

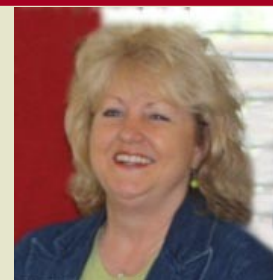
MG Wood Works

Wood County Master Gardeners

March/April 2011 Newsletter

President's Message

The richness I achieve comes from Nature, the source of my inspiration. – Claude Monet



2011 MG Officers
Connie Amsden—President
Jim Willis—Vice President
Shirley Boles—Secretary
Karen Anderson—Treasurer



Spring Fever is definitely in the air! After such a harsh, record-setting cold winter, a warm spring will be welcomed with open arms and excitement. It is time to recover from cabin fever and venture outside. Your backyard has awakened from a long winter's nap, and nothing feels better than a little sunshine. Enjoy the outdoors in your own garden and in volunteering at any of the WCMG projects. Watch for emails with work places, dates and times.

Be kind to our feathered friends who give us such joy and amusement. Birds continue to need food since there is less natural food in early spring than any other time of year. Berries and seeds are consumed during winter and new growth has not begun. To prepare for nesting, clean and repair your birdhouses. Clean and hang hummingbird feeders then watch for their arrival soon. To help attract hummingbirds plant red or orange blooming flowers near the nectar feeders.

March and April are time to fertilize and mulch. It is also time to perform maintenance and repairs on your garden tools and lawn equipment. Assess your lawn and landscape and plan your new creations. Remember to keep a journal of your gardening ventures to aid in future plans.

Want to learn about vegetable gardening? Know someone who does? Invite all your family and friends to come learn about it at our Annual Spring Conference March 12, 8:00 - 11:30 a.m. at the Mineola Civic Center. Whether one is a gardener or is just interested in fresh vegetables, everyone will enjoy the conference entitled "Legacy Gardening – from Heirlooms to the Moon". It is also a great opportunity for MGs to get volunteer hours. Come early to setup and help vendors then stay late for cleanup. It is always much fun and camaraderie.

Need CEU's? Any Tuesday you are welcome to attend the training classes to get hours and meet our newest trainees. Graduation will be held April 26. Check our website for the schedule.

President's Message continued next page . . .

NOTE! Connie is out of the hospital and doing well. She wishes to thank everyone for their concern and kind wishes and is turning her attention to all things spring.

Wood County Master Gardeners website: www.wcmgtx.org

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Editors: Terrell & Lynn AronSpeer

Vision

To be the premier 21st Century outreach and continuing education organization in Texas responding to the needs of the people.

Mission

To improve the lives of people, business and communities across Texas and Beyond through high quality, relevant Education



President's Message continued . . .

Thank you to our State Delegate volunteers: Karen Anderson and Peggy Rogers. Hope you have fun and learn lots at the director meetings and state conference. Everyone is invited to attend the TMGA State Conference in Glen Rose, Texas on April 27-29. See the TMGA website for info.

WCMG monthly meetings....March 17 and April 21

May your garden always flourish....And your weeds always wither.

Happy Gardening,
Connie Amsden
President

Wood County Master Gardeners
2011 Spring Conference

Legacy Gardening -
from Heirlooms to the Moon

March 12, 2011
8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Mineola Civic Center



Texas Master Gardeners
2011 State Conference

April 27-29

Texas Master Gardeners Association Bulletin Board - Jim Willis

Our speaker for the **March** program, Ron Loper, will tell us a bit about the Native Plant Society of Texas organization and will discuss some plants native to our area. Ron is a long-time member and past president of the Tyler Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas. In 2010 he was the State President of the Native Plant Society of Texas. Ron is originally from Jacksonville, Texas, with a BS in Electrical Engineering from UT Austin (1965). He worked 39 years as an engineer in the oil industry for Phillips Petroleum Co., Delta Drilling Co., Kerr McGee, and Energy Production Corporation. Lived and worked in Alvin, Texas; Smackover, Arkansas; Morgan City, Louisiana; London, England; Stavanger, Norway; Odessa, Texas; Houston, Texas; and Tyler, Texas. Now retired, Ron has been married to Ruth (Woods) Loper for 45 years and has two children: Robert – living in Irving, Texas, and Cathi – living in Willamina, Oregon. He enjoys amateur photography, travel, and RV camping.



In **April**, Keith Hansen, Smith County Agrilife Extension Agent, will talk to us about Earth Kind Principles. Keith serves as coordinator for the Smith County Master Gardener Program which has developed many community programs and projects including the Fall Garden Seminar, Fall Bulb Sale, Northeast Texas Garden Guide & Calendar, the IDEA Demonstration Garden, community gardens, and youth garden projects. Some of his current research projects are evaluating shade-tolerant plants for East Texas, and testing Earth Kind soil management recommendations in sandy soils in conjunction with a National Earth Kind rose trial located at Lindsey Park. He has a regular garden column in the Tyler Morning Telegraph on Thursdays.

What is another name for a stolen yam?

Member Spotlight March/April 2011 ~ Shirley Boles

Submitted by: Shirley Boles, WCMG Secretary 2011

We live here in Quitman. I can look out my front door and see Dairy Queen and it's so convenient to just walk over, which can be either good or bad.

We moved here 4 years ago from Houston where we had lived for 20 years. We had always said we would retire to East Texas and had been looking for that perfect place about five years. We would take a week's vacation and look at every available place in our price range and find nothing. When Macy's bought Foley's, we made yet another trip to look again for a house. We had used the same realtor in Mineola each time we came but never seemed to find that dream place. Our realtor suggested we look in Quitman on our final day of looking that trip. I could not imagine living in a place called Quitman but we purchased the first house we looked at that Saturday morning and we have never regretted it.

I was the Manager-Relocation/Admin. to the SVP Human Resources for Sanger Harris in Dallas until Federated merged them with Foley's of Houston and moved the corporate office to Houston. I was offered that same position for the newly merged Foley's. At first Ken was hesitant about moving but in the end he suggested that he thought it was the best move for us so I accepted the job and Ken, who had been in bank- ing for 25 plus years, retired and moved. He is my main support in everything I do, especially gardening. He is the one who saw the advertisement for the classes and suggested to call and sign up.



I am originally from just outside Birmingham, AL where my dad was an electrician in the coal mines. There was not space available for gardening while I was growing up but my Mom and Dad bought some land and had vegetables and many flowers later. Of course gardening is much different there; just ask my Mom who constantly reminds me that she could grow anything there with just a little "guaner" put to it.

She is 91 and has been living with us 14 years. We have four grown children and four grandchildren and another one due March 11th. Our youngest daughter dislikes the gardening and outdoor work but I have a future helped in her two-year, Kayla, who will find every dirt patch in our yard each time they visit...

Almost all gardening is fairly new to me so to simplify things a bit, I have created my own version of a plant book. I write about each thing I planted, and a photo of it and it gives me a quick reference for just my little corner of the world. Many of the plants I really am fond of are the ones I can't get to live. However, I love the ones that are unique and unusual, things that hold their own special place because they are different.

