

President: Linda Timmons

"Master Gardener programs (also known as Extension Master Gardener Programs) are volunteer programs that train individuals in the science and art of gardening. These individuals pass on the information they learned during their training" (Wikipedia)

Have you ever heard the statement "there's no such thing as an ex-marine"? That can be true of Master Gardeners, too. They may not be active in the association but once they've completed certification I think they will be "master gardeners" for life. Recently I've been running into lots of folks who have been a part of Wood County Master Gardener Association over the years and it got me

thinking how many have completed training here. I don't have exact numbers but it's in the vicinity of 225. That's 225 people who love to garden and are interested in sharing what they learned during training with other gardeners.

I have a friend who has a fairly new home and wanted some advice on landscaping. She is NOT a gardener, never has been and doesn't want to be. But she does know the importance of composting and mulching because her sister (who completed MG training) has been advocating those two basic gardening principals. I know people who have completed the Master Gardener training in Wood County who are

working in church gardens, helping neighbors with vegetable gardens, sharing produce, teaching kids and saying good things about the Master Gardener program. None of those hours are reported or tracked.

I'm proud of our Master Gardeners – all of us.



She is now a fully accredited Associate.

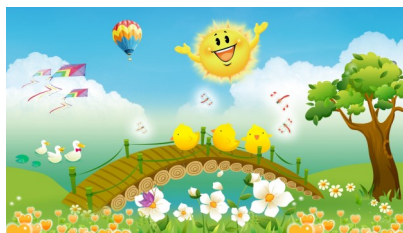
Photo-Ellen Atkins

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VP: Melissa Deakins -

We are trying out some *new ideas* for programs. I hope you will all participate; the success of these programs depends on member participation.



Want to know what the July and August meetings are about? Come to the meetings and see!

2016 Slate of Officers

President: Linda Timmons

VP: Melissa Deakins

Treasurer: Molly Mathis

Secretary: Jan Whitlock



2016 Field Trip-Peggy Rogers' Garden



A great tour of Peggy's garden and then a fun lunch at The Catch in Longview.



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Texas Master Gardener Magazine by Karen Anderson

If you have friends or family who like to garden or who want to learn more about gardening in Texas, a gift subscription to Texas Gardener Magazine would make a great gift. It is easy and puts a little money in the Wood Co. Master Gardener bank account for educational programs and projects during the year.

Also, if you have a subscription up for renewal and renew it thru our WCMG we receive a percentage of the renewal fee.

For further information or an order form contact Karen Anderson.



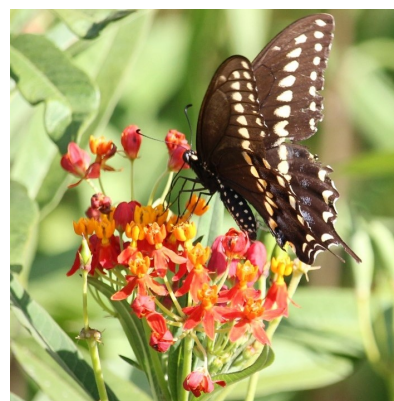
<http://www.texasgardener.com/>

Pollinator Week 2016 by: Linda Timmons



National Pollinator Week was June 20th through June 26th this year. Pollinators including bees, birds, butterflies and bats are absolutely vital to our ecosystems. The Wildscape at the Nature Preserve is doing a wonderful job of providing habitat for pollinators. The bees are especially attracted to the pollen rich flowers of the bee balm and the salvias. The butterflies enjoy the water puddle, the lantana, the butterfly bush and the host plants available to lay their eggs and feed the larva.

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Blossom End Rot in Tomatoes

Gardening season is here and the calls will start coming in about “my tomatoes are rotten on the bottom”. This problem is not a disease like a fungus, bacteria or virus, but is actually a physiological problem. Since it is of a physiological nature, fungicides and insecticides are useless as control measures.



<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/problem-solvers/tomato-problem-solver/ripe-fruit/>

Blossom end rot can appear on fruits at any time in their development, but most commonly appears when fruits are one-third to one-half grown. The initial symptoms are water-soaked spots on the blossom end of the fruit. These spots later enlarge and become black. Secondary infection by other decay causing organisms usually follows. The cause of this disorder is considered to be calcium deficiency in the developing fruit. Extreme fluctuations in moisture, root pruning and excessive nitrogen fertilization can also result in blossom end rot. Best means of control is to maintain a uniform supply of moisture through irrigation and soil mulches. Calcium chloride can be used as a spray for control under some conditions. Gypsum (Calcium Sulfate) can be used as granular to treat blossom end rot. If your soil pH is acidic, adding agricultural limestone will rectify the deficiency. Do not lime unless you have acidic soil.

