

MG Wood Works



May—June 2012



Wood County Master Gardeners welcome new members.

2012 Master Gardener Graduate Class



2012 MG Officers

Peggy Rogers	President
Marti McAree	Vice President
Karen Anderson	Treasurer
Joan Morgan	Secretary

Inside this Issue

- 3 President's Corner**
- 4 VP 's Corner - Upcoming Meeting Agendas**
- 5 Farewell to Clint Perkins, AgriLIFE Agent**
- 7 TMGA Quarterly Meeting Notes**
- 9 2012 MG Training Class Graduates**
- 11 Spring Conference Thanks**
- 12 Tips and Tricks**
- 13 Mineola Nature Preserve/Scheduled events**
- 14 Junior MG — Yantis**
- 15 Facebook // Scheduled Events**
- 16 Texas EarthKind Specialist**
- 18 Plant of the Month**
- 19 "Taste of the Wild"**
- 20 Humorous Mishaps**
- 22 Sunshine // Volunteer Hours**
- 23 Memorial Day**
- 24 WCMG's History—Part 2**
- 35 Project & Committee Chair Listing**

Vision

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

Edited by:

Sylvia Johnson



Mission

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

President's Corner

Scatter seeds of happiness!

Peggy Rogers

(Photo by Peggy)



All Aboard! Here we go now!

Next station stop will be May 17th and then on to June 21st. Hope to see you at the station meetings (WCMGA).

I really do appreciate each and every one of you with your smiles, talents and your love of gardening. I appreciate all the activities that have been going on. Hopefully, you have joined us even if the weather was beautiful and you really, really wanted to work in your own garden. Fun, friends, meetings and field trips are a winning combo in my book and all of this has been happening in WCMGA.

This is the time of year for un-invited guests to show up in your garden such as deer, gophers, squirrels, moles, opossums, rabbits, raccoons or wild pigs. Some are a picture of nature as they stand at the edge of the pasture under the trees or as they scurry up a tree, but they can play havoc in your garden. The rabbits have eaten all my lettuce and armadillos have rooted all around in the yard. Some of you may have more of these guests than your fellow gardeners. Hopefully, whatever you are doing to discourage these guests it is working for you.

Congratulations to all the Interns that graduated April 24th and as you complete your 50 volunteer hours, we look forward and welcome you as a certified Texas Master Gardeners and a member of Wood County Master Gardener Association.

TMGA History: In the 1990s, the Texas Master Gardener movement exploded, fueled by the program's success and visibility. In 1991, a statewide, non-profit organization was formed and was named Texas Master Gardener Association. In 1998, there were 54 county Master Gardener programs with approx. 4,000 certified master gardeners statewide. (from the list of MG associations on the TMGA website, today there are 79 Texas MG Associations with some associations being made up of 2+ counties.

<http://txmg.org>

All the flowers of all the tomorrows
are in the seeds of today!

(Swedish Proverb)

VP's Corner

By: Marti McAree



May Speaker:

Peggy Rogers and Karen Anderson will be reporting on the 2012 Texas Master Gardeners Conference, held May 3-5 in San Antonio, Texas.

2012 TMGA Conference



TMGA Web-site photo

June Speaker:

June's meeting will have three board members from the Winnsboro Farmers Market. They will discuss the benefits of having a local farmers' market.

Debra Aaron, Winnsboro Farmers Market manager, will discuss "How and Why to start a Farmers Market"

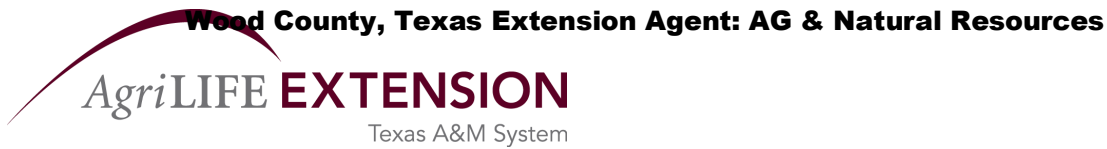
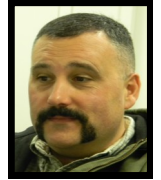
Val Vetter will address turning your hobby into an income

Nancy Falster will describe "food freedom"!



Photo Supplied by Winnsboro Farmers Market board members:
Left to right: Susan Thames, Val Vetter, Debra Aaron, Andrea Hawk, Ramona Long, and Nancy Falster

Clint Perkins' Gardening Corner



A reception, hosted by the Extension Office, was held sending Clint Perkins off with many regrets and best wishes from WCMG. Peggy Rogers, President, presented him with a plaque. The plaque we presented Clint at his farewell was worded:

