



Spring Fling

Wood County Master Gardeners



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TEXAS A&M
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EXTENSION

“Spring Fling”

Article by: Karen Anderson Photos by: Clint Perkins

Sometimes things just come together at the right time and place. This happened Saturday, April 23, 2016 at the Wood County Master Gardener “Spring Fling”. This educational seminar was held at the Mineola Nature Preserve in conjunction with the Texas A&M Wood County AgriLife Extension Office.

The sun was putting a smile on everyone’s face after 5 days of rain, there was a gentle breeze and a crowd came out to attend the event. We had 60 people sign in for our seminar, a couple from Waxahachie, a lady from Harris County, some Wood County transplants from Dallas, people from out of state plus local residents, some families with children in tow, from Wood County and its surrounding area.

Also on hand was the Fannie Marchman Garden Club from Mineola who sold yard art and hard landscape items. Thanks go out to the 20 WCMG’s who served as speakers and helpers during the event.

HERBS: Our first two speakers were Reggie Askins (2014) and Brandi Patterson (2016 Intern). Their presentation was on the varied uses of Herbs. Reggie passed around samples of different herbs to the audience teaching them about the herb’s cooking uses, aromatic uses and decorative accents usage in and around your home. Brandi explained how to use herbs to repel insects, deer, and other animals. She also spoke about Herb Companion Planting. Herbal Tea recipes and samples for tasting were passed among the audience. In addition, she described the “WCMG Tip Book” which features information on and recipes containing herbs. These books were available for sale at the event. Brandi gave an excellent presentation for her first experience as a WCMG (Intern) speaker.

Lasagna: Next on the program was Ellen Atkins (2009) talking about Lasagna Gardening with assistance from Bonnie Ruth Conner (2009). Ellen explained the concept of stacking layers of natural materials to build good compost for your garden while Bonnie demonstrated the layers in a clear bin so the audience

could see how it was constructed. This demonstrated an easy and simple way to start a garden with what will turn into a rich and moist garden soil that needs little fertilization.

Wheels: To wrap up the day, Melissa Deakins (2014) and Lori Clark (2014) demonstrated making small gardens on wheels from a discarded “Lil Red Wagon”, an old wheel barrow and a seed spreader. They explained the concept of “Thriller, Filler and Spiller”. This method is used to achieve a great eye catching container garden that has height, a middle wow element and plant/s which draws the eye down. Lori used this method to demonstrate building a container garden in the old wheel barrow. When she finished her presentation the wheel barrow garden was sold in a silent auction for \$45.

The audience must have really enjoyed their day. They sat on wooden picnic table benches for 2 ½ hours and there was no squirming or getting up and roaming around like they were getting tired or bored. Following the presentations the floor was opened for a Question and Answer period. Judging from the numerous questions, the audience was interested in our timely and specific topics and presentations. It was a very successful Educational Event held once again by Wood County Master Gardeners.

I really appreciate all the hard work the committee put into this seminar. Their catch phrase “No Green Thumb Required”, the topics they chose to present and the speakers who presented them struck a bell with the community.

Thank you to the 2016 Intern class for distributing the event flyers and getting the word out about our seminar. Between the spring rain storms, the class also helped to get the Nature Preserve Wildscape beds cleaned up and tidy.

You all did a fabulous job and it made me so proud to have been a part of this seminar. My favorite saying has always been “Doing Something with Pride Makes You Feel Good Inside” and I really felt good inside when I got home that Saturday.

Congratulations to all the winners of the Door Prize drawings:

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS:

Spreader-Beth Dehamar

"Lil Red Wagon"-Patty Bynum

Cold Frame-Rusty V.

Wheel Barrow-Donna Patterson

Purple Basil & Herb Basket-Dene Holcomb

Tip Book-Leann Cross

