

Over the Garden Gate



www.txmga.org/wichita

Volume X, No 11, November, 2018

As Wichita County Master Gardeners, November 6, 2018 is Election Day in two ways: first, it is the date for the general election, and second, it is the date for our Master Gardeners meeting and election of 2019 officers as well as vote on the 2019 budget. I hope you will make plans to attend this important meeting.

The officers to be elected are those presented in our October meeting by the Nominating Committee. No nominations were made from the floor. As per our by-laws, the officers are to be presented as well as nominations made from the floor at the October meeting and then the vote taken without discussion at the November meeting. The officers are listed below as presented in the October meeting:

Mary Rhoads, President	Jeff Blacklock, Vice-President
Michelle Howard, Secretary	Dennis Dohrer, Treasurer
Mary Barry, State Delegate	Peggy Scarlott, State Delegate Alternate

NOTE: The officers are elected for a one-year term, and the State Delegate and Alternate are elected for a two-year term.

In addition, the 2019 budget will be voted on as presented in the October meeting.

We have no program scheduled for the November meeting; however, the Rolling Plains chapter of the Master Naturalists have extended an invitation to the Master Gardeners to attend their meeting and hear their guest speaker. This would be a great opportunity for those of you in need of earning some training time (CEU's) for the year, and the information is as listed below:

Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 (same evening as our Master Gardener meeting) **Time:** 7:00 PM
Place: Midwestern State University, Bolin Hall #209

Speaker: Dr. James Estus **Topic:** Sunflower Family

I hope to conclude our Master Gardener meeting by 6:45 in order for you to attend the Master Naturalist meeting and hear their speaker, if you so choose.

Please remember that our current treasurer, Ernie Putthoff, is collecting the 2019 Master Gardener dues of \$15.00. These dues are to be paid on or before the end of January, 2019. In addition, the minimum number of hours to maintain certification as a Wichita County Master Gardener, 15 volunteer hours and 6 training hours (CEU's), must be completed and entered onto the volunteer computer system screen on or before December 31, 2018.

I hope to see each of you at our November meeting.

Jeff Smith

President, Wichita County Master Gardeners

Local Events

November 6, 5:30pm:

The Wichita County Master Gardener Association meets at Rolling Meadows, 3006 McNiel, in the Media Center upstairs.

November 15, 5:30pm:

The Burkburnett Garden Club meets at First Bank, in their Community Room. The program will be brought by Blair Ramon of Gilbert Creek Garden.

Enter your volunteer (15) & Training (6) hours in the MG
volunteer management system <https://texas.volunteersystem.org/>

Association Contacts: Jeff Smith, President, 806-259-2751; Mary Rhoads, Vice-president, 940-704-5606; Michelle Howard, Secretary, 940-689-9184; Ernie Putthoff, Treasurer, 940-592-5463.

State Directors: Mary Barry and Grant Barry; alternates: Becky Trammell and Dennis Dohrer.

WCMG Webpage: Beth Turlington, administrator **Newsletter & Facebook:** Gail Elmore, editor/admin

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Traveling Gardener



Seed Savers Exchange, a non-profit organization whose mission is to "conserve and promote America's culturally diverse but endangered garden and food crop heritage" was started in 1975 with seeds from a morning glory and German Pink tomato. Upon the passing down of these seeds, the family realized without an effort to conserve such heirlooms, many varieties of fruits and vegetables would be lost to future generations.

The seeds saved are heirloom, defined as seeds with a history of family cultivation/preservation, and open-pollinated, which means pollination by natural means such as wind, insects, and birds.

What started as a conservation endeavor is now an 890 acre farm composed of preservation gardens, historic orchard, and cattle operation along with hiking trails and a trout stream.

We enjoyed exploring the grounds and gardens of Seed Saver. This is an operation beyond just a few people sharing seeds.

Finding a monarch caterpillar feasting on a milkweed certainly made the visit more colorful.

Interested in more information or becoming a member, check out the website at

www.seedsavers.org/.

Photos & comments by Becky Trammell



Did you know?

You can lift your caladium bulbs and sweet potato vine tubers and store them over the winter to be planted out again next spring. I have done this for the last few years with great success.

For the caladiums, use a small garden fork to lift the bulb out of the ground. Be careful not to get too close to the bulbs, as you can slice right through them. Cut off any remaining leaves from the bulb, and allow it to dry out for a few days if it is warm outside. After the soil has dried, use a small brush (I use a tooth brush) to gently brush off the soil from the bulb. Then bring the bulbs inside to continue to dry out for a few weeks. I put the same cultivars on a labeled paper plate and place them on a bookcase in the spare room. After you are sure they are dry, wrap them in newspaper, with a layer of paper between each bulb, and place the bundle in bulb bags or burlap sacks or paper sacks and store in a cool, dark place inside until late spring. I put mine in an empty dresser drawer. When you unwrap the bulbs in spring, discard any that are squishy or shrunken.