I love the lady bugs, dragon flies and bluebirds. I love to feed the birds and the first time I saw a painted bunting, I was convinced that Ken would not believe me when I described the coloring. He knew immediately what I was describing but on his next trip to the book store, bought me a book on identifying birds.

My favorite things to do are volunteering first at my church and then with others at Governor Jim Hogg Park and Arboretum.

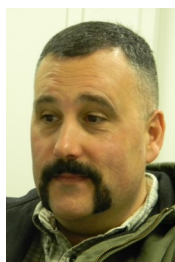
Clint Perkins Gardening Corner

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Azaleas

I got this article from Keith Hansen, CEA-Horticulture in Smith County. East Texas has the unique conditions which allow us to grow some of the most beautiful plants that a landscape can have - azaleas. Abundant shade, frequent rainfall, and sandy, well-drained, acid soils combine for the right ingredients for these spring-blooming beauties.



Spring is a good time to visit a local nursery if the Azalea Trail has you yearning for your own riot of color. It is certainly easier to make color selections when the plants are in bloom.

There are several major groups of azaleas with varying characteristics. Blooms range in color and size, and may be single or double. Azaleas have different growth habits from compact to large shrubs and the blooming season can vary from early to late spring. Some of the variety groups include Kurume, Southern Indica, Glendale, Robin Hill, Rutherford and Satsuki. Within each group there may be dozens of varieties to choose from.

Before you make a purchase, you should invest some time in developing a landscape plan. Plants selected for the landscape should enhance the beauty of the yard, not distract from it or become a maintenance chore. Pay attention to the ultimate size of the plants. The color of the blooms should complement the colors of the house and other landscape plants. Also consider the soil, drainage and light exposure.



By proper selection, you could have a continuous display of azalea bloom from mid March through May. Azalea blooming season is usually classified as early, mid or late. Here is a tip if you do decide to extend the blooming season. Do not mix early and mid-season azaleas in the same bed. The fading blooms of the early flowers will detract from the newly opening blooms of the mid-season flowers.

Azaleas do best when grown in filtered sunlight and a highly organic soil. An ideal exposure would be under the branches of a large tree which drops its leaves in winter. An east or north facing side of the house or fence would also be a good location. However, dense, all day shade can result in leggy plants with skimpy blooms.

The soil must be well-drained. An ideal soil would be a sandy loam high in organic matter. If water tends to stand after a rain, or the soil has high clay content, you will either need to select another site or make some modifications. If you have a less than ideal soil, you can still grow azaleas by making a mound or raised bed with a loose soil mix. Regardless of your soil, add large quantities of ground bark, compost, peat moss, or leaf mold to the soil to increase drainage and aeration.

Plant azaleas with the top of the root mass slightly above ground level. Never bury the crown or let the trunk be covered with soil or mulch. There is no need to dig the planting hole any deeper than the container. Azaleas are usually commercially grown in peat and may be root bound when purchased. Soak the root ball with water until no more bubbles emerge. Also, cut the sides of the root ball on three sides with a knife to encourage new root growth.

Although azaleas are sensitive to waterlogged soil, they have very shallow root systems which can dry out rapidly under dry conditions. Always maintain a good layer of mulch,

(Continued . . .)





such as pine bark or needles, on the surface of the soil. Mulch not only maintains a more steady level of moisture, but also helps keep the azalea bed free of competing weeds. Do not mechanically cultivate the soil around azaleas. Instead, pull weeds by hand.

Water new plantings regularly, checking frequently to be sure you are not keeping the bed too wet. For established plants, be sure to water during the summer to prevent wilting during hot and dry weather. Thoroughly soak the soil in the root zone about once or twice a week.

The most important factor in fertilizing azaleas is to use only small amounts per application. Use cotton seed meal or any of the commercial acid-forming fertilizers made for acid-loving plants and follow directions. To be extra safe, cut the amounts in half and feed twice as often. Fertilize once growth begins in spring and no later than July. Above all, evenly distribute the fertilizer throughout the bed - never in concentrated piles.

Pruning can be done immediately after bloom if you need to cut back lanky shoots or encourage denser growth. Flower buds are formed in late summer, so no pruning should be done after that time.

In the summer, the newer leaves of azaleas may yellow with the veins remaining darker green. This is caused by a lack of iron and is called chlorosis. Iron chlorosis is common when plants are near sidewalks or building foundations where there is a higher concentration of lime from the mortar used in construction. Azaleas growing next to lawns which have been limed may also show iron deficiency. Most irrigation water is also alkaline. Iron chlorosis can be temporarily corrected by applying copperas or ferrous sulfate. Some leaves often turn yellow in late winter or early spring and is no cause for concern since this is a natural process of the plant shedding old leaves.

Finally, there are a few insects which may bother azaleas. Most common is the azalea lace bug. These feed on the underside of the leaves, giving leaves a gray, blanching or coarse stippled appearance. The undersides of leaves become discolored by shiny black excrement and cast skins. Azaleas in sun, and under stress, are more prone to lace bugs.



Happy Gardening!

Clint

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

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2011 Texas Master Gardener Conference

April 27-29, 2011

**at the Somervell County Expo Center
 in beautiful Glen Rose, Texas!**

**co-hosted by
 Somervell County Master Gardeners
 and Lake Granbury Master Gardeners**

Check out our web site below
<http://2011tmgconference.org/>.

Out & About - March/April 2011

by Linda Timmons

March/April 2011

Master Gardener training classes are in full swing. You can check out the full schedule at our web site

(<http://www.wcmgtx.org/documents/WCMG2011TRAININGCLASSSSCHEDULE.pdf>).

March 1st & April 5th - Smith County Master Gardener *1st Tuesday in the Garden* will be held at the IDEA Garden in the back corner of the Tyler Rose Garden. The March program will be "Selection And Care Of Azaleas." The April program will be "Natives in the Garden." Lectures begin at noon. Bring a lawn chair as seating is limited.



March 12th - The annual Wood County Master Gardener Spring Conference will be held at the Mineola Civic Center from 8:30 – 11:30. The speakers will be Judy Barrett, garden writer, speaking on heirloom vegetables; and James Wilhite, owner of Wilhite Landscaping. Admission is free.

March 25th through April 10th – Tyler 52nd annual Azalea Trails. The Azalea & Spring Flower Trail travels through eight miles of residential gardens and historic homes sites. The two trails have been routed to maintain an orderly traffic flow so visitors can see as many flowers as possible. From the courthouse on North Broadway, follow the specifically marked Azalea Trail signs southward to enjoy this outstanding celebration of Spring in East Texas.

April 5th - See March 1st above

April 9th - Friends of the arboretum Spring Plant Sale in front of the Stinson House at the back of the Gov. Hogg Park, Quitman—Starts at 8 AM.

April 16th - SFA plant sale in Nacogdoches Spring Garden Gala Day - 9 AM starting gate.

