



Grayson County Master Gardeners

Garden Chatter

Monthly Newsletter October 2022

Next meeting

Tuesday, October 11

11:30 a.m. FIELD TRIP

Meeting on location

at Gary and Judy Milton's GoGardenland Farm

1102 Harrell Rd., Howe

Tour of the farm & greenhouses.

Bring your lawn chair. Ride with a friend!



Grayson Co. MG Meeting Schedule

November

11/8 11:30 a.m. GCMG meeting @ Grayson Co. Courthouse, Sherman. Speaker will be Marilee Crawford, Collin Co. MG, "Gardening Under Glass" to learn about Constructing and care of terrariums.

December

TBA No meeting - Christmas Party!

Grayson Co. Master Gardeners Outreach – Julie Cummings

The Grayson County Master Gardeners participated in the local festivals this month:

Sherman Arts Festival on September 17th. The Master Gardeners had a great time meeting the community and sharing information about the Master Gardeners' program.



Kate Fitzwater, Michelle Briethaupt, and Kat Lowry are all set for the Sherman Arts Festival.

Pottsboro Frontier Days offered another opportunity to for the Master Gardeners to mingle with a variety of folks. The Master Gardeners got their hands dirty sharing how to make Flower Bombs with fellow flower enthusiasts.



Master Gardeners Judy Fischer, Connie Gullet, Barbara Vilbig, and Julie Cummings overseeing the making of the seed bombs with community children.



Marigay Black and Raye Nilius instructing kids on how to make seed bombs.



Barbara Grisham, Judy Fischer, and Connie Gullet at Pottsboro Frontier Days.

It was a great experience, and we look forward to our next event on October 8th at Eisenhower's Birthplace. We will be there helping to celebrate his 150th birthday.

Sherman First United Methodist Meditation Garden – Frances Nelson

Well, here we are at the end of September and the weather seems to have gone awry. With that fun entry, let's get going with the Garden-

This month has been a project of reclamation at the Meditation Garden. The irrigation system has kept things alive and overgrowing and that includes weeds, but we have risen to the occasion with shovels, pruners and sheer determination. A heartfelt thank you to everyone that came to work and were not scared off.

The zinnias, gregg's mist, gaura, blackeyed susans, scabiosa, and baby vitex trees have all flourished and, trust me, if you need any transplants of these or seeds we are the place to get them! Also many more varieties I just can't remember.

We have been clearing out bed by bed and mulching as we go. (thank goodness I had lots of mulch delivered this past spring)

Come by when you can, sit and enjoy nature, leave with a quiet spirit.

**Whitesboro United Methodist Memorial Garden
– Sue Abernathy**

Thanks to Robin Clark, Carol Kelley, Donna Rogers, Kathleen Elberson, and Mary Whitehurst for dividing the remaining iris in the Memorial Garden during our September workday. Sections of both Ida Red and twice blooming yellow iris were separated and replanted in the garden just in time to reestablish and bloom next spring.



While they were digging, trimming and replanting, I had the pleasure of planting a 'Mars Madness' hardy hibiscus in memory of a church member. Thanks to Barb Grisham for her recommendation on this line of cultivars. Also, the Turk's Cap in the garden is spectacular this year and should be producing babies for the spring plant sale!

After working, we enjoyed lunch at 56 Deli.

Pottsville Library Garden – Marigay Black

Our PLG garden is switching from summer growth to fall colors.

The Texas Gold lantana has finally been set free of the marigolds and is showing off. The Salvia farinacea is framed by the orange Cosmic cosmos behind it. The double purple Datura has several blooms just waiting for the right moment to open in unison.

There are a few tomatoes on the vine, and the peanut plants are sprawling under them. There's Texas Star hibiscus in bloom, mint, Senna Lindheimer, and Cowpen daisies – oh, no, how did they get in there!!!

Thank you, Kat, for watching over the watering duty!



Happy Gardening Y'all!

Eisenhower Birthplace – TJ Farler

The various gardens at Eisenhower Birthplace are showing their full fall beauty as we transition from late summer into fall. While spring is full of anticipation of what might appear, fall confirms the day to day work of the plants in spite of what the weather has been.

This past week we saw bumblebees intently working while the butterflies were dancing from flower to flower. Both Queens and black swallowtail butterflies fluttered through the various gardens. Many of the plants are preparing to drop seeds that in turn will sprout into next year's flowerbeds.

Join David Turner, Project Lead, Mavis Sauer, and TJ Farler at the Eisenhower Birthplace gardens each Thursday morning. We spend time watering and weeding and watching all of the beauty found in the gardens.



The Queen (*Danaus gilippus*) is busy feeding on the *Salvia greggii*.



David Turner and Mavis Sauer sprucing up the beds in front of the pavilion.



The northeast garden at the four corners is full of *Zexmenia* (*Wedelia texana*).



The fall crocus (*Sternbergia lutea*) are emerging in the beds in front of the office.