***Presented To
Clint Perkins
In Grateful Appreciation
Of The Many Hours Spent Teaching
And Encouraging Us***

***Wood County
Master Gardener Association***

***Soil, Soil, Soil
Compost, Compost, Compost
Mulch, Mulch, Mulch***

April 2012

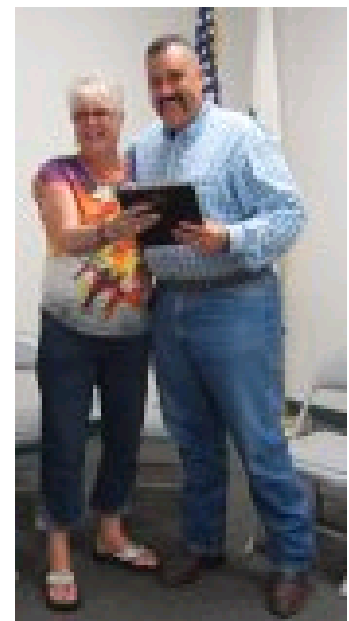


Photo by: Master Gardener

Farewell Clint

By Linda Timmons



Clint came to Wood County in 2005. At the time the Wood County Master Gardeners had only graduated 2 classes of trainees and had been without an active agent for most of a year. Clint immediately got involved with the master gardeners, letting us know the integral part he expected us to play in Extension work.

The first project after his arrival was planning the 2006 training class. He encouraged master gardeners to use their skills and knowledge to complement the training by available professionals in the area.

In 2006 Clint instituted an Advisory Committee intended to assist him in planning activities to assist local agriculture producers in various fields to improve their training and provide the assistance they needed. Clint always included master gardeners in his committee and on the meeting agendas.

In 2007 Clint instituted an award program to recognize outstanding master gardeners. He also encouraged us to participate in the state award program. The awards we have received at all the state conventions since 2008 let the rest of Texas know about the active Wood County Master Gardener Association.

The biggest project started after Clint's arrival in Wood County was the Governor Hogg Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens in Quitman. That's an impressive name for an area that started out with 19 overgrown acres covered with poison ivy and mosquitoes. Clint's strong support for the project has seen it become a Wood County destination.

Clint always encouraged the association to be involved in activities covering the whole county and the surrounding counties. This enabled 10 to 12 active master gardeners from surrounding counties to work with us and be involved in our projects. Our specialists are often called on to help teach and present horticulture programs in the adjacent counties thanks to his encouragement and his cross county networking.

Master gardeners who served under Clint will always remember it's:

SOIL — not dirt.

And our motto will remain:

“compost, compost, compost - mulch, mulch, mulch”



TMGA QUARTERLY MEETING



By: Karen Anderson

February 18, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President, Brenda Cunningham with an introduction of the officers for 2012. President, Brenda Cunningham, Ginger Bason, 1st VP, Dick Coupe, 2nd VP, Karen Kolwick, Secretary and Donna Hagar, Treas. We were informed the agenda, financial reports were available on line before the meeting and a new roster for 2012.

President Cunningham announced Treasurer Donna Hagar was awarded the Citizen of the Year award by the City of Glen Rose for her work with the Master Gardeners and the State Conference held in April, 2011.

Doug Quicksall reported the results of the 2011 Audit. He stated the books were in excellent order and there were no errors or discrepancies.

Treasurer Donna Hagar reported dues collected to date of \$6,179.18 the account is \$33,277.23. There are still about 1/3 of the local associations that have not paid their dues. She reminded us to update the TMGE roster with chapter 2012 officer's and director's names and email addresses.

SPECIAL SPEAKER: The special speaker was Brady Grimes, Sr. of A&M. He spoke about the Howdy Farm project. It was started in 2009 to attract students to agriculture and eating fresh produce in the dining rooms on campus. They had 97 students volunteer the first year and it has grown every year. They now farm 5 acres and supply fresh produce to the college, low income families and sell to some of the local stores. They are conducting research for; Organic Certification, Markets for the food grown by the students, Post Harvest products and ideas and the Management of vegetable farms. They are a part of CSA (Community Supportive Agriculture). The following web sites will furnish more information about these projects: <http://studentfarm.tamu.edu>, www.localharvest/howdyfarm.org, TAMU Howdy_Farm (face book) and <http://urbanharvest.org> (Houston Urban Market). If anyone is looking for a special project for FFA, local schools or churches to help with feeding low income families or food banks check out these sites.

AWARDS: The awards committee has received 171 entries from 33 counties for the year 2011, which is 32 more than in 2010. They also received 15 poster entries. The posters have to be set up the morning of May 3 in San Antonio and must follow the measurement guidelines or they will be disqualified. The judges for the awards are out of state Master Gardener coordinators so they are very knowledgeable about gardening. The State of Texas has really made an impression on the judges and they have asked to take some of our ideas and projects and apply them to their associations. Texas is the only state that recognizes Master Gardeners by presenting awards each year for outstanding work, so be proud of our state and local associations.

NEWSLETTER: Donna Hagar announced the TMGA is looking for a new editor of the newsletter and to contact her if anyone is interested. Her email address is dmthagar@gmail.com. She also stated that new trainees need to be added to the newsletter roster.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The Nominating committee for 2012 will be Homer Babbit with assistance from Lonnie Matthews (past president) and Barbara Porsch (Midland).

(continued on next page)

TMGA QUARTERLY MEETING

The openings to be filled for year 2013 are Treasurer and 2nd Vice-President. If anyone is interested or would like to nominate someone please contact Homer at hibabbit@swbell.net.