April 26th – Wood County Master Gardener training graduation and awards. Watch your emails for the details. This is not just for the graduates. This is also when we announce the State Awards and when we recognize WCMGs who are being awarded their 5 year pins.

April 30th – Smith County Master Gardener's Home Garden Tour. Five gardens will be on display. They don't have any of the specifics yet-will post information on the web site as it comes available.

Humorous Mishaps.....by Lynn AronSpeer

Mum's "Other Man"

My mother was always faithful to my father with one exception. This exception was even known to Dad. He managed to swallow the fact of it and, considering all Mum's other stellar qualities, acquiesced to this one deviation within their marriage. Once, when a doctor unwittingly scheduled Dad for a second carotid artery procedure, Mum insisted it be changed, saying she wanted to give her full attention to Dad for the surgery but she had a conflict on that particular date and Dad surely knew of it. (Mum was also an R.N. and figured a surgery on Dad's 2nd carotid artery wasn't as serious as the initial one and that it could wait a day or two.) You see, the doctor had tried to schedule Dad for a surgery on the second day of February.

That's right. Mum was one of *Phil's Faithful Followers* and although their home near Cape Cod was a long way from 'Gobbler's Knob' in Pennsylvania, Mum always watched the whole ceremony on T.V. or, if really pressed by some conflict, listened to it on radio. She would be tired of winter by *Ground Hog's Day* and hopeful for news of an early spring.

I don't remember ever *not* celebrating Punxsutawney Phil's big day. My brothers never got into it but Mum and I shared it annually. Often I would get a phone call at 3:30 AM in California on February 2nd as the news came news was bad, she'd wait a announcement phone call. good and spring was right as soon as she got word. I any given February 2nd, re-the night' was not the cause the other 364 nights of the



She would tell me of the their way through the huge and how each would be in-huge crowd with their nick

Then the two scrolls would be held up for all to see: one for six more weeks of winter and one for spring just around the corner but no one knew which was which.

men in top hats threading crowds to 'Gobblers Knob' introduced to the magnificently names—all weather-related.

Next Phil's handlers would tap on the giant stump atop 'Gobbler's Knob' and encourage the crowd to call out, "Phil, Phil!" Once they deemed Phil had been awakened, his two handlers would step up close to the small double doors built into the stump and prepare to retrieve Phil but first the president would tap three times on the doors while holding a special acacia wood cane. The cane bequeathed special interpretive powers to the holder to understand "groundhogese."

Mum would also remind me year after year that Phil's prediction could not be challenged or influenced so it was a tense moment when he was lifted out. Phil would first be raised high toward his faithful followers and Mum would mention he really seemed to be inhaling the dawn air in a most discerning manner. Finally he was placed atop his stump to choose a scroll.

This year's chosen scroll was read aloud to Phil's Faithful Followers: "The Steelers will go to the Super Bowl and spring is just around the corner." The Steelers didn't do so well but I'm betting on an early spring...

