

# Over the Garden Gate



[www.txmga.org/wichita](http://www.txmga.org/wichita)

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Our transition to the fall season seems to have arrived. Our gardens will soon be done with the arrival of winter, and we can begin to plan our gardens for 2019. Our program for the October meeting may help us in our planning. Mr. Young from Young's Home Orchard is our speaker for our program. The program topic will be berries.

This will be a program you will not want to miss. This will also provide an opportunity for you to earn training time (CEU's), if you are still lacking toward your six hours. Also, do not forget that we will have a plant & seed swap at our October meeting.

Remember, you must have completed 15 volunteer hours and 6 training hours (CEU's) and have them entered on the volunteer screen on the computer system on or before

December 31, 2018 to continue to be a certified Master Gardener. In addition, our current treasurer, Ernie Putthoff, has begun to accept the dues for 2019. The dues are \$15.00 and must be paid on or before January 31, 2019 to continue to be a certified Master Gardener.

Also, at our October meeting, our nominating committee will formally present our slate of officers for consideration for 2019. They are elected for a one-year term. They are Mary Rhoads, President; Jeff Blacklock, Vice-President; Michelle Howard, Secretary; Dennis Dohrer, Treasurer. Our state delegate is elected for two-year term and is Mary Barry (to serve with Grant Barry, second year). Our alternate state delegate also is elected for a two-year term is Peggy Scarlott (to serve with Dennis Dohrer, second year). Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at our October meeting. After the call for question, nominations will no longer be taken. Voting for the officers and delegates is to take place at our November meeting as per our by-laws. **NO NOMINATIONS ARE TAKEN AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING, WE WILL ONLY VOTE AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING.**

As always, I look forward to seeing each of you at our October meeting.

Sincerely,

Jeff Smith, President, Wichita County Master Gardener Association

## Local Events

**October 2, 5:30pm:** The Wichita County Master Gardener Association meets at Rolling Meadows, 3006 McNeil, in the Media Center upstairs. Mr. Young from Young's Home Orchard will speak to us about berries. We will also have a plant and seed swap.

**October 18, 5:30pm:** The Burkburnett Garden Club meets at First Bank, in their Community Room. Our program will be brought by Penny Miller on the Lake Wichita Project.



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

We traveled over 5000 miles this summer and we visited a number of gardens, both community and public. There was one we stopped by in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin I want to share.

We had toured a local public garden along a small creek. As we made our way back to our RV, we passed the local community garden. I know we all live busy lives and things fall off the edge all the time. BUT, the wasted food in this garden made me ill. I can imagine, even in a town like Chippewa Falls, there are people who would appreciate fresh tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, etc. I did get a laugh at the sign that said taking vegetables that were not your own was stealing. GAD, someone needed to get out here, clean up the plants, set up a table in downtown and give this bounty away.

This made me wonder if there is any plan for managing “leftovers” in the community gardens. I’m off my soap box about hunger and food insecurity. Thank you for listening. Becky Trammell



# Notre Dame

These are JMG at Notre Dame. They are planting their fall garden. Photos & comments by Marilyn Putthoff.



# Tree Update!

Here is a picture of the black walnut tree which was in September's newsletter after two deep waterings. It doesn't look like the same tree I came home to in July. Photo & comments by Mary Rhoads.



# Garden Critters!



**Top Left:** I call this little guy Rufus. It was over 100 degrees outside in my garden, and he found a spot under a slow dripping hose to remain cool.

Amphibians like frogs and toads might also call your yard home if you make it welcoming to them. Amphibians are the most endangered group of vertebrate wildlife on the planet, with nearly one-third of species at risk of extinction. Helping frogs and toads in your own neighborhood is a great way to think globally and act locally. Photo & comments by Linda Jarvis.

**Right Center & Bottom:** The Dragonfly has eyes that cover most of the head surface and they can fly at speeds of 20-35 miles per hour. Their prey include mosquitoes and midges as well as moths, butterflies, smaller dragonflies, and other flying insects.