NEXT MEETINGS: May 3, 3:45-4:45 in San Antonio, Aug. 4, 11:00-3:00 at College Station and Dec. 1, 11:00-3:00.

COST RECOVERY: Per a report by Jayla Fry the Cost Recovery program initiated in 2011 has acquired enough funds to keep 50 of the 65 personnel that were slated to be terminated last year due to budget cuts. Of the 15 that had been notified of possible termination, they have been absorbed into the A&M system in other capacities. The Cost Recovery Program is slated to continue thru June 2012 when it will be reviewed again based on the coming budget for 2013.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENT: Article XI, Sec. 1 & 2 of the current by-laws are being reviewed for removal and may be voted on at the May meeting if a quorum is present.

STATE CONFERENCE: The State Conference in San Antonio for May 3-5 is booking up fast. If anyone is interested in attending should go to www.2012tmgaconference.org to register. The cost is \$210 which includes classes, 1 lunch, and Awards Banquet. The Thursday Night Social on the Riverwalk is \$35 and all tours are \$50 each. Due to limited space, guests for the Awards Banquet will have to be put on a waiting list until they have a final count of Master Gardeners attending. There are some fabulous tours on Saturday and some of them are already filled. There are numerous hotels within a 4 mile radius of the Convention Center and all this information is available on the website. Come help represent Wood County. We are getting quite a name for ourselves with all our projects and hard work.

As a final comment by President Brenda Cunningham one of the advantages of a local association belonging to TMGA and being a 501 (c) 3 Corporation is that it saves approximately \$750 per association across the state for a total of \$39,000. Plus TMGA helps coordinate ideas and problems between the individual associations and AgriLife. So each association needs to participate in the quarterly meetings and submit ideas and questions to the board so they can help us locally



2012 MASTER GARDENER TRAINEE CLASS



By: Gail Newman

Well, another class has graduated & ready to go out into the community to share their skills & information. As I sit here & think about each of the trainees from this year's class, I realize what a wonderfully diverse group we have. They are all very excited about learning & sharing the information they have received. They all jumped in and were all over the place helping for the Spring Conference. We had some who had gardened most of their lives, others who hadn't, & some who are new to the area & want to learn how to grow things in this area. I can't tell you how much fun I've had with this group. We had the quiet & loud, the gentle & the rowdy, and some in between (you know who you are). All combined together to make an awesome class!

We had 5 who graduated with their full Master Gardener certificates. The others are still working on their 50 hours of required volunteer time. I'll have to admit it took me almost a year to get my 50 hours. It may seem like a lot of extra time added to the 50 hours of classroom instruction, but the volunteer time is putting into practice all you've learned in the classes. Hands-on experience enhances class-work.

I guess you can tell how proud I am of this year's class & I know they will continue to be a wonderful asset to our Master Gardener program.

Love You All——

P D CARTER, KATIE	903-440-1913	texancarters@yahoo.com	179 PR 7331	Emory, TX 75440
DOONAN, JIM	262-694-0568	Subjim609@gmail.com	2331 CR 3990	Winnsboro, TX 75494
P D DURHAM, BILL	903-638-6464	BillD4Texas@aol.com	487 CR 2436	Mineola, TX 75773
P D GRADO, LIN	903-967-2788	lingrado@gmail.com	2135 CR 3230	Quitman, TX 75783
P D HICKMAN, BALINDA	903-569-6354	balindahickman@gmail.com	2300 FM 2422	Mineola, TX 75733
P D IRIZARRY, LYNETTE	903-740-2125	Platinumfish@msn.com	1050 CR 3900	Hawkins, TX 75765
P D KIRKPATRICK, NANCY	214-957-4022	nancy.kirkpatrick@hotmail.com	2955 CR 2700	Mineola, TX 75773
P D MARTIN, LINDA	903-569-1899	flowerpots@sbcglobal.net	203 S. Lake Dr.	Mineola, TX 75733
P D ST. MIKLOSSY, PAT	903-629-3747	jssaint@peoplescom.net	577 CR 4847	Winnsboro, TX 75494
P D STEVENS, CAROL	682-225-0911	stevens_carol@msn.com	246 CR 3265	Mineola, TX 75773
P D STEVENS, MIKE	c. 682-225-0913	mikeoman2@gmail.com	246 CR 3265	Mineola, TX 75773
P D WILKINS, ANNA	903-613-7673	awilkins67@gmail.com	946 Greenbriar Trl.	Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765
P D WILLIAMS, JOHN	903-769-4097	LLW7908@gmail.com	507 PR 7908	Hawkins, TX 75765

(continued on next page)



2012 Class Field Trip



Compost Class: 2012



Making Gardening Friends



All Photos taken by WCMG's



Apr. 24: Graduation! We welcome our new members and interns.

Wood County Master Gardeners
2012 Spring Conference
Today's Garden -Tomorrow's Food



Poster by: Ellen Atkins

This year's conference was amazing thanks to the hard work of Ellen Atkins and her Conference Committee. Our Association's mandate to inform and educate the Public was well met at this conference.