Mum would've found the football prediction trivial and inconsequential but she would have been so happy for an early spring. Go Mum.

~~~ Recipe Section ~~~

Submitted by: **Andrea (Andi) Hawk**

WINTER BRUSSELS SPROUTS:

4 cups of fresh Brussels sprouts, washed and sliced in half
 8-12 fingerling potatoes, washed and sliced lengthwise. Don't peel them and experiment with those purple ones!
 1-1 1/2 cups of pearl onions. red ones would be pretty, it's all in the colors you serve!
 3TBS olive oil
 1-2 TBS balsamic vinegar or to your taste
 1-1 1/2 cups of chicken stock. use vegetable stock if you are that vegetarian
 1-2 TBS butter
 salt and pepper to taste
 1/4 cup cooked crisp bacon pieces, optional
 2 TBS fresh chopped parsley



Heat olive oil in a deep pan on medium high heat. Add the fingerling potatoes and saute/brown approximately 5 minutes, then add the Brussels sprouts and pearl onions and saute/brown another 5 minutes. Add the balsamic vinegar and allow the liquid to evaporate. Add the chicken stock and allow the liquid to reduce to about 1/4 cup. Drop in the butter, add salt and pepper, and stir. Serve with bacon pieces and parsley for garnish.

Brussels Sprout Growing Tip ~ Do not pull the whole plant out as the Brussels sprouts are at different stages of maturity on the stalk, oldest on the bottom and younger growing up. You don't have to use a knife to cut the sprouts off the stalk, they simply pop off with a quick bend. And when your sprouts get closer to the top of the stalk, you cut off the top of the plant so the energy goes into growing those younger ones bigger.

Submitted by: **Ann Norris**

Chicken Noodle Soup:

4 chicken breasts (cooked in water with bouillon cubes)
 8 or 12 oz. Medium Noodles
 1 1/2 to 2 cups chopped celery
 1 1/2 to 2 cups chopped onion
 1 stick butter
 10 chicken bouillon cubes
 10-12 slices American cheese



Cover chicken with water. Add cubes and boil till chicken is done. Remove chicken from pot. Chop chicken into bite-size pieces

Place noodles in the water chicken was cooked. Cook noodles.

Saute' celery and onion in butter.

When noodles are cooked, add chicken and vegetables. Then add cheese in small amounts till cheese is melted.

Season with pepper....but no salt. There is enough salt in the cubes without adding more.

March 2011 Plant of the Month: **Primrose**

By: Sylvia Johnson, MG



Kingdom: Plantae
(unranked): Angiosperms
(unranked): Eudicots
(unranked): Asterids

Order: Ericales
Family: Primulaceae
Genus: ***Primula***

Ahh, one morning you wake up and there is that warming of the breeze and the feeling that winter is just about over. It is about that time that you see your first blooms in the gardens and among those you see the delightful Primrose. Yes, it is spring at last. *Primula* is the Latin word for first (prime) and is applied to flowers that are among the first to open in spring. Perennial *Primula* bloom during the spring; their flowers can be purple, yellow, red, pink, or white. There are over **500** species of *Primula*, the most known is the Primrose. The English and Japanese species of primrose are unusually vivid spring blooming perennial flowers. These two species make up the most popular Hardy Primrose varieties and are the ones most often found in local nurseries for transplant or in seed packets.

SUN: Hardy Primroses prefer filtered sunlight. They can tolerate some sun if kept cool and moist. Hardy Primroses will brighten a shady corner and look especially good massed under a tree. Primrose is a good choice for the north side of a house or as an early spring ground cover under foundation shrubs.

SOIL: Hardy Primroses may be divided into two main categories: the bog loving species and the cliff and rock dwellers. Zone: 3 - 9, depending on species.

Bog Primrose grows best in wet places such as the bog garden, streamside or pond. To successfully grow this species you must water generously in dry weather and must plant them in soil that is so rich in humus and compost that it is spongy. Supplement the soil with large amounts of leaf mold, peat moss or sphagnum moss.

The rock and cliff dwelling Primroses grow the best in loamy soil that has good drainage but never becomes too dry. Primroses need their soil amended with leaf mold and sand or rubble to keep their roots from being soaked but still moist.

(Continued next page . . .)

PROPAGATION: Primrose seeds are very tiny. Sow the seeds in a tray of moist peat moss layered over sterile potting soil. The seeds need light to germinate, so **Do Not** cover them with soil! Place a piece of clear glass or plastic over the tray to help retain moisture until the seeds sprout, then remove the cover. Keep the tray in the refrigerator for 3-4 weeks or in a cold garage below 40 degrees. Move the tray to a 70 degrees location during germination for 3-6 weeks more. Transplant the seedlings to separate pots when they reach two inches tall. They will bloom the following spring. Mature Size: 6" - 30" H by 8" -30" W, depending on species.

Now you see why most gardeners buy starter Hardy Primrose plants from a nursery. It is recommended that you purchase primroses while they are in bloom to guarantee the flower color and species. **Primroses can only be kept indoors if you are able to provide them with cool night temperatures of 50-60° F., filtered sun, temperature below 80 degrees and moist soil.**

A Different Species: The **Evening Primrose** prefers well-drained rather than moist soil. The pH levels in which it can flourish can be neutral to high. It grows in soil temperatures of between 65 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit. This is the recommended primrose to sow outdoor in North East Texas. It blooms between May and July. According to Texas A&M Extension Service, it is best for roadsides, fence lines and in meadows. The Evening Primrose is biennial, which means that the lifespan of the plant is two years. It should re-grow by self seeding. While some consider this species inferior to the Hardy Primrose, it looks pretty in a wild setting. This species yields a large amount of seeds and so can easily spread in the absence of strong competition. Some consider it an invasive weed. Primroses are used as food plants by the caterpillars of some Lepidoptera species, including Duke of Burgundy butterfly.

Edible: The blooms, leaves and roots can all be eaten. The blooms are a surprising addition to a salad for that Wow factor. Toast the seeds and sprinkle on salad or other foods as you would black pepper.

Medicinal Uses: Primrose oil is used in many homeopathic medicines as a base.



Growing Primroses from seed can be a challenge. Most gardeners buy transplants and enjoy the earliest of the spring flowers without all the work for the first year. Primroses that are grown in nurseries make gorgeous plants for that early pop of color in your spring landscape or to brighten that low light area in you home.

Chili Cook-off

Quitman Civic Center, January 28

The WCMGs were well represented at the 2011 Chili Cook-off sponsored by the Quitman Pilot Club. Many thanks to Marvin Marshall, our chili-chef for the second year, for creating a spicy stew that was praised by many of the taste-testers. Also, for volunteers (from L to R in photo) Sandy Marshall, Linda Cowan, and Jerry Watts who set-up, decorated, and staffed the booth during this very successful event!



Submitted by: Becky Watts

John Scheepers Kitchen Garden Seeds

Seed-Starting Timetables ~ submitted by Andrea Hawk

Here is the general seed-starting schedule. It is based on the standard rule of thumb (for seeds that need to be started indoors) to start seeds eight weeks before the last expected spring frost date.

Eight-week General Seed-Starting Timetable

Horticultural Zones 9 & 10: Start seeds indoors now.
 Horticultural Zone 8: Start seeds indoors in early February.
 Horticultural Zone 7: Start seeds indoors in mid February.
 Horticultural Zone 6: Start seeds indoors in late February.
 Horticultural Zone 5: Start seeds indoors in early March.