For anyone interested in the Junior Master Gardener program, there will be a Learn-Grow-Eat-Go training on November 14th from 8:00a to 3:00p in the Assembly Room at the courthouse. No cost for GCMGA members. Community members or teachers can take the training; cost is \$25.00. Bring your sack lunch; water provided. If you have questions, contact Julie Cummings or Joyce White.

As always, I appreciate your input, and thank you for volunteering to make our program a success!

Harmony Park @ Sherman Public Library – Becky Hogenson

Harmony Garden at Sherman Public Library has new features! The city installed climbing rocks and a wheelchair/stroller/walker friendly path.

Looking forward to creating a small sensory garden - suggestions for sensory plants???

Education & Training – Marigay Black

We held our second VMS workshop on September 28th. We plan to continue these workshops periodically if further help is needed. If you would like some one-on-one help, please contact me or Norine Cherry via email or text. We can set up a time and place to work on your reporting.

As I write this, Sue Abernathy's seminar on October 1st at the Whitesboro Library is upcoming. By the time you receive this, it will be a thing of the past! The title of her presentation is "Butterfly Gardening 101." She prepared a handout of Top 20 Native plants and nurseries that offer them for sale. Let me know if you'd like one.



Print Media – Patty Cressman



Raye Nilius wrote a great article in our *September Chatter* titled “Petulant Fig Versus the Giant.” The article is about her experience growing the Petulant Fig and the Texas Blue Giant Fig. It was published in the *North Texas E-News* on September 15, 2022, and on our web page. Thank you, Raye!



All budding journalists/writers are invited to write an article for our Media Project. The article must be on a horticulture subject and have a minimum of 300 words. You may include pictures with your article to dress it up. Writing an article for our Media Project is fun, and you can claim up to two (2) hours for each article written towards Print Media volunteer hours. I challenge all Master Gardeners to submit at least one article this year on your favorite plant. Since our mission is to educate the public, writing an article helps achieve that goal. Let me know if you are interested. My email is pattycressmanmg@yahoo.com.

Monthly Reminders/Announcements:

- Be sure to like and follow our official **FB** page at <https://www.facebook.com/Grayson-County-Master-Gardeners-754645524899641/>
- Do you shop at **Amazon.com**? Do you want to support the Master Gardeners? Simply shop from smile.amazon.com/ch/20-3790612, and Amazon will donate a portion of your sale to Grayson County Master Gardeners...win-win!
- We have put together a **photo directory** of current members of the GC Master Gardeners. If you are a current member (or intern) and would

like to participate, fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/Jss9cr9KzpJLRmp46>.

- Want to see the current photo directory? Go to <https://txmg.org/grayson/> and choose Members Page (use the MG password). The **Membership Photo Directory** is at the top of that page.
- **Do not forget to watch for the e-mail each month calling for you to record your volunteer hours, CE units, and meetings!**

Online Continuing Education Credits (CEs)

In 2022, online CE courses will continue, and our in-person classes will be available too. We are also planning to offer Zoom meetings and classes during the year. They will be announced via email.

I'll briefly mention the sites; please remember that any class that is NOT sponsored by Texas Agri-Life will need pre-approval from Joyce White.

You can access the courses at <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>. When you get to the home page, scroll down toward the bottom, and you'll see two columns: *Events* and *Online Courses*. There are new courses that have been added, again some free, some fee-based; there are now 302 items to scroll through.

There's also a web page titled AgriLife Online Courses at <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/catalog>. Create your account and choose your interest. Browse by “category” or “courses” for a broader list of classes. There will be a short quiz at the end of the material, then you'll be awarded a certificate of completion, and your progress is stored in your account. Some courses are free, and others may require a fee but there's plenty of variety from which to choose.

Navigate to our Texas state webpage at <https://txmg.org/events>, and check out the lineup for virtual classes there.

Collin County's web page is <https://ccmgatx.org>. Check it out. Denton County also has some virtual classes. Check them out at <https://dcmga.com>.

Another resource is the Native Plant Society of Texas, <https://npsot.org/wp/>. Navigate to *Resources* and then to the *Virtual Event Calendar* for a listing of free online courses. Also, under *Education*, there's the *Native Landscape Certification Program*.



OF GARDENS

Creede, Colorado Pocket Garden
By Becky Hogenson

While in Colorado, I saw this adorable pocket garden in Creede. They took the space of a burned out downtown building and created an art garden.

Art shows are frequently held in this garden. Native wildflowers and gorgeous annual flowers are scattered among sculptures. Petunias are amazing here!!! The back wall has a mural and banners advertising local artists are hung along a side wall. There are a few benches and folks can also sit on the bed walls.

The entrance is created with a wrought iron fence and willow branches intertwined. This garden just pulls you in to explore. Wouldn't it be fun to do this in Grayson County — Denison already has spots that would work — hint hint hint.



The Last Word...

A beautiful poem by Barbara Grisham, written in the fall of 2020. Thank you for sharing, Barbara!



Glowing pumpkins rest upon the soft
brown ground

Waiting for children to put their arms
around

"This one's mine" - - we hear the shout

As little legs run all about

What better reason for a pumpkin to
grow

Than for the joy and hug of a child to
know!