Appreciation goes out to all who worked the event and to those who contributed bake goods and containers in which to sell the goodies. The bake sale was a great first! Our own Ann Norris, and husband Jeff, provided the professional musical entertainment.

It was a great educational day and we had a large public audience for the three speakers who taught us about preserving and using the great harvest we, as gardeners, work so hard to grow. Thanks to our corporate sponsors from the local area; your support helps us keep Wood County provided with horticultural information and our area parks and preserves well tended. The donated raffle items were sought after with relish and we sold all tickets available. We thank the artists for their generosity. We also thank the vendors who displayed and sold unique locally made and grown items.

See you at next year's event!

Sylvia Johnson



CDC—Gardening Health and
Safety Tips

[http://www.cdc.gov/family/
gardening/](http://www.cdc.gov/family/gardening/)

Gardening Tips and Tricks

By: Sylvia Johnson

I was noticing everyone at the WCMG Graduation Ceremony standing outside with their faces up to the sky. What was everyone looking at, I wondered as I too turned my face toward the sky? Then it dawned on me. Hello, it's the warm sunshine on their faces that had everyone entranced. Is it not great to finally get out and garden again? I know the extra hot weather will soon be upon us and most of us will still be standing in the sun soaking up rays whether it is in our gardens or on our lakes or just out having fun at the many festivals in Texas.

However, as your mother always told you, "too much of a good thing is a bad thing". Well, at least my mom did! And she was correct and that includes sunshine. The incidences of sun cancer and sunburn are high here in Texas. So take notice what you wear outside this year in the hot sun and just follow the lead of these fellow members.



Wear protective clothing, hats, and sunglasses. Try to have a wide brim on your hat in order to protect your ears too. Long sleeves and "sun blocking" clothing will cut down sun exposure by at least 30%.

Don't forget your gloves. Not only will they protect your hands from sunburn but nothing is worse than reaching down to pick that one weed and having ants bite you hands and fingers. In fact, this has happened to me already this spring. A lady ground hornet did not take kindly to my ramming my fingers into her new home. Wow, a hornet sting under the fingernail hurts!

Don't forget the sunscreen. Remember your feet this summer also. How many time have you burned the top of your feet while wearing sandals? When putting on your sunscreen before going out to garden, don't forget to slather the tops of your feet.

Remember that too much of a good thing rule? You don't have to turn yourself into the "Tin Man" with sunscreen, just reapply often!





By: Joan Morgan

Well, Spring has certainly arrived with much green growth and many flowering plants at the Wildscape. It is a good time to visit our location and view nature at its best. The wildflowers are popping up in the wildflower bed with reds, oranges, yellows, purples and other colors on display.

We have a 300 gallon tank full of rainwater ready to be used for watering at the Wildscape once we have the drip irrigation in place. Our schedule includes electrical to the shed, which will allow use of an inline pump to push the water through drip irrigation in the beds. The drip system is being donated by Brad Waters with RLA of which we are very appreciative. We hope that all will be in place in the next 30 days so that we can begin use as needed in early summer. We did a great deal of hand watering and use of sprinklers last year during the heat and drought, so we are excited at the thought of having a more efficient system.

Friends of the Preserve have been our main financial support system over the years and we really appreciate that support, as we rely on donations and fundraisers for our projects each year.

We have been very fortunate to have several of the interns working with us at the Wildscape and look forward to their continuing participation in our project. Of course, we appreciate all of our volunteers and would be unable to maintain our gardens without their support so thanks to all of you.



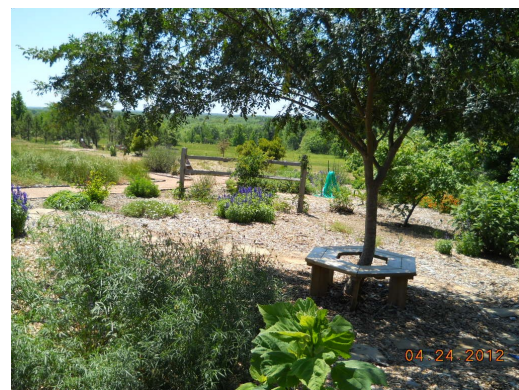
NatureFest at the Preserve

Memorial Day Weekend

May 25-26, 2012

Friday 7:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM



Photos by: Sylvia Johnson



Junior Master Gardener's Yantis Junior High



By: Linda Avant

Sponsored by:



This is the Yantis Junior High spring class learning plant classification. This class will be assisting with Science Day Activities in May. As part of their curriculum, they will also tour local business to explore and assess future career opportunities based on horticultural knowledge .