 Horticultural Zones 1-4: Start seeds indoors in mid to late March.

There are vegetables, herbs and flowers that require more or less time than the standard eight weeks. Here are the seed starting schedules for them:

Vegetable/Herb Seed-Starting Timetable

Four Weeks: [Melons](#), [Bitter Melon](#) and [Cucuzzi Edible Gourds](#).
 Six Weeks: [Asparagus](#), [Fennel](#), [Onions](#), [Rhubarb](#), [Shallots](#), [Tomatillos](#), [Basil](#) and [St. John's Wort](#).
 Eight Weeks: [Eggplant](#), [Tomatoes](#), [Chiles](#), [Sweet Peppers](#), [Chives](#), [Sage](#), [Stevia](#) and [Thyme](#).
 Nine Weeks: [Broccoli](#), [Cabbage](#) and [Kohlrabi](#) (transplant out four weeks before the last frost date).
 Ten Weeks: [Celery](#), [Celeriac](#), [Jicama](#) and [Lemongrass](#).
 Eleven Weeks: [Leeks](#), [Artichokes](#) and [Cauliflower](#) (transplant out four weeks before the last frost date).
 Twelve Weeks: [Cardoons](#) and [Brussels Sprouts](#).
 Sixteen Weeks: [Strawberries](#) (for first year crop) and [Rosemary](#).

Flower Seed-Starting Timetable

Five Weeks: [Alyssum](#).
 Six Weeks: [Cutting Ageratum](#), [China Asters](#), [Celosia](#), [Cleome](#), [Coleus](#), [Nepeta Catmint](#), [Echinacea](#), [Euphorbia](#), [Forget-Me-Nots](#), [Dahlia](#), [Nicotiana](#), [Scabiosa](#), [Snapdragons](#) and [Thunbergia](#).
 Eight Weeks: [Baby's Breath](#), [Black-Eyed Susans](#), [Milkweed](#), [Coreopsis](#), [Gaillardia](#), [Globe Amaranth](#), [Helichrysum](#), [Hibiscus](#), [Hollyhock](#), [Heuchera](#), [Nigella](#), [Platycodon](#), [Statice](#) and [Yarrow](#).
 Ten Weeks: [Dianthus](#), [Digitalis](#), [Lobelia](#) and [Heliotrope](#).
 Twelve Weeks: [Datura](#), [Salvia](#) and [Viola](#).

The Gardens at the Quitman Library

*Contributed by Becky Watts, Quitman Library Gardens POC,
WCMG*



The Library gardens are taking a winter vacation but Becky is not. Please note the following:

The Quitman Garden Club invites you to join them at their monthly meeting. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at 2 p.m. in the Quitman Library conference room. Stop by and enjoy the company of a diverse group of gardeners!

~~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

The Great Backyard Bird Count is nearly here! It is scheduled for 18-21 February. This is a 'citizen-science' project that has been very successful in tracking migrations, movements, and populations of birds across North America. It takes just fifteen minutes and has proven quite valuable, from a scientific viewpoint.

"Begun in 1997, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first citizen-science program to collect and display real-time data on bird sightings online. Today, the Great Backyard Bird Count is one of the most popular annual events among bird watchers, with nearly 100,000 checklists and more than 11 million birds reported from around the United States and Canada during the four-day period in February. As the data pour in and display on maps, web visitors can explore results from their town, state, or region—and compare patterns with those from past years. The Great Backyard Bird Count is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society."

Please, go to the official website, <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/> for more information – including birding forms and data/maps on bird counts.

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March 12th the Wood County Master Gardeners will be holding their Spring Garden Conference at the Mineola Civic Center. The speakers are Judy Barrett, garden writer, speaking on heirloom vegetables; and James Wilhite, owner of Wilhite Landscaping. Registration starts at 8AM, the conference will be from 8:30 to 11:30 followed by tours at the Wood County Master Gardener projects at the Mineola Nature Preserve and the Gov. Hogg Park Botanical Gardens and Arboretum in Quitman. This event is free.

Also, Please note the informative article on Quikcrete and gardening on page 18, which was submitted by Becky and Jerry Watts ~ ed

Special Request from Becky Watts:

If you have a nice mid-size dahlia that survived this cold winter, and you don't mind sharing a start, we'd sure like one for our garden. Color makes no difference, just not the giant dinner-plate variety, please. Thanks, Jerry & Becky Watts



- Wildscape Billie Wilder

We are so fortunate to have so many student volunteers this year interested in recording their volunteer hours before graduation, and we have certainly used their enthusiastic service to full advantage. Photos attached show the end of the work day at the Preserve reflecting the volunteers who were involved in the shoveling, raking and spreading of the compost/mulch on our Wildflower area at the Preserve. We even had Sadie the dog to share in the camaraderie. Some volunteers were cutting dead growth in the beds preparing the beds for spring. Yes, even though it seems a remote possibility, spring will be here before we are prepared, so we continue to have lots of work to be done. We will continue with our Friday workday, as long as the weather permits.



The next Friday work day found the volunteers planting native wildflower seeds in the prepared beds. Certainly the recent rain/snow should help prepare those seeds to become beautiful flowers for our enjoyment, and food for the butterflies and birds, including hummingbirds.



The Nature Preserve brings in the big dog.

Our projects for the year 2011 includes rainwater harvesting onsite for water use, and for educational purposes during the year. We also will have the edible garden and other features for educational purposes during the year. More volunteers' hours will be needed to continue our projects, and maintain the prospering beds at the Preserve. We look forward to our year, and hope that we have many helpers involved with us to enjoy the beauty at the Preserve. We invite everyone out to enjoy the changes of the seasons, which are reflected in our section of the Preserve, as well as the main Preserve where there are ponds, walkways and observation areas to view the wildlife. What a wonderful place to have so near to all of us for our enjoyment 7 days a week, so please come out and take advantage of the area.

The Preserve group will have tours for anyone interested after the Spring Conference on March 12th, so please mark your calendars for the event.

Joan Morgan
Wood County Master Gardener

Raindrops Learn to Classify Plants

This is the Spring semester JMG group in Yantis. They were learning how plants are classified.

Submitted by: Linda Avant

You are invited to view linavant's photo album:
[Yantis JMG Spring 2011](#)





Friends of the Arboretum

By Pam Riley

You can add to your calendar: Every Wednesday at the Arboretum from 9 until everyone is ready to leave, we will be working on the beds and getting ready to build new ones. Anyone who has a good idea or would like to take over the building of a specialty bed, please bring us your idea.

April 9 is the Plant Sale to benefit the Arboretum. All volunteers are welcome and we have some good prices on the plants to start your spring and summer gardens.

April 26 will be the 2011 Master Gardener Class Graduation....fun and food. (Time to be announced at a later date.)

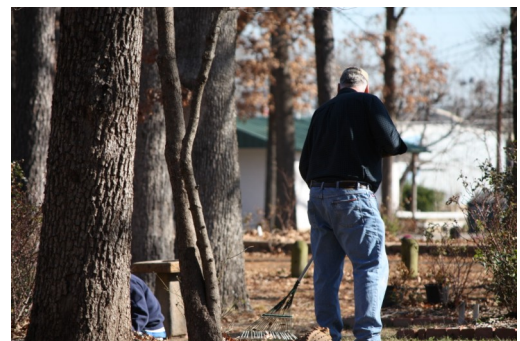
May 14 will be the Quitman Quilt and Art Festival sponsored by the Arboretum. This event brings lots of people to the area to see our beautiful gardens. Remember, volunteers are always needed and very much appreciated.

Winter at the Arboretum.....it's pretty, but it sure is boring so looking forward to spring, flowers, sunshine and warm days. →



← The Master Gardeners who entered the Pilot Club Chili Contest as Friends of the Arboretum had a blast. We won 2nd Place for Overall Best Booth, The Most Fashionable Award, and Best Theme Award and some people actually liked our Chili!!!

