



The Weeders' Digest

All About Bonsai!

Keith Warren shared his joy and enthusiasm for bonsai with CCMGA members at our April meeting. He showed some beautiful exhibits of these wonderful plants as well as a fascinating slide show filled with interesting specimens. All agreed that bonsai, while not for everyone, presents an interesting pursuit for gardeners. *Pictured, Keith Warren (right) shows off a bonsai tree to Fred Schneider and Barbara Tunney.)*



At the May Meeting...

by Linda Wren

Our guest speaker for the May meeting will be Freddy Hill. He will be speaking on Keyhole Gardens. Here is a short bio Freddy provided: I have been an active gardener all my life. I have been an Oklahoma County Master Gardener since 2002. Water Garden Society of Oklahoma, Central Oklahoma Cactus & Succulent Society and Oklahoma Horticultural Society are some of my other interests. Volunteering and speaking gives me great pleasure, and I am eager to share what I learn about the gardening industry. Medical retirement has given me the chance to concentrate on what I refer to as my "teaching garden" back yard with a great selection of user friendly garden structures. Living in Moore for the last 40 years has been interesting, with grass fires, ice storms and 3 tornados within 22 months. Each rebuild has let me try new ideas." The meeting begins at 10, but join us for snacks and conversation at 9:30 AM.

Bring Quilt Tickets!

Please remember to bring any raffle tickets and money you have for the Raffle Quilt to the May 12th meeting. We will draw for the Quilt in June, so we need all tickets sold back to us in May.

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President's Posting

By Jeanne Parker

April was a very busy and exciting month. We started our Saturday morning Demo Garden Tours. Thank you to Les Brown, Jeane Hardy, and all who volunteered their time.

The Garden Party was a huge success; we had close to 500 visitors. Our gardens looked wonderful and the new garden signs made the gardens look even more professional. Thanks to Judy Kautz for our beautiful and informative signs. The plants in the greenhouse looked amazing and the plant sale was very successful, thanks to Nancy Logan and the greenhouse crew. The drawing for the garden bench was a big hit, unfortunately I didn't win. We can thank Brenda Williams and Linda Wren for the bench. A big thank you to Donna Carter for coordinating the Garden Party and thanks to all who participated and made this event possible.

The Earth Day information table and plant give away also went well. We handed out information and plants to over 60 visitors. Thank you to Joan Barker, Tomoko Yoshida, and all the volunteers.

Now we welcome in May with the May Fair May 6th and 7th and new gardening classes each week. Check the web site for schedules. www.clevelandcountymastergardeners.org New Master Gardener business cards are now available. Check them out at the extension office to distribute at classes and events.

Jeanne Parker



Education Updates

By Kathi Farley

Here are classes being presented for this month:

- ◆ May 10, 8:15 AM, Oklahoma Proven Plants, St. Stephen's Methodist Church, presented by Judy Kautz
- ◆ May 11, 6:30 PM, Vegetable/Herb Gardening, South OKC Library, presented by Cathy Bowden/
- ◆ May 13, 10 AM, Vegetable Gardening, Classroom C/Demo Garden, presented by Theresa January
- ◆ May 20, 10 AM, Herb Class, Classroom C, presented by Lori Coats
- ◆ 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!



We have had a great start in the garden, one rainout tour day but a fantastic Garden Party and Plant Sale! The new signs were finished and placed by each bed and will help everyone who comes to the garden to know what each bed is demonstrating. One more time, thanks to Judy Kautz for the signs (*see photo at the right of Judy placing the first sign!*) and printing and to Kathy Kelly for updating the bed descriptions. Caretakers, please start thinking about what you would like the QR codes for your bed to link to; we can use fact sheets, plant lists, web pages, etc.

May should bring a lot of growth after our recent rains and the beds will look even more beautiful. Please continue checking your plant tags and adding new or replacement tags as needed. Appreciate everyone who has been out working on Tuesday mornings. (*Pictured below, several of our hard working gardeners on Tuesday workdays!*)





Above, Master Gardeners Joan Barker, Tomoko Yoshida, and Fred Schneider at Earth Day. Below, some youngsters enjoy the Garden Party. Far below, Greenhouse helpers!