Learning Mantis a JMG Logo



To learn more about this program see the JMG International website:

www.jmgkids.us/index.cfm?did=2022§ionID=2019

Local area Science Days are being held in May. We, WCMG, will be holding gardening classes for the Quitman 3rd graders on May 22nd. We will have 4 stations set up and 100 future gardeners. Mineola has requested that we repeat our presentations on the following day, May 23, for 120 of their 3rd graders. That means 6 stations. **Help!** We need at least 2 WCMG volunteers per station each morning as well as supplies. We need newspapers, clear or opaque RX bottles and probably more supplies. We will advise you what is needed as time gets closer for the classes. Please take supplies to the AG Office or let me know by phone or E-mail. Thanks for supporting the Junior Master Gardener program. *Linda*

Linda, thank you for such a great job you do with the JMG. OK, everyone, Linda needs help for the Science Days. Let her know that you will be there to help on at least one day and don't forget she needs supplies. **Peggy Rogers**



If anyone is interested in finding our page, all you have to do is go on facebook, search for **Wood County Master Gardeners, Inc.** You should find 3 pages to choose from, 1. is a blank site that has been removed, 2. is Wood County Master Gardeners from Kentucky and 3. Wood County Master Gardeners, Quitman. Then "like" the page and it will be listed on your profile. In case you don't find it, I am listed as Peggy Smith Rogers and I'll be glad to be your friend. Happy facebooking!

Peggy Rogers

Scheduled Events

May 01 Volunteer hours Due ellen.atkins@hotmail.com

May 3-5 TMGA State Conference, San Antonio

May 17 WCMGA – Program - State Conference Karen-Peggy

May 19 Peggy & Dean Rogers Garden Tour

May 22 JMG Quitman Science Day – 3rd grade

May 23 JMG Mineola Science Day – 3rd grade

June 28 Horticulture Field Day – Overton A&M research

<http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>.

Editor's Note: Be sure to check out all the local Farmer's Markets taking place all spring and summer in the area. Take advantage of fresh and local food and local handmade items. Check your local paper for times and locations.

EarthKind Specialist News

By: Peggy Rogers



Annual flowers can provide landscaped areas with more seasonal variety and colorful accents than most other plants. Remember, color can have more impact on the landscape than any other design element and nothing has a more negative impact than a poorly maintained color area. Plant only what you can take care of properly.

Soil preparation is the most important aspect in maintaining areas with ornamental annuals. This begins with the addition of large quantities of organic matter to obtain optimum aeration, drainage and water holding characteristics. Start with collecting a soil sample and have the sample tested for pH, macronutrients and micronutrients. You can do this through your local Extension office. The soil test will tell you how to amend your soil.

What plants do you want in your garden? Visiting local nurseries and talking to the nurserymen can get you on the right track. An excellent source of information is to visit www.texasuperstar.com, the website of Texas AgriLife Extension Service that lists plants that thrive well in Texas that can aid to the success of your garden.

Using well adapted plants is one of the most fundamental elements of an EarthKind landscape. Plants that are well adapted in your area will:

- *Use less water**
- *Need less soil modification**
- *Require little or no fertilizer**
- *Less susceptible to pest, diseases and problems**
- *Be more tolerant of stressful environmental conditions**

I would suggest to only purchase and plant high quality nursery plants. Inspect plants for insect, disease, nutrient deficiencies and overall health and vigor. You have cleared the area, amended the soil and have purchased your plants; it is time to set them into the ground. Look at the plant tags for recommended spacing of your plants. Pay close attention to the normal heights your plants will reach at maturity. You will want to plant your smallest plants in the front of the viewing direction of your garden and gradually go up to the tallest plants. Just prior to planting, water the plants in their containers. Plants in peat pots should be soaked in a bucket for 10-15 minutes to ensure a thorough wetting. Ideally, the garden bed should be moist, but if the soil is dry, immediately after planting, be sure to water the plants well. It is best to plant on a cloudy or overcast day or late in the day to reduce transplanting shock.



Yes, let's get some color in the garden!

Photo by: Peggy Rogers

GARDEN TOUR

HOME - PEGGY & DEAN ROGERS INVITE YOU TO A
TOUR OF OUR HOME AND GARDENS.

4015 County Rd 3501, Wills Point TX

WHEN - SATURDAY, MAY 19 9:30 – 7:00

SUNDAY, MAY 20 1:00 – 6:00

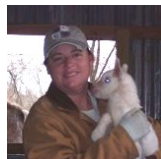
(Coming from Hwy 80 & 19, West on 80 thru Edgewood towards Wills Point, right after you pass Industrial Park entry, turn right on VZ CR 3523, cross railroad, veer/curve to right, road becomes CR 3501, continue for about 1 miles on rough crooked road, you will have a 90° curve to right, ¼ mile a 90° curve to left, continue 1/4 mile, "Eureka! You found us, 2 story white house on your left.)



Looking forward to seeing you! Come and go or stay and
visit awhile.

Plant of the Month: Thyme

By: Holly Ross



Could You Use A Little More "Thyme"?

Kitchen Dictionary: thyme (Pronounced: TIME) Lovely plant and wonderful scent

This is one of those little plants that laughs in the face of a Texas summer and remains undaunted by a few freezes. The creeping variety has been spreading between the rock stepping stones in my herb garden for months. I have to harvest it or it will cover the stones. It is fabulous! With dark green foliage that is so petit it belies its strong flavor, it is a perfect choice for edging the bed or filling in between the stones.