Lots of volunteers from the 2011 Master Gardener class have been giving a helping hand at the Arboretum. Don Gallier headed up a cleanup project to remove the old rotted fence from the back of the Stinson House as well as preparing to build some beautiful gardens and beds to set off the Stinson House and the Arboretum. Everyone is looking forward to Spring and warmer weather. →



Special Education Greenhouse Project

Special Ed Greenhouse:

The spring planting of begonia plugs took place Wednesday, February 16th at the Special Ed Greenhouse. There were plenty of trainee volunteers anxious to help. The plugs came from Bruce Miller Nursery near Emory and will be grown for about 6 weeks before having a plant sale. The off season has created a few problems with the greenhouse itself that will require repairs within the next few weeks. The interior door does not close properly and some of the tie-downs for the shade cloth have failed.



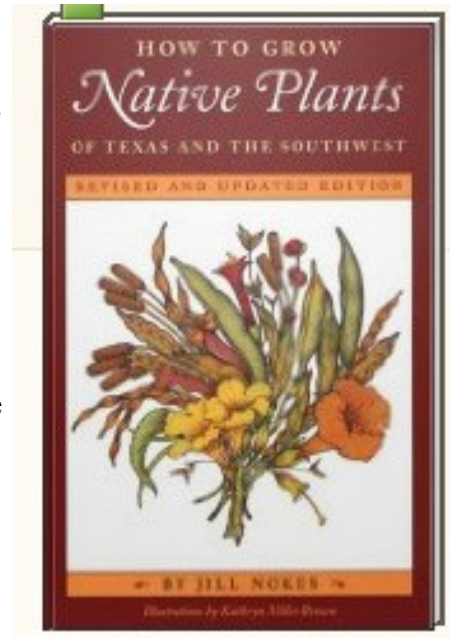
Submitted by: Jim Willis

The picture is from the 2010 spring planting.

Book Review:

A review of one of the books in our WCMG library, *How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest* by Jill Nokes. Check it out!!

"This attractive, clearly written landscape-materials guide will fill a large gap in western horticultural literature and should serve as a model for other regional guides." --Horticulture Since its first publication in 1986, *How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest* has set the standard for both home and professional gardeners. Written when the native plant movement was just getting started, it helped convert a generation of gardeners to the practical and aesthetic values of using drought-tolerant plants in southwestern landscapes. In this new edition, Jill Nokes has extensively rewritten every section to include the latest information on the production, cultivation, and landscape use of native plants. She has added over 75 new species and updated the propagation and care information for the original 350 species of trees, shrubs, and woody vines. In addition to the individual plant descriptions, she also devotes whole chapters to gathering and storing seeds, seed germination, planting, vegetative propagation, and transplanting."



Submitted by Jim Willis

BOOK REVIEW: Enjoy the book reviews? Write your own and send it in. Please e-mail the editor at: [\[terrellaronspeer@peoplescom.net\]](mailto:terrellaronspeer@peoplescom.net)



Improving Lives. Improving Texas.

WOOD COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SPRING CONFERENCE - 2011

“Legacy Gardening-from Heirlooms to the Moon”

Featuring Speakers:

Judy Barrett, Author of Tomatillos: A Gardener's Dream, A Cooks Delight

James Wilhite, Owner of Wilhite Landscaping in Tyler, TX

Saturday, March 12, 2011

Mineola Civic Center, 1150 Newsom, Mineola, TX

Registration: 8:00 to 8:30 a.m.

Conference: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Door Prizes and Raffle

Exhibits

Garden Art, Plants, Bulbs, Jewelry and more!

Tours

Mineola Nature Preserve

Gov. Hogg Park Botanical Gardens and Arboretum, Quitman, TX

For additional information:

Call 903-473-8703; cjswen@verizon.net

Click on www.mastergardenersofwoodcounty.org

EVERYONE WELCOME

SPRING CONFERENCE

There really is a SUN out there. So now is the time to get out and start working on those gardens you have been dreaming about and planning thru the cold and snow of the past few weeks. Come join us at the Spring Conference on March 12 at the Mineola Civic Center from 8:00 to 12:00.

Our speakers will be Judy Barrett telling us about Heirloom Vegetables and James Wilhite of Wilhite Landscaping explaining the "Lasagna Planting Method", the right way and the wrong way plus Planting by the Moon, the Myths and Legends.

Finger foods will be prepared by Wood County Master Gardeners and you know that will be good. We have 3 fabulous raffle items to give away and door prizes from our local supporters. Pictured at right.

This year we have some new vendors at our Conference. Dragon Fly Studio of Mineola (yard art), FNC Ponds Stone & Grass of Tyler, TRM Enterprises (Landscape plants), Ellen Atkins (Mosaic yard art) and Winnsboro Farmer's Market. Returning will be Lost Creek, Rains Co. Garden Club, Potts Feed & Seed, Terrell Aron-Speer and Quitman Garden Club.

So come join us and learn something new and support our vendors. Spring is just around the corner and will be here before you know it.

Judy Barrett



Judy Barrett
Spring Conference Speaker

Judy Barrett was the founding editor and publisher of HOME-GROWN: Good Sense Organic Living for Texas, which was published for 12 years. She was previously the editor of [The New Garden Journal](#) and one of the hosts of the public television series, [The New Garden](#). A long-time organic gardener, Judy writes for various regional and national gardening publications. She is also the author of several gardening books including [Tomatillos: A Gardener's Dream](#), [A Cook's Delight](#) and [How to Become An Organic Gardener in 7 Easy Steps](#). Her book: [What Can I Do With My Herbs](#) was published by Texas A&M Press in the spring of 2009. Her newest book, [What's So Great About Heirloom Plants?](#) Was published by Texas A&M Press in October, 2010.

She is now an occasional columnist on gardening for [Edible Austin](#), [ACRES U.S.A.](#) and the [Harris Old Farmer's Almanac](#).

Judy speaks to groups about gardening across the South and Southwest regions, including garden clubs, events and nurseries, herb societies, Master Gardener and Expert Gardener training.

She holds BA and MA degrees in English from the University of Texas at Austin and has edited books on a variety of topics, including gardening, business, medicine and others.



1st prize Pic Nic Table
Donated by: City of Mineola



2nd Prize Benches Lumber
from Cade Lumber Co.
Crafted by: Dean Rogers



3rd Prize Turquoise
Jewelry by: Peggy
Rogers

Wood County Master Gardeners' Spring Conference

Mineola Civic Center

March 12, 2011

We offer refreshments for our guests.

Please help with finger food

Ψ Only napkins will be available. No plates or silverware.

Ψ If a fork or spoon is needed then it isn't FINGER FOOD!

Ψ Suggestions:

*Cookies, brownies, pigs-in-a-blanket, doughnuts, sandwiches,
torts, muffins, candy...you get the idea.*

*Basically anything that is easy to eat and not messy.
Please no "dip and chips"
(We clean & sweep after the conference!)*

Ψ Please have the food on a plate and ready to serve.

Ψ It would be nice if you included a label with the name of the food.

Preparation of food will count toward your VOLUNTEER HOURS

Try to have food at the Civic Center around 7AM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

Any questions?

Contact Marti McAree

903.765.2116 or dmcaree1313@gmail.com



Quikrete, another tool in the gardener's shed.

By Becky and Jerry Watts

Jerry and I have recently developed a fondness for, of all things, Quikrete concrete mix! This product is great for the do-it-yourselfer. It's easy to use and makes great walkways, drain runs, and utility pads. It contains a pre-mixed ratio of concrete and fine gravel, is very reasonable in price, can be found at any home improvement store, and comes in 40, 60 and 80 pound bags.

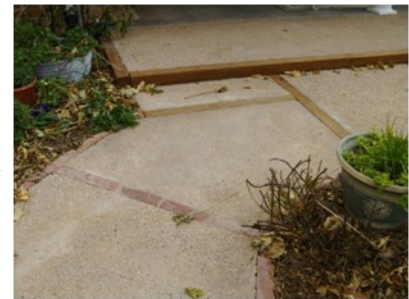
We started with a simple project, a weather-proof bed for runoff. We dug the sod out from the runoff basin, poured in the Quikrete, leveled it and watered it in. As you can see in the photo, it looks natural and easily solves the problem of mud collecting in the drains.



Run-off basin



We then progressed to utility pads and garden walkways. When building these, you must ensure the depth of Quikrete is sufficient to carry any expected weight. The examples we're providing were not designed for vehicular traffic.



The first step in building a Quikrete project, is to select the site and design the pad. In the example shown here, we added a section to the garden path we built earlier. In keeping with our original design, we lined the sides with old bricks, but you can use sections