While there's no way to save the individual tomatoes or other fruits that show signs of blossom end rot, the disease doesn't spread or actually affect the plant itself. You'll see more blossom end rot occurring on tomatoes early in the season with it appearing less frequently as the summer goes on.

Since blossom-end rot is so closely related to extremes in the water supply, an important aid in control is to regulate moisture supply in the soil. Cultivation and hoeing can be avoided if proper weed-control chemicals are used. If cultivation is necessary, it should be shallow to avoid root pruning. Mulching, which serves to maintain an even supply of soil moisture, should be practiced where feasible. If irrigation of any kind can be used, it may prove profitable during hot, dry weather. To reemphasize, either an inadequate or excess moisture stress favors blossom-end rot development. In general, plants need at least one inch of water per week in the form of rain or supplemental irrigation.

Happy Gardening

Clint Perkins

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County Extension Agent-Ag/NR: Clint Perkins

Wood County TX
AgriLife Extension Service
618 South Main Street
Quitman, TX 75783-0968
Phone: 903-763-2924

Interested in becoming a Master Gardener and contributing to your county? If so, call the Wood County AgriLife Extension office for more information and to join.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

QUITMAN ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

Spring is such a busy time of the year, there is hardly a minute to watch the wildflowers unfold, the leaves return to the trees and the weeds immerge after a long winter's nap.

The gardens at the Quitman Arboretum are definitely awake and seem to have enjoyed such a mild winter. Thanks to help from this year's interns, we have the roses properly pruned for another season, many of the weeds have been pulled, haircuts (pruning) have been given to those plants that have outgrown their bounds and plans are being made for the addition of new plants in almost every venue.

We continue to be amazed at the success of the plants in the water wise garden. These were carefully selected and planted with no sustainable irrigation added. All of these plants have been mulched to keep the weeds under control and to maintain any moisture that comes their way. The only weed problem continues to be the invasive Bermuda grass from the adjacent parking lot which is dealt with on a regular basis. As one of the last major garden plots to be installed, this one succeeds in pleasing the eye of those who pass and is a great source of inspiration when looking for drought tolerant plants.

We are keeping a watchful eye on the rose gardens in view of the "rose blight" that has made its way into East Texas. Sightings of this disease were recently discussed at a Master Gardener meeting. If you are not sure of the tell-tale symptoms to watch for contact Linda Bradley or Peggy Rogers. They can assist you with more information on the "rose blight" than I have room for in this article.

Thank you if you were among the many that attended our most recent plant sale. It was full of appropriate selections for our "neck of the woods". Our shoppers left with healthy stock, plant care information/suggestions and smiles on their faces as our prices were most reasonable.

The Friends of the Arboretum are proud of the Community Gardening Classes being offered by Lin Grado. These events have been well attended and have succeeded in creating a link to many in the area who are not interested in a Master Gardener program but do love gardening.

The construction of our storage barn continues on the north side of the house. The opportunity has now presented itself to invite you to join us as a gardener, builder, or one in need of a few laughs and good company. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Check our website www.quitmanarboretum for details.



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Correction: In our last issue The Editor incorrectly identified the Project Leader for the QABG as Jan Whitlock. Pam Riley is the project leader and has always been the leader since the projects beginning. My apologies to Pam..

Can you grow Ginger in Texas? By: Sylvia Johnson

Can we grow this great *Perennial HERB* in our gardens?

“Cooking Ginger”:

“The main active components in ginger are gingerols, which are responsible for its distinct fragrance and flavor. Gingerols are powerful anti-inflammatory compounds that can help alleviate the pain caused by arthritis.”

Growing:

Ginger thrives best in warm, humid climates. Choose a site that provides plenty of light, including 2 to 5 hours of direct sunlight. Ideal spots are also protected from strong winds.

Soil preparation. The best soil for ginger is loose, loamy, and rich in organic matter. Loamy soils allow water to drain freely, which will help prevent the rhizomes from becoming waterlogged. Thick mulch can also provide nutrients, retain water, and help control weeds.

