March were approved and seconded.

Treasury Report: Nancy Logan reported on the budget. The cash balance as of March 25 was \$17,451.08. Funds in excess of budget are \$4,066.12. For a complete breakdown of the budget, please refer to Nancy.

Committees:

Special Projects: Donna Carter talked about set up and take-down at the Garden Party. She needs awnings and several volunteers for activities. These needs were quickly met. The party starts at 09:00 but Donna will be at the garden at 7:30 to help with set up. The 4-Hers will have an information table which will help with their recruitment. And there will be chickens. Claren will sell gardening books and gloves at the information table near the front. Cookbooks and calendars will also be sold.

Greenhouse: Nancy Logan reports that everything is ready in the greenhouse. The flow of customers has been improved this year. Participation in the pre-ordering of plants from Prairie Wind Nursery was good. Pick up has been changed to Wednesday 8-12 and Thursday 12-4 at Prairie Wind Nursery. Please bring boxes or trays to corral your plants. Greenhouse committee members will be present to help with individual orders.

Community Education: Laura Eckstein reported that the classes presented by Rick Ault, Jim McDaniel and Mary Engle were well attended. Upcoming classes and activities:

4/9- Garden Party and Plant Sale

4/16- Information table at Home Depot and Container Gardening by Cathy Bowden at Moore Library

4/24- Earth Day at Reeves

5/21- Edibles in Landscape by Claren Kidd in in the classroom

6/25 Small Fruit in the Backyard Garden by Theresa January in the classroom

Community Education continued: Sonya Fallgatter reported that Noble Farmers Market would like us to have an information booth at the Noble Library during the market on May 15 and would like for us to consult on a community garden and partner with them for up-coming events. Also, Fred Schneider and Jeanne Parker are working with WildCare in Noble to plant native plants at their new facility. They will be going on Friday, April 22 and would like volunteers. They will meet at the extension center at 09:00 and can car pool or give directions.

March Meeting Minutes (continued)

Membership: Jackie Engleman has mentoring slots available on 4/14, 8-12 and on 4/18 8-12.

Public Relations: Judy Kautz is working on a map of the beds in the garden. She has cookbooks and patches for sale as well as calendars with adult coloring pages, which are big stress relievers.

Garden Director: Theresa January reported that is too early for some plants but some have flowered so the garden is a mixed bag at this time of year. Tuesday morning will be a work day and several members need help in their beds. Volunteers are also needed to help reconstruct the long beds to the south. And Theresa reminded us to not forget the pot-luck luncheon after the workday on the last Tuesday of the month.

Garden Tours: Les Brown reported that there were 49 visitors to the garden last Saturday. And he has volunteers for garden tours for April.

Newsletter: Judy Kautz reported for Elaine Dockray asking that articles for the newsletter be sent to Elaine. Pictures can be sent to Elaine or Judy. Garden Guru articles can be personal stories or something of interest for gardeners.

Programming: Marilyn Solomon asked that members be sure to fill out the questionnaire about upcoming field trips. She explained that some public gardens charge for guided tours and asked for a vote on if members would like guided tours or individual tours. The members present voted on guided tours. Next month's speaker will be Adam Price with the Oklahoma Food Coop.

Fundraising: No new information at this time.

Special Projects: Julie Johnson reported that the memorial brick for Don Lavell was given to Bud Hightree for placement in the path in the garden.

Hospitality: Phyllis Blackwell was not present but Cathy Bowden thanked the members for the use of paper products instead of Styrofoam. Thanks to Barbara Tunney, Sonya Fallgatter, Laura Eckstein, and Jody Marcussen for providing snacks for break.

Horticulture Educator: Tracy Payton Miller has completed her dissertation and is now completing research.

New Business: Kathy Kelly will start touring member's personal gardens in May. The State Master Gardener Conference will be 6/13 at Langston University.

The vote on the Pledge of Allegiance was 35- yes, 13- no. We will recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the General Meetings.

Meeting was adjourned by the President.

Respectfully submitted, *Vada Edwards*



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of March 25, 2016, is \$17,451.08. Income includes \$20 2016 Dues; \$95.00 Garden Books/Gloves Sold; \$10 Calendars; \$2,549.55 Garden Party Sales; \$100 NA Medicinal Bed Donation; \$12 Patches and \$30 Cookbooks Sold for Total Income of \$2,816.55. Expense includes \$2,281.25 Plant Pre-Orders; \$30 Speaker Honorarium; \$1,267.76 Greenhouse Sale Expense and \$428.70 Demo Garden for Total Expense of \$4,007.71. Balance at April 25, 2016 is \$16,259.92, less budgeted amount of \$9,323.25, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$6,936.67.

