

## CBMGA Plant Ramblings

June 09, 2016

WOW! CBMGA had a really great meeting this past Thursday. We had two great speakers on canning, our wildflower project going forward with the arrival of the wildflower seeds, information of the Master Gardener State Conference, two field trips were announced and propagation of hydrangeas were covered.

Our own Master Gardeners Jill Klepzig and Rhonda Leshar shared the honors of speaking on various aspects of canning.



Jill spoke first on pressure canning, demonstrating the parts of a pressure canner and how important it is to make sure all of the parts are functioning properly and are in good shape. Jill had several things she had canned in her pressure canner showing that properly done, home canned goods can last from one to two years depending on the contents.

Rhonda Lesher spoke second and initially spoke on canning in what is called a "hot water bath". Rhonda gave some great tips on what is needed and why it is needed to do hot water bath canning.



Rhonda shared not only her dill pickle recipe, she shared some of her dill pickles so that everyone could see how they tasted...and as someone who loves dill pickles, they were wonderful. Rhonda pointed out that if what you are canning is acidic, then it can be canned in a hot water bath and does not need to have the extra heat achieved from pressure canning.

The group had several questions about canning from what kind of produce did best in which kind of canning to how long to pressure can different products, all of which Rhonda handled with ease. Rhonda told the members that if they had any questions about canning, they could just call 1-800-HelpMeRhonda(it's a joke folks).

Some of the information that was presented came from

[Texas A&M Food Processing](#)

Thanks Jill and Rhonda for such an informative presentation.

As part of achieving their volunteer hours, Phyllicia Moore and Martha Deming worked on researching and compiling information to apply for awards given out by the state organization, Texas Master Gardeners. And as it turns out their hard work got Cypress Basin Master Gardeners their first award from the state, and it was a First Place!



Great work on Martha's and Phyllicia's part in researching what was needed to apply for the award. Their research took them to Dale Van Hoose and Rhonda Leshner who are working with Dr. Scheiner in the first in the nation Earthkind® Grape Trials. Martha said compiling the information and applying for the award was like doing a research paper in college. But all their hard work paid off with a First Place award for Research on our grape trials.

# Texas

Master Gardener Association

Search for Excellence

2015 Awards

Presents

**1st Place**

Medium Large Association Category

To

**Titus County**

Cypress Basin Master Gardener Association

**Research**

Earth-Kind Grape Trials

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
EXTENSION

*Mary Means*  
Mary Means, President  
Texas Master Gardener Association

*Jayla Fry*  
Jayla Fry  
State Master Gardener Coordinator



Tommy and Rosemary Morgeson attended the state convention this year in Collin County. The convention lasted three days and had

numerous presentations by experts in almost every field of horticulture. Tommy gave a presentation on the convention and what they learned while there.



Tommy said attending the convention was a wonderful experience and highly recommended that everyone that ever has an opportunity to attend one do so. They met with people from all over the state and shared information on how the different Master Gardener groups conduct their organizations. They were able to view the grounds at the site where virtually everything that is being grown there is being done using Earthkind® methods.

Kay Miller then spoke on two upcoming field trips for members of CBMGA. One to the Overton Field Trials and the other to the Blueberry Farm in Quitman. Both of these events are posted on the website on the calendar at [CBMGA June Events](#).

Kay then presented what is hoped to be a monthly presentation by the membership on how to propagate a particular plant. This month

Kay demonstrated a method of propagating hydrangeas. The method involves using the mother plant as the host, inducing a branch to take root at a point on the branch while still connected to the mother plant.



Here Kay shows one of the branches she is working on propagating. Two members passed milestones in their participation in Master Gardeners. Jim Falk and Erna Hess. Erna moved to our location a couple years ago but she earned her 15 year award. Great job Erna.

And so as I began, it was quite the night with a lot going on. There will be much more in the near future as the newsletter matures.

And if you want to know more about plants, how to grow, care for, propagate, nurture and reap the benefits of, then stay tuned. We are just getting started.

CBMGA