For the sweet potato vine tubers, use a garden fork to lift the tuber out of the ground/pot after the first blast of cold weather has damaged the foliage. Be careful not to get too close to the tubers, as you can slice right through them. Carefully brush off the soil from the tuber and allow it to dry out for one day if it is warm outside. Then place the tubers into a cardboard box filled with damp sand. I leave my box in my garage for the winter. It does not drop below 45* in there during winter, so it's cool enough for them to hibernate (not get so cold that they die or be warm enough that they try to grow) until late spring. I check on them once a month to make sure that the sand is still damp (you do not want it wet, so spritz the sand with a water bottle if needed) and that the tubers have not molded. Only plant out the healthy tubers in late spring.

From Michelle Howard



Top Left & Center Right: Here's a couple of pictures of the monarchs in my cedar elm tree this evening. They are all over the branches on the north side of the tree (the wind is out of the south). **Center Left:** a picture taken by my friend Kay Dalton, and forwarded with her permission, of a hummingbird with some of the pickerelweed I gave her. Pickerelweed is a pond plant. Photos & comments from Mary Rhoads.

Bottom Right: Praying mantis -On my window this morning :) Photo & comment from Sandy Ledy.



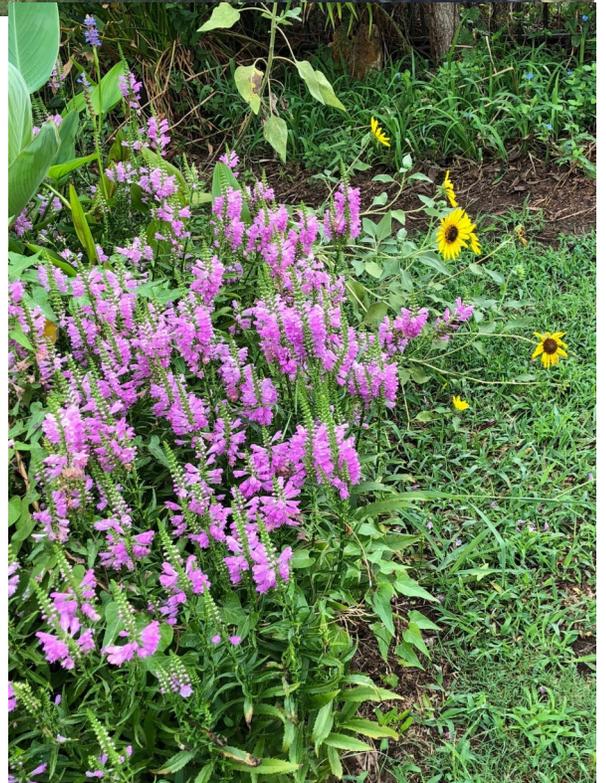
Garden Critters!



Top Left: Native Aster, **Right:** Old Blush Rose, Abelia and Native Aster, and **Center Left:** Cramoisi Superieur Old China Rose. Photos from Anne Dohrer.

Center Right: Obedient plant & sunflowers. Photo & comments from Mary Rhoads.

Bottom Left: Wild flowers now! **Right:** Dwarf pomegranate. Photos from Sandy Ledy.

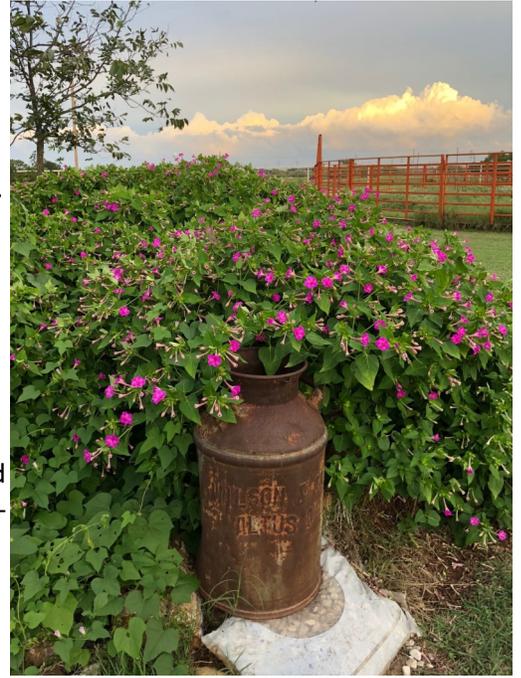


Plants & Flowers!





Top Left: Naturalized ox-blood lilies. I planted these lilies (1 in each spot) in 1976. They made it through the drought and have survived with no care (shame on me!) and bloomed faithfully with any fall rain. **Right:** Four O'Clocks and **Center Left:** Asparagus reveling in the rain. **Right:** Sphinx moth and four o'clocks. Photos & comments by Mary Rhoads. **Bottom Left:** Cosmos and **Right:** Sedums Photos & comments by Sandy Ledy.



More Plants & Flowers