Submitted by Jeanne Parker



These photos were taken in Honors Heights Park in Muskogee when we went to buy Azaleas this month. They had a number of tulip displays but these were the most eye-catching.

Submitted by Marilyn Solomon



Blooming clematis in my yard.

Submitted by Marilyn Solomon



Do you have photos you would like to share of your yard or garden? If so, please submit them to Elaine Dockray at elaine.dockray@cox.net for inclusion in a future newsletter. Thanks!



Book Title: Attracting Birds, Butterflies, and Other Backyard Wildlife

Author: David Mizejewski. National Wildlife Federation, Manager, Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program

Habitat loss is the Number 1 threat to wildlife today. Without wild areas, humanity, as well as wildlife, suffers.

Planting NATIVE PLANT species is the key to attracting wildlife. Four needs of wildlife are food, water, cover, and places for wildlife to bear and raise their young. If birds cannot bathe, their feathers become dirty thus making flight difficult.

A cultivar (short for "cultivated variety") is a variety that has been created by breeding or cloning. Cloning can result in a loss of the genetic diversity that occurs naturally in the wild. A hybrid is a cross between two species.

Don't plant Bradford Pear, but plant Serviceberry (Amelanchier) which blooms in early spring.

My Note: Spring is here – that beautiful time of year. The lilacs and Japanese Kerri are blooming along with tulips, daffodils, dianthus, lilies of the valley, violets and spring phlox. My husband was excited to see 3 monarchs in our yard. I've seen several different skippers, moths, and butterflies (including admiral, swallowtail, and painted lady). Happy gardening everyone!



Master Gardeners Help Plant Norman's Police Memorial

By Jeanne Parker



Each year the Norman Police Department honors Norman's fallen Police Officers at the Memorial in front of the Norman Police Department. Family and friends will gather for this year's memorial on May 19th. 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 the granite memorial, removed dead plants and planted the salvias and moneywort. With the help of Mike from Marcum's Nursery, the City of Norman and the Master Gardeners, the police memorial is ready for the May 19th honorary celebration.











April Meeting Minutes

By Vada Edwards

Linda Wren introduced our speaker, Keith Warren. Mr. Warren was the co-founder of the Central Oklahoma Bonsai Society and is vice-president of the Orchid Society. He will be speaking on planting and care of a bonsai tree. Before his presentation, raffle tickets were sold for \$1.00. After his presentation a raffle number was selected and Darla Moyer won. She received the project he used for his demonstration.

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

Jeanne Parker called the meeting to order. Members stood for the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from March were presented for approval. Cathy Bowden made a motion to approve the minutes and Marilyn Solomon seconded the motion.

The new metal signs were explained to the members and a picture was presented. Judy Kautz donated the money for the signs and Kathy Kelley gathered the information to update the signs. Linda Wren and Brenda Williams delivered the signs to the garden to be placed by the volunteers. The new Master Gardener cards are ready and will be available in the garden tomorrow. They will be available for classes and information tables. The cards do have our new web address.

Treasury Report: (Nancy Logan) reported on the budget. The cash balance as of March 25 was \$15,458.20. Funds available for the 2017 budget was \$6,511.12. For a complete breakdown of the budget, please refer to Nancy.

Jennifer Fox from OKCMGA is our guest today.

Committees:

Community Education: (Kathi Farley, Carol Craig, and Joan Kemmet Greenleaf) We have been asked to help clean off the Police Memorial and plant new plants and prune existing plants. The plants were donated by Marcum Nursery. This needs to be done by May 19. Volunteers see Kathi after the meeting.

Also, there are 80 kids from the Boys Club that would like volunteers to partner with them to maintain their gardens. Any volunteers please see Kathi. A new sign for up-coming classes will be posted at the front gate. The sign will have classes for 2 months. We have new information on Lori Coats presentation in May. It will be what to do with herbs once you've grown them. April 21st will be a tour of the iris gardens of Mike Stevens and Elma Gonzalez. We will meet in the parking lot at Home Depot at 8:30. Mike Stevens is the President of the Iris Society and Elma Gonzalez has over 3 acres of irises.