For me, it was surprising to see that Thyme is classified as a Southern European and Mediterranean ingredient. I thought it was totally southern cooking. When you think of decidedly southern dishes such as Chicken n' Dumplins, Turkey & Dressing, Roast Chicken, Meatloaf, and so on, Thyme is a key player in creating the warm comforting tones of these dishes. If I am boiling chicken for almost anything, I have Thyme in the pot, too. Nothing beats the flavor of a lightly battered filet of Tilapia with Thyme mixed in the flour and cornmeal, I don't care who you are- that is good right there!

Being that Thyme is a perennial, it is easiest to start with a seedling in the garden. Soggy places are no good for Thyme as it likes well drained soil. Lots of sun is a must, but a little afternoon shade in a Texan summer is greatly appreciated. This is an extremely easy plant to grow.

With Thyme being available in the garden year round, there is no reason not use fresh Thyme in all your cooking. Just snip off what you need and chop it finely or tie the sprigs together with kitchen twine and remove before serving. Thyme is a well-mannered herb and is not given to being over-powering in a dish. To a roasted chicken, I will sprinkle about 2 teaspoons over the skin or add about 2 tablespoons to a pot of soup. Your personal tastes really are the determining factor in how much to use. Experience is the best teacher, so give it a try.

However; some days it may not be very convenient to get to the garden so I like to keep dried herbs in the pantry. To dry Thyme, cut as much as you want from the plant- but never taking more than two thirds of the mother plant- and using a rubber band, secure the stems and hang in a dry place with good air circulation. I have a little "clothesline" strung above my refrigerator where I clip bunches of herbs for drying. Once dry, which will take about 2 weeks, remove the leaves from the stems and place the leaves in an air-tight container and store out of the sunlight. Dried herbs keep for about 6 months and any extra you may have makes great gift ideas. A "mini-clothesline" works great for drying small amounts of herbs

Matches well with: beef, carrots, chicken, figs, fish, goat cheese, lamb, lentils, onions, peas, pork, potatoes, soups, tomatoes and venison.

So, get planting! Everyone needs a little more "thyme" in their day!

“Taste of the Wild”

Captivates Gardeners



By Lucy Germany, TMG-WC

The Master Gardeners of Wood County ----still in training—met recently with some established members for a program on native plants by veteran native plant expert Liz Soutendjik , followed by a visit to the Mineola Nature Preserve for a look at spring in action in Wood County. The approximately 15 newcomers to the world of native plants were introduced by water collection specialist Karen Anderson to the Preserve’s new water runoff collection complex designed to capture rain water and which in the future will be fitted with a drip irrigation system to simplify the work of watering the numerous beds of native flowers and trees. For some of the newcomers to the program it was an eye-opening introduction to the work of Master Gardeners which has converted a rolling open plain overlooking the Sabine River Bottom to an amalgam of flowering plants, including shrubs and trees as well as various grasses. Soutendjik , who earlier in the day, presented a detailed photo essay via Power-Point on the various plants of East Texas and their particular characteristics, also introduced newcomers to the various planting techniques used in the Master Gardeners’ project and offered a bit of the history which has so brilliantly transformed the open prairie to a plant lovers paradise. Lively discussion ranged from questions on plant identification to the various characteristics of natives which gives them an edge over the better known nursery products. Soutendjik’s presentation was followed by a brief introduction to identification of native edible plants, their physical characteristics in the wild as well as their use on the dinner table. Lucy Germany, a long time collector of native edibles, pointed out some of the characteristics of the best-known native edibles as well as some of those having less desirable qualities—still edible but requiring caution in preparation and amount consumed.

The special treat for lunch was a salad of nine native edibles, dressed with a light mix of lemon juice, cider vinegar and olive oil. The natives were given rave reviews with one exception—the leaves of the spiderwort which, though rated as an acceptable edible, has leaves of a furry texture to which some took exception.

The prevailing theme throughout the discussion of native edibles was:

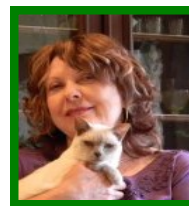
“Be brave but don’t be foolhardy. Be sure you have consulted experts before eating a plant with which you are not familiar.”

Photos by: Peggy Rogers



Humorous Mishaps

by Lynn AronSpeer



The Reluctant Orange Tree

Long ago (when many women didn't wear bras) and far away (out on the coast) we (a former husband and I) were tentatively looking to buy our first home. (I was still intellectual mush--in the formation process.) Marty pulled his Vega up the driveway of a little squarish white house with a big front window. The location was a trifle ominous in that a narrow road wound along two sides of the lot and across the road was a huge cliff. This had not been mentioned in the ad Marty had found. I was not thrilled but knew better than to criticize unless it absolutely couldn't be avoided since Marty had a volatile streak that could sometimes not be managed.

I ventured, "Gee, it's got a giant window that I could fill with macramé..." For this remark I received a dark look. (Marty sold drapes and carpet.) We got out and knocked on the door. We were expected.