of treated wood or landscape edging, whatever you have on hand. You just need something to contain the mix. Excavate the area to a depth of 2 to 3 inches (depending on the thickness of Quikrete desired) and tamp down the soil.



Pour the dry Quikrete mix into the excavated area, level it, and then smooth by hand, tamping lightly. We use the flat side of a piece of scrap lumber to do this. It took two 80 pound bags of Quikrete to create this new section of walkway.



Sprinkle a light shower of water on the surface several times over the next 48 hours to set the concrete. Protect it from foot traffic and do not remove the edging until after the concrete is set. We left the brick edging on our walkway for character. That's all it takes! The only limit with this product, is your own imagination! Give it a try!





Submitted by: Jim Willis

Right now we're still feeding birds like this Tufted Titmouse along with their other feeder friends like Chickadees, Goldfinches and Cardinals. But don't forget that those little Ruby-throated Hummingbirds will be here in just a few weeks. Their spring migration brings the first of them here very close to our last frost date. Having a feeder waiting for them when they arrive can make them stop their travels at your house. They will pro-

vide many hours of enjoyment through the spring and summer months. We keep one feeder by the kitchen window and a couple on our deck. Hummers will soon learn to ignore your presence and will keep you entertained when you take a break from your gardening chores.



Hummers appreciate flowers and gardens planted to attract the birds also will attract butterflies. A mix of annuals, perennials, and shrubs works best. The annuals provide quick color and nectar. The perennials and

shrubs will bring the birds back year after year. Some annuals to consider are impatiens, petunia, salvia, shrimp plant, and morning glory. Perennials could include bee balm and cannas. Trumpet vine, butterfly bush, red buckeye and Turks cap will also attract hummers. Choose plants with bright colors that grow at various heights.



During the hummingbird season, Lynn and I support an entire sugar plantation with the jet fuel Lynn mixes up for our resident hummers. After a wild feeding frenzy in the fall they all disappear one day. Then we replace the Hummingbird feeders with thistle socks because the gold finches cannot be far behind. When the finches disappear, we know it is time for the hummingbird feeders again. It is a little OCD, but neither Lynn and I nor our small herd of cats ever tire of watching the action at the feeders.

Most of the birds mentioned above are seed eaters. The hummers are nectar eaters and as such can be good pollinators for some plants. Bluebirds, however, are bug eaters. You can harness their bug eating power by placing bluebird houses in close proximity to your vegetable garden. They are interesting to watch but be sure to clean the bluebird houses out each season as the nesting ritual appears to be part of their courtship. ~ ed.

Contact List

Wood County Master Gardener Projects 2011

Project	Chair	Email
Quitman Arboretum & Botanical Garden	Pam Riley	pam_riley2003@yahoo.com
Junior Master Gardeners	Linda Avant	linavant@peoplescom.net
Quitman Special Ed Greenhouse	Fran McKinney	mckfran@gmail.com
	Clyde McKinney	mckclyde@gmail.com
Quitman Library	Becky Watts	jbwatts@escapees.com
Mineola Nature Preserve Wildscape	Joan Morgan	cdmorgan@peoplescom.net
Mineola Nature Preserve Sensory Garden	Peggy Rogers	peggyrogersc21@gmail.com
Hawkins Helping Hands	Lucy Germany	lgermany@etex.net
Winnsboro Garden Club	Eluria Holland	cutter66ems@aol.com
Winnsboro Morgan Mercy Mission	Jerrie Sutphin	granfarm@peoplescom.net
	Sandra Patrick	sppat57@suddenlink.net
Winnsboro Depot	Jerrie Sutphin	granfarm@peoplescom.net
	Sandra Patrick	sppat57@suddenlink.net
Winnsboro Library	Jerrie Sutphin	granfarm@peoplescom.net
	Sandra Patrick	sppat57@suddenlink.net
Wood Co. Airport Landscape	Connie Amsden	amsdentx@yahoo.com
WCMG Cookbook	Linda Timmons	lindtmms@aol.com
WCMG Training Class	Gail Newman	travlinnewman@aol.com
Spring Conference	Karen Anderson	kkjta@aol.com
WCMG Library	Anita Baker	ldandanita@hughes.net
Historian	Peggy Rogers	peggyrogersc21@gmail.com
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WCMG Website	Linda Timmons	lindtmms@aol.com
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Facebook	Kathleen Denmon	krdenmon@peoplescom.net
Sunshine	Sandra Patrick	sppat57@suddenlink.net
Email Communicator	Sally Houk	sahouk@etex.net
Festival Coordinator	Willie Kay Paredez	jwkpared@peoplescom.net
Volunteer Hours Coordinator (Hrs/CEUs)	Ellen Atkins	ellen.atkins@hotmail.com

SERENITY CORNER

Eileen Bartlett



Dawn

I am the appointed
hour,
The “now” that cuts
Time like a blade

One lovely dawn
after another.

Such peace and serenity!

Meditation with fireflies, mist in the valley, last quarter of the moon,
distant owls – gradual inner awakening and centering in peace and
harmony of love and gratitude.

When the full fields begin to smell of sunrise
And the valleys sing in their sleep,
The pilgrim moon pours over the solemn darkness
Her waterfalls of silence,
And then departs,
Up the long avenue of trees.

From “A Book of Hours” by Thomas Merton. (“A book of prayers, poems, and psalms written in Merton’s unique voice.....”)

Hog Wild

A follow-up to Last Issue's PSA

Last issue I posted a PSA about the FFA Alumni's first annual hog hunt in hopes that Tiger Creek could benefit. The latter would not happen as Terri Werner, director of Tiger Creek, a local big cat refuge, experienced a death in her family and had to travel. She also indicated that with the unseasonably warm weather, she had little hope that any of the hogs would be fresh enough for her cats. But since I had ginned up interest in the event, I felt it my responsibility to bring some closure to the story. Now, I plan to make it a regular event.



Hog Hunt Bling



Typical Weight

This was my first time at a hog hunt weigh-in and I was curious as to what I would find. As a city boy with the walking skills of a trout I personally have never hunted. Philosophically I have no problem with hunting. I have made pudding of a snake too close to the house and prefer T-bones to tofu any day.

I arrived to find myself in a sea of camo, ball caps and spitting. The predominantly male crowd was lightly peppered with women but not enough to have a noticeably civilizing effect. Some small children were also in the crowd, one dressed in camo. How do you keep from losing **that** child?

Shortly after nine AM, on an unseasonably warm Sunday in January, the first hunters arrived with all the hogs they had been able to bring down since the prior Friday. The smell of a three-day-dead hog is remarkable. But, as this is a family newsletter, I have edited out my remarks. Trucks would arrive, their beds and trailers loaded with hogs, dogs and ATV's. Out would step country boys, some lean and wiry, some built like young bulls but all seemed capable of tossing a 150 plus pound hog up on a scale like it was a bag of feathers. Some less experienced hunters would throw up onto the scale, bloated hogs, which were under such pressure we would turn and duck a little in fear that the thing could explode. The more experienced hunters seemed to know where have made a hole.



Typical Hog

There were two types of hunting teams; gun teams (9 registered) and dog teams (6 registered). As the weigh-in progressed it appeared to me that dog teams brought in more and bigger hogs. Also both the hauls and the crowd seemed to get larger as the event progressed.

As a non-hunter who's lawn is occasionally "hogged up" with furrows deep enough to hide a smart car, I was curious as to what sort of equipment was required to bring down a hog. Apparently, almost anything will do. Some were brought down by high caliber rifles. Others fell to shotguns with 00 buck. A few pigs arrived feeling pretty chipper and wondering what all the fuss was about. They had the look of a couple when they realize they are the only ones at the event who thought this was a costume party. They were, as they say in Jersey, taken for a little ride. All that was required was a 22 cal. handgun, commonly used for the discreet mob hit. These pigs would have been fresh enough for tigers. (Continued ...)