Demonstration Garden: (Theresa January, Kathy Kelly): The garden looked great before the rain. The new signs are installed and we will soon be asking for information to go on the QR code. The tropicals are not out yet, but everything else looks good. The fountains are working well. We are unable to find a source for bulk cotton seed hulls to use as mulch. We will try to get wood chips in a few weeks. The large OK Proven bed still needs a leader. We have a box composter to give or sell at the Garden Party. There are several dwarf pomegranate plants for sale.

Garden Tours: (Les Brown, Jeane Hardy): The tours are going great. The first tour had 47 visitors. 49 visitors came on the second tour date. A group of children from Trinity Lutheran Church came for a tour. They are starting their own gardens.

Greenhouse: (Nancy Logan): The greenhouse is full. The plants are the best ever. We needed very few plants from Prairie Wind Nursery to supplement ours. We can go to Prairie Wind Nursery on 4/17 and 4/22 from 9-5 to select our own plants. 25% of the sales from our members will be donated to the CCMGA. Be sure to wear your name tag to Prairie Wind to identify you as a CCMGA member. The greenhouse plants will be available for sale for the next couple of weeks. The plants leftover from the sale can also be used in the demo gardens if needed. We will need volunteers to move tables from the greenhouse and help get set up for the sale. Nancy will validate any new transfers that haven't gotten their new name tag so they can buy at Prairie Wind Nursery.

April Meeting Minutes (continued)

Hospitality: (Patty Hayes, Cindy Mullens): The committee thanked all members that provided food for our meeting. The recipes can be used in the newsletter.

Public Relations: (Judy Kautz) Information on Prairie Wind Nursery is in the newsletter and also on our web site. Lois Cox worked very hard on the web site and did a good job. The OKC paper did a blurb on the Farmers Market and our Garden Party. New maps of the garden will be available at the Garden Party. Judy mentioned a garden in Midwest City named Canterbury Garden. They are open 4 times a year and the next dates are April 20, 21, and 22. They have excellent plants for sale. You can get on their mailing list. Judy also asked for members to send their bios for the newsletter.

Programming: (Linda Wren, Brenda Williams) In May our speaker will be Freddy Hill, an OKC Master Gardener, speaking on "Key Hole Gardens". June has Chris Ward with the Cleveland County Conservation Agency speaking on rain barrels. We will have Andrew Sartain from Earth/Rebirth in July and Jim McDaniel will speak in August on repairing drip irrigation systems. We hope to have a member of the Audubon Society come in October to speak on plants essential to birds.

Special Events: (Donna Carter) Pat Welty has the flu so won't be able to work the Worm Motel. Carolyn Paul has volunteered to help but needs another member to assist her. Susan Aikman volunteered to help. Donna needs 8 tables moved from the classroom to the garden. We need 2 more canopies. Remember to bring lawn chairs. Members are welcome to help even if not on the list. The placement of craft tables was discussed. Need rocks to hold papers down. Also discussed were the areas of standing water and how to deal with them. Be in the garden by 8:00 to help with set up.

Horticulture Educator: (Tracy Payton Miller) No new information.

Fund Raising: (Alice Humprey, Brenda Williams, & Linda Wren): The raffle of the Bonsai tree brought in \$64:00 for our organization. We will sell tickets for the raffle of the bench and the quilt at the party tomorrow. The bench will be raffled tomorrow and the quilt on June 9.

Marilyn Solomon has not been able to contact two people that went on the tour of the Tulsa Botanic Garden to give them a refund. People who knew these people said they would be fine with donating the money to CCMGA.

Meeting was adjourned by the President.

Respectfully submitted, *Vada Edwards*



Treasurer's Report

By Nancy Logan

Beginning balance as of March 25, 2017, is \$15,458.20. Income includes \$40 Dues 2017; \$46 Garden Books Sold; \$130 Gloves Sold; \$23 Tulsa Trip Refunds; \$4 Nametag Jar; \$28 Pomegranate Plants Sold; \$20 T-Shirts; \$65 Bonsai Raffle; \$221 Quilt Raffle; \$219 Bench Raffle; \$100 Donation to NA Medicinal Bed and \$5,130.71 Garden Party Plant Sales for Total Income of \$6,026.71. Expense includes \$361.50 Demo Garden; \$500.50 PW Plants Purchased for Sale; \$25 Memorial Brick/Charlie Altom; \$50 Speaker Honorarium and \$487.20 NA Medicinal Bed for Total Expense of \$1,424.20. Balance at April 25, 2017 is \$20,060.71, less remaining budgeted expenses of \$7,522.88, leaving funds in excess of budget at \$12,537.83.