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/files/2010/10/EHT-014-Easy-Gardening-Ginger.pdf>



aggie-horticulture

Grow in the ground or a pot? There are different thoughts about this question.

Ginger plants take 10 months to mature. If you live in [USDA zone 7](#) or higher, you can grow ginger root in the **ground** (though in all zones but zone 10, the leaves will die in the winter). If you live in zone 6 or lower, you'll need to bring your ginger plant in for the winter, which means you will need to plant the ginger root in a pot. <http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/edible/herbs/ginger/growing-ginger.htm>

Use the **hilling** method for growing ginger vertically: Dig a furrow 12 to 18 inches deep. Place your growing tips at the bottom of the furrow with the eyes facing upward, and cover the planted sections with 1 inch of soil. Plant your growing tips 6 to 12 inches apart within the row, with rows spaced 45 to 60 inches apart. Cover your rhizomes with 2 to 4 inches of fresh soil every six weeks. Fertilize monthly, starting from the emergence of shoots, or fertilize at each hilling. <http://homeguides.sfgate.com>

In most of Texas, ginger is best grown in **pots**. Use a rich tropical potting soil. Plant rhizomes in a pot at least two feet in diameter. Space them about a foot apart with no more than half an inch of soil covering them. This exposes the root to surface heating which stimulates growth and imitates the hot soil of the tropics. Keep the soil moist but not water-logged until green shoots emerge from the soil, about ten days after planting the rhizome, more if planted too deeply. <http://www.arborgate.com/cowgirl.php?id=60>

But wait...there is more to ginger

Peacock Ginger -- the "Hosta" of the South

by [Marie Harrison \(can2grow\)](#)

“For those who want the look of hosta without all the fuss, some substitutes can give a very similar look in the landscape. One hosta substitute is the diminutive peacock ginger (*Kaempferia*), which is easier to grow in the Deep South than some of the less heat-tolerant hostas. The peacock ginger has been called the "hosta" of the Deep South. “



M. Harrison.

I have planted my “hands and fingers” for this year. Some in pots, some in the ground. I will let you know how they grow. My photos will be in a follow-up article. sj

What is happening in my Garden? by: Shirley Chadwick, Class of 2016

Here is what I have done in my garden so far this year. I had a neighbor come and prune my plum trees...all this before I had the class on pruning. After the class I will know if “we” even did the pruning halfway right.

I had my handyman and his crew to come and build fencing for my thornless blackberry plants to grow on. Meanwhile, I started seeds in the green house and tried to keep the temperature even so the newbies didn't dry out.

I asked the city to bring a load of mulch; then they came back and asked me if I wanted a load of pine mulch....yes, yes! I hired two guys to put the mulch in the flower beds and the pine mulch around the azaleas. This year my 40 year old azaleas were specular.

My sister came over and helped me build my compost pile. My neighbor brought over a year old pile of cow manure mixed with hay. So with cardboard, mulch, year old grass clipping and year old rotted leafs the compost is built.

Whoo-ray! Waited for warmer nights to put the plants in the garden and the flower beds.

*Shirley, *

You have been busy this spring. Thanks for sharing your garden with us. What have the rest of you been doing ? Please let us know by sending a few sentences to: mgnewsletter@hotmail.com. sj

Festivals and Farmers Markets Committee News by: Linda Timmons

Trial Farmers Market Venue a Success!

The newly formed committee for festivals and farmer markets met on March 22 to select dates to set up at the local farmers markets. The dates of April 2nd and June 4th for Mineola and May 7th and 21th for Winnsboro were selected. Wood County Master Gardener “From Garden to Table” tip books and herb and vegetable plants were top sellers. The sets of garden tools left from the 2015 Spring Conference and pamphlets on Texas trees, wildflowers and butterflies were also sold. Sales totaled \$306.

Soil testing information and handouts about Master Gardeners and dates of classes were provided for those interested. There was very good response from the attendee's and a lot of good horticulture information on growing plants and herbs was given by the booth workers.

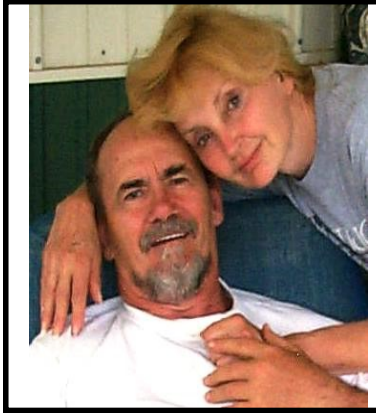


This venue for the Wood County Master Gardeners is a great way to inform and educate the public of our projects and objectives, upcoming classes, general information on “how to's” in their gardens and around their homes.