They were a welcomed visitor in my garden this year. Photos & comments by Linda Jarvis.



**Bottom Left:** I counted **26** monarch caterpillars on my orange butterflyweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) last week! When I went out a few days later, they had completely stripped the plant of its leaves, and there wasn't a caterpillar in sight. Unfortunately, I didn't see a single chrysalis. Hopefully, I'll see a few of those monarchs in the next few weeks. Photo & comments by Michelle Howard.



These beautiful creatures are iconic members of desert and prairie communities of the western United States.

“We need to protect the lizard and its habitat while we still can.” The Texas horned lizard has prominent horns on its head and spines scattered over its backs and sides.

To avoid being eaten by predators, the normally flat-bodied lizard can puff up and appear very fat, causing its body scales to protrude so the lizard cannot be easily swallowed. The lizard also ejects blood from its eyes when threatened.

Although reptiles have been around for hundreds of millions of years and survived all past mass extinction events, now, due largely to human impacts, they’re dying off at up to 10,000 times the historic extinction rate, according to the Center for Biological Diversity. Photos & comments by Linda Jarvis.

# Farmer's Market



September 8 was our last market of the year. Despite a raining start we had a good crowd. Thanks to all the gardeners who donated many herb plants. We had people taking plants and information about growing herbs.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with this year's market- from raising and donating plants to manning the booth.

A big Thank you !



**Bottom Left:** M.G. slaving away! Photo & comments by David Graf. (This was an August photo that I missed. Gail)



**Top Left:** Red spider lilies (Lycoris) and white chive blooms. **Center:** A picture of some of the goldenrod you (Gail) gave me. The plant towering over it on the right is a poke plant. **Right:** Obedient plant on the right (pale purple) and pickerel rush on the left. The pickerel rush is in my water garden. Photos & comments by Mary Rhoads.

# Plants & Flowers!



**Center Left:**  
Datura  
(Moon  
Flower)  
**Right:**  
Butterfly on  
Lantana  
Photos &  
comments  
by Sandy  
Ledy.



**Bottom:** Late summer bloomers: **left to right:** Rock Rose (pavonia), Pigeon Berry, Blue Plumbago, Agarita.  
Photos & comments by Sandy Ledy.





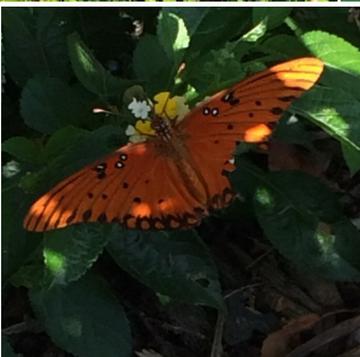
**Top Left:** This is a vine that I have everywhere (brought it from my mother’s house). The birds love the berries—which is why it is everywhere. I do not know the name of it and would appreciate knowing. (Note: Per Paul Dow-learn, this is called Snail Seed—if you clean the fruit off the seed you’ll see why!!!)

**Center:** Texas wild poinsettia (fire-on-the-mountain, *Poinsettia cyathophora*) in my yard. It seeds freely and is attractive to butterflies and Sphinx moths. The Sphinx moth caterpillars feed on its foliage. I have it as a companion plant near my tomato plants although it prefers a “leaner” soil and less water. It belongs to the euphorbia family. The sap is toxic, so wear gloves if breaking the stems. The plants pull up easily, though; so I don’t often see the sap. It is a relative to snow on the mountain and is equally drought tolerant.

**Right:** Some of my fall peach crop from descendants of the trees my grandfather’s family brought with them from North Carolina and Georgia when they came to Texas in the 1860’s. They should be ripe the end of the month or first part of October. They come true from seeds and are a true heirloom. Photos & comments from Mary Rhoads.



**Center Left:** More fall color—red spider lilies and **Middle,** oxblood lilies. Photos by Mary Rhoads **Right:** American Beautyberry. Photo by Sandy Ledy.



**Bottom Left:** Gulf Fritillary butterfly and **Right:** Monarch butterfly. Photos by Sandy Ledy.