My impressions were an odd mélange of adjacent cliff which cast a four o'clock Marty, I suggested, "The shadows might already experienced mud slides in our a facetious remark and I was poking the was going to make a deal and *use* that walked off into the back yard with the pool.



turquoise sink tile and ominous darkness from the shadow during the actual one o'clock time. To keep the house cooler in summer..." Since we had own neighborhood close by, Marty decided it was bear. He took me aside by the arm to tell me he feature. (He actually called it a 'feature.') Then he mister to inspect their ancient miserly swimming

Photobucket

Meanwhile the missus invited me to peer into awful closets and kitchen cabinets from which drifted a slightly rancid aroma. In desperation, I slunk over to the front window through which I spotted a small orange tree just covered with huge oranges. I gestured towards it and she led me outside. From the backyard, I could hear raised voices—mostly Marty's. I began to smile. Someone *had* poked the bear and I bet I'd never have to live here.

I put my hand under one of the oranges to gently feel its heft and it was surprisingly light. As I peered closer, I could see it was actually glued to the tiny tree. All the oranges were plastic! I asked the missus why and she calmly informed me she was training the orange tree to bear oranges. I knew in my heart in that brief moment that this place and these people were really strange trouble. Happily, as I was backing away from the tree, Marty came stomping around the side of the house headed for the Vega. "Move it," he snapped in my direction.

I trotted after him, happy that the 'feature' discussion hadn't worked. When he calmed down I would tell him about the *faux* oranges—the *coup de grace*.

That winter, the yard of the "Orange House" as we termed it, was filled with a road closing mud slide that filled the mean little pool in the back yard. This was unfortunate as I had begun a habit of frequently passing by with field glasses to see if any real oranges ever appeared. There was never even a blossom and I wonder if it was actually even an orange tree...? ☀

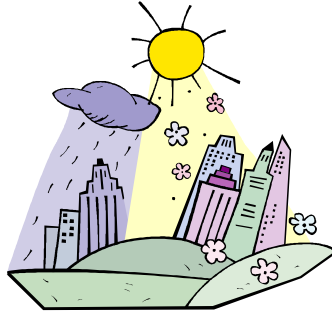
SUNSHINE— Reach out to Members



As the Sunshine Chair I request that all the MGs please promptly contact me with any information on member or family illnesses, surgeries, hardships, deaths, or any reason we need to spread a little sunshine on behalf of the WCMGs. We need to stay aware and let our members know we care in their time of need. We all may need our MG family at some time and it is important that we be there for one another. E-mail: amsdentx@yahoo.com

Thank You,

Connie Amsden



Volunteer Hours Recorder, reminds us about:

Filling out our time records.

The main points are:

1. Put your name on the form
2. Don't skip lines
3. Use only listed codes
4. Interns include class CEU hours
5. Interns do not use T (training) or SPKR (speaker) codes
6. No mileage is counted for class hours, only for volunteer hours



Thank You,

Ellen Atkins, E-mail: ellen.atkins@hotmail.com





Quitman Botanical Garden and Arboretum.



As we observe **Memorial Day** on May 28, let us remember those who
"Gave all".

Our thanks to John Fox and Joe Mele who did the work on laying out this stone surround; thus enhancing the memorial bench in the QBG&A.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bD19k6EvBNo&feature=related>

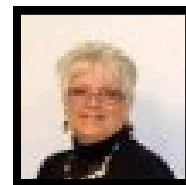
Poppies in bloom at the Wildscape MNP

Photos & article by: Sylvia Johnson

Wood County Master Gardeners'

History

2003 - 2011



Compiled by: Peggy Rogers**

Part 2

Linda Timmons stated that the first class was a little tentative and didn't have a lot of confidence, but with the 2nd class the organization really started stepping out in the community. With the 2004 Class, the Master Gardeners took on assisting Mineola in designing and planting the public area at the south entrance to Mineola on Hwy 69. The gazebo by the depot in Mineola was designed and built by Master Gardener, Reynol Vancil, class of 2004

The 2004 Master Gardener Class Members completing the training were: Anna Jean Bennett, Betty Corder, Floyd Ganus, Laura Latham, Lou Mallory, Gene Mallory, Sandy Marshall, Boyd McCreight, Dan Preston, Wanda Preston, Carolyn Rominger, Reynol Vancil, Nancy Weaver* and Mary Chaney*.

The first Spring Garden and Landscape Conference was held in Winnsboro on February 24, 2004. \$10.00 registration fee included a catfish lunch. Taking & Understanding Soil Samples, Disease Control of Landscape plants, Xeriscape, Turf Grass Varieties and Disease, and Controlling Insects in the Home Lawn were the conference topics.

Projects added in 2004 were Junior Master Gardeners, 4H Camp, Hawkins' Helping Hands, Hawkins Library, Garden Workshop, and Extension office landscape.

May of 2004, the WCMGA voted to join the Texas Master Gardeners Association.

In July of 2004, Jerry Jackson, Extension agent for Wood County, resigned his position.

Second Gardening Workshop was held at Quitman Library on October 16th 2004 chaired by Donna Clark and Linda Long with 2004 interns...

Association officers for 2005 were: President – Dan Preston, Vice President- Linda Timmons, Treasurer – Carolyn Rominger and Secretary – Wanda Preston.