Not as light as you might think

Occasionally, when a smaller pig would be tossed onto the scale you would hear an audible Awww from one or more of the ladies. Apparently there is some cognitive disconnect which did not allow the women to see today's pig as tomorrow's hog. However three sleepless days hunting hogs in the muck of East Texas creek bottoms had

not dulled the senses of our intrepid hunters. As one truck load was brought to the scales, I noticed the hunter, sensing the mood of the ladies, tossed half a dozen little piglets under his truck box, confident that the added weight would not be sufficient to make a difference. Another hunter apparently felt he needed all the weight he could muster. However, also being sensitive to the crowd's mood and not wanting Quitman to become another Cairo, he fit all the piglets into a Coors box and placed it on the scale along with his hogs. Apparently this was a professional hunter; an amateur would have put the piglets in a Keystone box. However he was betrayed by one small cloven hoof protruding from the box. I heard one lady comment "That's just not right." The under the truck-box move was apparently inspired by experience. Or maybe the comment was inspired by the fact that it was light beer.



By the trailer



And by the truck

In addition to a prize for the greatest tonnage was a "Big Hog" contest for the largest single hog. A detailed whaling ship could have been scrimshawed on tusks of the winning entry. But this would not be the largest hog we would see this day. This honor goes to a piggy-come-lately who arrived nine minutes after the weigh-in was over. Team# 2 in the Dog Team Category rolled in just minutes after the scale had been loaded up. As we all gathered around the truck's trailer to see the pile of large hogs gathered at the front, we heard of how they had lost a dog in the hunt. It seemed obvious that they had the largest hog. Although it was too late to count, several of us suggested the scale be brought back out. Heart break needs a number. They had two hogs which could have



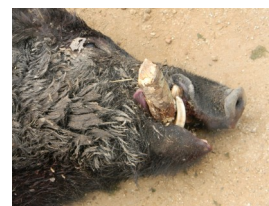
Big hog winner



Missed victory by minutes

claimed the big hog prize, the largest of which had over 75 pounds on the winner. Although they had fewer hogs than the winner, they also would have taken the total tonnage by almost 200 pounds.

These are honorable Texas men and you could not have forced first prize on them. They knew the rules. Certainly, these days that first prize money would have been useful. But the first prize winners would also find themselves bragging a little less. It put a damper on an otherwise oddly fun day, assuming of course you are not a hog. It was just one of those curve balls life throws you. Were they late because the weight of all those hogs slowed them down? Did they take a moment to bury their dog lost in the hunt? More is learned in the contemplation than in the knowledge. (Continued ...)



So what does a non-hunting, city boy with the walking skills of a trout take away from all this? Well, life is complicated, hog-heaven has been oversold and hog wild may have been a bit underrated. Sausage is better when you don't have to watch it being made. Some learned they needed to do more, some learned that no matter how well you do, you still need to be on time. Some learned that the loss of a companion can be inconsolable; our condolences to Dog Team #2.



Unsung hero, lost his hunting buddy

Hogs continue to be a problem here in East Texas and hunts like this one are part of the solution.



ATV's are faster than hogs

Wood County has almost 100 fewer hogs than we had last week. East Texas is an amazing place. Here you will find artists and crafts people, farmers and welders, cooks, quilters, preachers, writers and teachers. There is some wisdom in considering how best we can all work together. What is waste to one group can be a gift to another. We throw out old clothing when some of the material might go into a quilt or help a battered woman's shelter. Some of the wood we throw on the burn pile could be fashioned into a stunning piece of furniture or a wood sculpture.

Within a short drive from my home I can see zebra's, lions, camels, tigers, llamas, ostriches, 'gators, buffalo, alpaca, and emus without ever entering a zoo. The big cats at Tiger Creek are special neighbors who consume 400 pounds of fresh meat a day. The hogs from this hunt will wind up on the flood plain of the Sabine River feeding coyotes, cougars, buzzards and, I am told, hogs as well. Holly Lake is culling a damaging overpopulation of deer, some of which are being buried. Thursday, half a dozen hogs were killed by a simi on 154 just east of Quitman. I wasted half a day trying to track down the hogs to see if I could get the highway department to take them to Tiger Springs. It is my hope that by bring awareness to these events we can become better managers of our wildlife and better stewards of the land. My request is that you call Tiger Springs when you see large fresh road kill and to involve them in culling events whenever possible. It seems to me that with some preplanning, live and recently deceased hogs and deer from these events could be directed to Tiger Creek and other worthwhile venues. The buzzards at my place are kept busy cleaning up the roadways. They don't need our hunting trophies.

I would like to thank the FFA Alumni for their co-operation. They worked closely with Terri Werner and I hope this will be a continuing relationship. Let's all do whatever we can to make East Texas more beautiful and more prosperous.

WINNERS!

Oh, by the way, in the Gun Division, the team of: Tommy Potts, Chris Potts, Kevin Douglas, Cody Norris, Alex Conner and Wade Balentine won both the Big Hog contest with an entry of 196 pounds and their division with a total of 2167 pounds.

The Dog Division was won by the team of: Wade Smith, Dusty Smith, Beri Monk, Andrew Phillips, Derek Koonce and Daniel Wrysinski with a total of 1,463 pounds. The Dog Division Big Hog winners were: Chane Young, Colby Seahorn, Micheal Blanks and Brandon Wilson with a single hog weighing 250 pounds.

All the winners took home cash prizes and the thrill of victory. Wood County won too by losing four tons of hogs. "Wood Works" thanks the FFA Alumni and Tracy Nichols for a great experience.

March 2011

Wood County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 First Tuesday, Tyler Rose Garden @ noon + WCMG training 8:30 Ext. Off.	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Quitman Garden Club 2 PM Quitman Library + WCMG training 8:30 Ext. Off.	9	10	11	12 Wood County MG Spring Conference Mineola Civic Center 8:30 to 11:30 AM Speakers: Judy Bar- rett & James Wilhite
13	14	15 WCMG Training. 8:30 AM at the Exten- sion Office	16	17 WCMG meeting 9AM Ron Loper Speaker	18	19
20	21	22 WCMG Training. 8:30 AM at the Exten- sion Office	23	24	25 Tyler's 52nd annual Azalea Trail begins	26
27	28	29 WCMG Training. 8:30 AM at the Exten- sion Office	30	31		

April 2011

Wood County Master Gardeners

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Winnsboro's Farmers market opens
3	4	5 First Tuesday, Tyler Rose Garden @ noon + WCMG training 8:30 Ext. Off.	6	7	8	9 Plant Sale - Stinson House 8AM
10 Last day -Tyler's 52nd annual Azalea Trail	11	12 Quitman Garden Club 2 PM Quitman Library + WCMG training 8:30 Ext. Off.	13	14	15	16 Stephen F. Austin Plant Sale Nacogdoches TX
17	18	19 WCMG Training. 8:30 AM at the Extension Office	20	21 WCMG meeting 9AM Keith Hansen Speaker	22	23
24	25	26 Graduation Day WCMG	27	2011 Texas Master Gardener Conference Somervell County Expo Center Glen Rose, Texas		
					29	30 Smith Co MG Home Garden Tour