Respectfully submitted, *Nancy Logan*



Flourless Whole Meyer Lemon Cake (Gluten Free)

By Julie Johnson

Ingredients

CAKE

3 or 4 large Meyer lemons (12 oz. to yield 1 cup of puree)

3 large eggs

1 c. sugar

1 tsp. baking powder

3 c. almond flour or meal (flour yields a smoother texture)

1 tsp. lemon extract

ICING

3 Tbsp. unsalted butter, room temp.

Juice of one lemon + some of the zest

1 ½ cup confectioner's sugar

Set oven at 325 degrees

Wash lemons & put in pot, cover with water and boil for 15 min. Remove from heat, drain & cool until easy to handle.

On a plate, to save all juices, cut the lemons in half & remove seeds, keeping everything else.

Put seeded lemons in food processor & process until finely pureed, scrape sides as necessary & process until smooth. You will need 1 cup of puree for the cake.

Beat eggs & sugar until pale in color. Add the lemon extract. Fold in almond flour or meal, as you choose. I used the almond meal which gives the cake a texture. The flour will be a smoother texture.

Add baking powder & lemon puree. Mix until all combined.

Put all in a 9" spring form pan that has been buttered, sides & bottom. Smooth surface to even. Bake for 50-60- min. until toothpick placed in center comes out clean. Cool on rack for 10 min. in pan then release sides and move to a rack to finish cooling.

Make the icing: Combine sugar, butter & lemon juice. Beat until smooth & creamy. Adjust texture by adding more sugar or juice until desired consistency. Spread on cooled cake, just the top, no need to frost the sides. I added some of the zest into the frosting. Also, if you can't find Meyer lemons, use regular ones, as the recipe comes out just fine. Enjoy!!

Frozen "Delite" Pie

By Jim McDaniel

Ingredients

1-8 oz pkg low fat cream cheese, at room temperature

1 can low fat sweetened condensed milk

2 Tbsp lime juice

1/2 cup Stevia

1 tsp vanilla

1 cup blueberries, fresh or frozen

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

1 graham cracker pie crust

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese with mixer until fluffy. Add condensed milk, lime juice, Stevia and vanilla, beating until smooth.

Fold in blueberries and Cool Whip. Mix well and spoon into pie crust. Cover and freeze. Serves 8

Note: This is the pie I brought to a garden work day lunch recently.

Note 2: I have made this pie using 1/2 cup Hershey's cocoa, 1/2 cup Hershey's Lite syrup, 1 cup blueberries, 3/4 cup peanut butter, 1-8 oz can crushed pineapple, drained and 1/2 cup lime juice. Use same directions.

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 12 — 10 am: CCMGA Meeting. Cleveland County Extension Office, Classroom C.

May 13, 9 am – 4 pm: OKC Garden Fest. Myriad Gardens, Oklahoma City. The festival will feature herbs, perennials, roses, produce, pottery, jewelry, wineries, food products and food trucks. Activities for children will also be offered and there is no charge for attending. This year will again feature an area with information for those wanting to start a butterfly garden or Monarch Waystation, an intentionally-managed garden that offers food and habitat for the Monarch butterfly population. Several vendors will offer milkweed for Monarchs along with other pollinator friendly plants. New this year will be educational talks and demonstrations about gardens and pollinators.

May 20, 9 AM – 3PM: Open House at OSU Botanic Garden. Stillwater, OK.

May 27, 10 – 11 AM: Myriad Gardens Walking Tour. South Lobby Crystal Bridge

May 31: Native Plant Conference. Wes Watkins Center, Room 110, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK. Registration must be postmarked by May 19 & Refund Requests must be received by May 19. Contact Stephanie, 405-744-5404, stephanie.larimer@okstate.edu.

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 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

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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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Tracey Payton Miller
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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.