For 2005, not having an Extension agent, the Association decided not to have a new Trainee class, but did have their 2nd Garden Conference. They also completed the major remodel of the landscape around the court house. President, Dan Preston encouraged everyone and led the group to continue planning projects without an extension agent to guide them.

Floyd Ganus created the Master Gardeners of Wood County.org for the official website of the Association.

In April of 2005, Clint Perkins became the Texas Cooperative Extension Agent and started planning for a Master Gardener Trainee Class to begin in January 2006.

Saturday, November 5, 2005, Mineola Civic Center, 3rd Gardening Conference "ABC's of Gardening with Care of Mature Trees – Sam Hill, All About Soil – Clint Perkins, and Best Shrubs & Ornamental Grasses – Keith Mills."

(continued on next page)

WCMG HISTORY

Officers serving for 2006 were President-Linda Timmons, Vice President-Judy Dooley, Secretary-Sally Houk and Treasurer – Janet Starr.

New Trainees Class members graduating in 2006 were, Liz Soutendijk*, Shonna Mulkey, Bill Schechinger, Jerrie Sutphin*, Bobbie Wilson, Sandra Patrick*, Debora Salmon, Charlie Hollabaugh, Eileen Bartlett*, Bart Bartlett* and Judith Bliss.

In 2006, The Friends of the Nature Preserve asked the group to get involved with them in getting appropriate plants and planting areas going in the planned preserve. The Sensory Garden was completely the Master Gardener's idea, design and work. The Wildscape was the suggestion of the Friends of the Preserve but the Master Gardeners did all the planning. Janet Starr served as the first chairperson for the preserve. Liz Soutendijk assisted in choosing the appropriate Native Plants.

Eileen Bartlett became Editor of the Wood County Master Gardener's Newsletter.

Fourth Gardening Conference, "Garden Hardy, Garden Smart" with keynote speaker Carol Feldman was held November 04, 2006.

In the fall of 2006, the Master Gardeners sponsored by Texas A & M University planted 90 (3 each of 30) rose cultivars in a 9,000 square foot Earth Kind Rose Test Garden in Mineola. The trial to last 3 years with basically, watering the first year as needed, then letting them be survival of the fittest. Evaluation of the rose plantings was done monthly beginning in the Spring of 2007 and project ended in 2009.

2006 volunteer's hours of 1533 translated into \$27,655. First year to report hours to Commissioners Court.



**Thank you to: Clint Perkins – AgriLife Extension, Linda Timmons, Eileen Bartlett, Pam Riley, Billie Wilder and Judy Dooley for their time of looking through their personal records for information and to all of the MG's that I inundated with emails looking for information. Additional information was taken from records in AgriLife Ext office, scrapbooks, newsletters and minutes.

Wood County Master Gardener Projects

2012

<u>Project</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Email</u>
Hawkins Helping Hands	Lucy Germany	lgermany@etex.net
Junior Master Gardeners	Linda Avant	linavant@peoplescom.net
Mineola Nature Preserve Sensory Garden	Peggy Rogers	peggyrogersc21@gmail.com
Mineola Nature Preserve Wildscape	Joan Morgan	cdmorgan@peoplescom.net
Quitman Arboretum & Botanical Garden	Pam Riley	pam_riley2003@yahoo.com
Quitman Library	Linda Cowan	ladypeanut1255@yahoo.com
Quitman Special Ed Greenhouse	Fran McKinney	mckfran@gmail.com
	Clyde McKinney	mckclyde@gmail.com
Winnsboro Depot	Jerrie Sutphin	granfarm@peoplescom.net
	Sandra Patrick	sppat57@suddenlink.net
Winnsboro Library	Jerrie Sutphin	granfarm@peoplescom.net
	Sandra Patrick	sppat57@suddenlink.net
Winnsboro Morgan mercy Mission	Jerrie Sutphin	granfarm@peoplescom.net
	Sandea Patrick	sppat57@suddenlink.net
Wood Co. Airport Landscape	Connie Amsden	amsdentx@yahoo.com

Wood County Master Gardener Committees

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>EMAIL</u>
Awards	Eileen Bartlett	ebartlet3@yahoo.com
Facebook	Peggy Rogers	peggyrogersc21@gmail.com
Festivals	Willie Kay Paredes	jwkpared@peoplescom.netator
Historian	Peggy Rogers	peggyrogersc21@gmail.com
Intern Class	Gail Newman	travlinnewman@aol.com
WCMG Library	Anita Baker	ldandanita@hughes.net
Newsletter	Sylvia Johnson	mgnewsletter@hotmail.com
Spring Conference	Ellen Atkins	ellen.atkins@hotmail.com
Sunshine	Connie Amsden	amsdentx@yahoo.com
Volunteer Hours Coordinator (Hrs/CEUs)	Ellen Atkins	ellen.atkins@hotmail.com
Website	Bart Bartlett	bbartlett@peoplescom.net
Website E-mail	Ruth Allen	ruth_allen1@msn.com
	Lynette Irizarry	platinumfish@msn.com