Respectfully Submitted, *Nancy Logan*



Sausage Balls

By Laura Eckstein

Ingredients

3 cups Original Bisquick mix
1 pound uncooked bulk pork sausage, regular, Italian, Sage, or hot
16 ounces shredded cheddar cheese
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 cup milk
1/2 teaspoon dried rosemary leaves, crushed
1 1/2 teaspoons fresh parsley or
1/2 teaspoon dried parsley flakes

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease bottom and sides of a jelly roll pan 15 1/2x 10 1/2 .

In a large bowl stir together all ingredients using hands or a spoon. Shape mixture into 1-inch balls and place on the pan.

Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until brown. Immediately remove from the pan and serve.

Notes: I did everything but bake them the night before. I covered them with press and seal wrap and refrigerated them. Take them out a half hour before baking.

This makes about 100 sausage balls.

Cheese Ball Caribbean

By Kathy Whittle

Ingredients

1 lb cream cheese, softened
2 T sour cream
1/2 c. dried cherries
1/2 c. walnuts, toasted and chopped
1/2 c. scallions, thinly sliced
1/2 t. ground curry powder
1/2 t. salt
1/2 4 oz jar mango chutney
1 c shredded, sweetened coconut flakes

In a large bowl, add cream cheese and sour cream and mix to combine. Add cherries, walnuts, scallions, curry powder and salt. Stir to combine.

On a clean work surface, lay out a sheet of plastic wrap. Transfer cheese to wrap and use it to form a ball. Place in refrigerator for at least 30 minutes. Before serving, transfer cheese ball to a platter and roll in chutney to cover. Sprinkle coconut flakes on the ball until covered. Serve with crackers.

Notes: I brought this to a CCMGA meeting and it was a real hit!

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.



May 13, 10 AM: CCMGA Monthly Meeting, Classroom

May 19, 7 – 9 PM: Third Thursday “Daisy Bouquets”, Will Rogers Exhibition Center, 3400 NW 36th

May 21, 9 AM – 3 PM: Will Rogers Festival in the Park, Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Center, 3400 NW 36th St., Oklahoma City, OK

May 24, 7 - 8:30 PM: Oklahoma Horticultural Society Seminar - Dave Edwards presents "Garden Projects: Taking Stuff and Making Stuff for the Garden". OSU-OKC Agricultural Resource Center, 400 N. Portland Avenue, Oklahoma City

May 27 – 28, 9 AM – 4 PM: Prairie and Pollinator Plant Sale, Myriad Gardens Pavilion. Bill Farris, owner of Prairie Wind Nursery in Norman, and Marilyn Stewart, owner of Wild Things Nursery in southeastern Oklahoma, will set up shop at the Pavilion for a special two-day sale.

June 2-3: State Master Gardener Conference, Langston University

June 10, 10 AM: CCMGA Monthly Meeting, Classroom

June 18 – 19, 9 AM – 4 PM: Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Center, 3400 NW 36th St., Oklahoma City

July 23, 9 AM – 3:30 PM: Oklahoma Nursery and Landscape Association Meet-Up, Linnaeus Gardens, Tulsa, OK. Please contact Kelly Keech at 918-693-6461 to register to attend this free event.

June 28, 7:00 - 8:30 PM: Oklahoma Horticultural Society Seminar - Take a look at the All American Selections Trial Garden at OSU-OKC. OSU-OKC Agricultural Resource Center, 400 N. Portland Avenue, Oklahoma City

TOUR INFORMATION

LOCAL TOUR: CRYSTAL BRIDGE AND MYRIAD GARDENS

DATE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016; TIME: 10 AM

GUIDED TOUR THROUGH CRYSTAL BRIDGES, MYRIAD GARDENS ON YOUR OWN

COSTS: \$6.00 ENTRANCE FEE

We will meet in the South Lobby of the Crystal Bridge. Please arrange to carpool with your friends if possible.

DAY TRIP TOUR: TULSA BOTANIC GARDEN (CHILDREN’S DISCOVERY GARDEN) AND LINNAEUS TEACHING GARDEN (if time allows)

DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2016

COSTS FOR GUIDED TOUR: \$12.00

Please arrange to carpool with your friends if possible. Those planning to make the trip should respond to Marilyn Solomon by email



(Above left) Master Gardeners Helping Wildcare! Fred Schneider has donated a variety of native Oklahoma plants to the Wildcare foundation. A group of Master Gardeners join in the effort to help plant and enhance the landscape of Wildcare's new building. Joining Fred was Vada and Randy Edwards, Jeanne Parker, and Celeste Stonecipher. After the planting we went on a fascinating tour of the seven acre facility. The Wildcare foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to rehabilitating sick, injured, or orphaned indigenous animals and the subsequent return of healthy animals to their natural environment. Wildcare cares for over 2,000 animals annually. Wildcare is also committed to educating people about their impact on wildlife and to foster a greater understanding of the natural world.

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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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.