There will be two more market dates scheduled in the Fall for Mineola and Winnsboro to be announced at a later date. Linda Timmons, Judi Luce, Gwen Fleishman, Jenna Nelson, and Toni Madden worked to make it successful this Spring, but anyone that is interested in helping please contact Judi Luce.

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Merwyn "Bart" C. Bartlett



Merwyn "Bart" C. Bartlett passed peacefully with members of his family at his side on March 7, 2016. He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Eileen Bartlett; daughter, Wanda Bartlett of Purcellville, VA; grandson Erik and grand daughter-in-law, Erica Ravenscroft of Walsh, IL and three great grandsons, Damian, Jayce and Jackson; Daughter and Son-in-law, Kim and Paul Easley of Powhatan, VA; Son and Daughter-in-law, Dana and Nancy Bartlett of Round Hill, VA; Step-son, David Jacobsen, Woodbury, CT.

Bart was a Satellite and Telecommunications Engineer by trade and retired in 2003, only to become a master gardener with Wood County, TX, where he took on several major projects to include designing the wildscape for the nature preserve in Mineola, TX. He was an accomplished artist- with oils, pottery, sculpting and writing. He immensely enjoyed all things nature especially the many animals he rescued. The family asks in lieu of flowers, please donate to Gerda's Animal Aid at PO Box 1352 West Townshend, VT 05359. www.gerdasanimalaid.com and click on donate now.



To have a garden is to believe in tomorrow...

to have a Bonsai garden is to believe in many tomorrows

(unknown)

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Work Days and Schedules

Wildscape—Tuesdays starting around 8:00. Bring your basic gardening tools. We do have larger tools like shovels, rakes, etc. We will work every Tues. unless there is a chance of severe weather or high percentage of rain. Project Leader: Karen Anderson

QA&BG—Wednesdays at 0900. Bring your own gardening tools. Please come and help us maintain our public garden. Project Leader: Pam Riley.

Due to summer weather, times may change, please call the project leaders for info. All are welcome to come out and help. sj

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If you are a full Wood County Master Gardeners Association Member and have time to work but can't make the above schedule, call the project leader and tell them you want to work. They will let you know what needs to be accomplished. Just because you cannot meet the schedule does not mean that you are not needed! Even an hour of your time would help keep our projects updated. If you are working on your own without the "group" be sure to wear your WCMGA nametag to identify yourself to the public and other Associates. You may also want to wear your official T-shirt. sj



2016 WCMG Officers



Photo by Keith Zimmerman

Melissa Deakins, Linda Timmons, Jan Whitlock, Molly Mathias

Online with WCMG

–**Website** at <http://txmg.org/woodcounty> for up-to-the-minute news and scheduled events, back issues of the newsletter and seasonal videos. Any new content for the web-site can be sent to Keith Zimmerman.

–**Facebook**, search for **Wood County Master Gardeners, Inc.** You should find 3 pages to choose from,

- Page 1 is a blank site that has been removed
- Page 2 is Wood County Master Gardeners / Kentucky
- [Page 3 Wood County Master Gardeners, Quitman](#)
 - Then "like" us!

–**CEU—ON LINE:** <http://txmg.org> -look to side of page, click on Training, click on Training Opportunities, click Earth-Kind Training for Master Gardeners, almost to bottom of page you will find Directions. There are 12 subjects, click on arrow in front of subject for video then click on survey or test. You are not graded on the test.

–**Sunshine:** If you know of a member who needs a warm thought or sympathy contact **Jenna Nelson:** Jnelson@peoplescom.net

–**Volunteer Hours:** <http://texas.volunteersystem.org> Just click on the link and you will see where to enter your password. Before logging in, right click on the page and save to favorites or bookmark or Create Shortcut to you desktop. Thanks for entering your hours. If you need help contact Peggy Rogers.

Editor-you can find all E-mail address and/or contact information on the Membership Roster sent to you by E-mail or on the Member Roster on the Volunteer Hours Website site above.

Unless otherwise annotated, all photos in this publication were taken by the author of the article in which they appear. SJ Editor

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