

# Wood Works

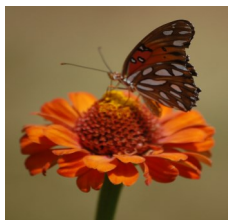


## Master Gardeners Association Newsletter Wood County, Texas

Volume 2014, Issue 1

Edited by: Sylvia Johnson

### President's Article: Happy New Year Master Gardeners!



**Article and Photo by:**  
**Ellen Atkins**

It's always exciting to begin something new—a new home, a new job, a new garden, a new year. Of course, there are those moments of trepidation, too. Being an optimistic person, I will choose to ignore those feelings and forge ahead.

As we look forward to a new year as Master Gardeners, I want to let you

know about some personal objectives I have for our award-winning Wood County group. First, I want to let the public know more about what we do and how our activities serve the Wood County residents and those in the surrounding counties. Anyone want to write articles for the local news outlets? Let's "toot our own horn"! Next, let's think about ways to streamline our project reporting. Do you think that one person should make the monthly report after talking with each project leader? Do you like hearing from each individual project leader as we do now? Your opinion counts! Third, we will be gearing up for the 2015 Spring Conference, discussing ways to freshen our processes and program-

ming. We'll need every WCMG to be involved in this effort in some way. And finally, there are some new educational programs in the works for this year. We learned from the state convention evaluation of our submissions for prizes that we need to increase our educational offerings. We will be discussing these proposals very soon. Several grant applications were submitted in December that will help fund some of these projects, if in fact, the money is awarded to WCMG.

In November, I asked the members that were at the monthly meeting to gather ideas for fundraisers. No one likes to have to solicit funds from family, friends or others, ([click here for full story](#))

### Scheduled Meeting Subjects and Events By: Sylvia

**January: Annual Dues** to be paid by End of Month January. \$20 to Treasurer

Jan 7- Training Class Begins

16— Regular MG Meeting: 1 CEU—Yard Art by Lin Grado

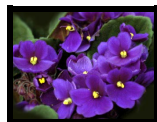
31— Dues Deadline

**February 20**—Regular MG Meeting: 1 CEU, Seed Saving by Sandra McFall

#### Birth Month Flowers



Carnation:  
January



February:  
Violet

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TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION



Mineola Nature Preserve on the Sabine River  
Photo by: Sylvia

## WILDSCAPE GARDEN

By: Joan Morgan

The year is winding down and the weather certainly is impacting our end of the year activity at the Wildscape. We have lots of trimming of plants to be done, but we will begin the New Year with that task.

We also have planned a tree trimming day with Daniel Duncum on January 7th at 1:00 p.m. and all Master Gardeners are invited to learn about the proper trimming process. This should take about 2 hours and be a

training process for all of us.

We have accomplished so much this year, which I have outlined in previous articles so I won't go into detail, but all the folks who have been such good volunteers at the Wildscape have much to be proud about.

In 2014 our plan is to have a Pergola over one of the walkways with plantings on each side. Our agenda also includes some educational activities to share with the

gardeners, both WCMG and the general public. Those will be further outlined in our next article, but for the time being, understand that we will be very active next year. Hopefully, we can encourage the Trainee Class to join us at the Wildscape to adopt the Grass Bed and make it more of a grass bed.

Again, we have much to be proud of in 2013 and look forward to 2014. Have a Happy New Year.



*News from the Quitman Arboretum and the Stinson House*

Photo by: Sylvia

## INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PICKET FENCE By: Jan Whitlock

Where has the time gone? Turkey and dressing are just a memory and the gardens at The Quitman Arboretum have settled down for "a long winter's nap". A very busy fall schedule led us into an even busier Holiday Season. While the gardens were at rest, the volunteers

at the Stinson House moved "Christmas" out of the attic. Many of Santa's helpers decorated the House for its Christmas company. Several groups rented the facility for their holiday parties. . The House was open to the public on December 14th and 15th from 1:00 until 4:00. Light refreshments were served

and baked goods were available for sale. The proceeds are to be used for facility upkeep. Tuesday, the 17th of December, found the annual Quitman Chamber of Commerce Mixer queuing up for their festivities. This was an evening spent eating a decadent meal ([click for full article](#))



Karen A., Twala Walters (and sons), Jerri Stuphin

Article and photos by: Sylvia and Jim Willis

## What U missed at our meetings!

**November:** This was Twala Walters certification award for completing her 50 Hrs. for 2013.

Jerri Stuphin, who won the TMGA State Award for Best Project 2013, wanted to acknowledge the help of Twala and her sons.

**December:** Class of 2009 received their 5 year pins. They have the largest group still active out of all training classes to date. — Sandra McFall received her 20 year pin. She has earned and served wherever she has lived during the past 20 years by transferring from

state to state. Go Sandra!



Karen Anderson & Sandra McFall

## AgriLife Agent Article: Prolong the Life of Christmas Gift Plants

One of the questions I get at this time of the year is - "How do I keep my Christmas gift plant looking good?"

Holiday plants can add beauty to a home or office and if properly maintained, can continue to provide that beauty for several weeks after the holiday season.

Unfortunately, most homes are not designed for good plant production and good lasting quality. Most floral

plants come to us from greenhouses that provide ideal growing conditions of light, temperature and humidity. The transition from the ideal to less than ideal environments often cause the plants to go into shock resulting in yellowing of lower leaves, leaf drop and quick deterioration.

Most homes are overheated and have fluctuating temperatures, lack of humidity and proper light for good plant quality. Some plants are

intended to last for holiday enjoyment only and do not last even with the best of care. They are forced into production for the occasion and seldom last as a permanent attractive houseplant and are truly greenhouse plants.

Let's take a look at several of the more popular Christmas flowers and how to care for them to prolong their beauty:

[\(click here for full story\)](#)



By:

**Clint Perkins**

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- <http://txmg/woodcounty>

## HERB SAYS: HAPPY NEW YEARS AND LET'S EAT HEALTHY!

**Article and Recipe By: Sandra McFall**

At some point in our life someone close to us, or maybe it's you, needs to change their eating habits. This can be a difficult time and we need all the help possible. Herbs can be that help. Not only do herbs add flavor to foods when more flavor is needed to replace the salt, sugar, and fat being re-

duced in the diet, but herbs offer additional benefits of their own. Research has found that many culinary herbs (both fresh and dried) have antioxidants that may help protect against such diseases as cancer and heart disease. Culinary herbs contribute virtually no calories, protein, fat or carbohydrates

to the diet, just lots of delicious flavor, healthful antioxidants, and pigments. Two sprigs of parsley provide 11mcg of vitamin K, or 14% of an adult's need for this nutrient. If you're reducing the salt, [\(click here for full story\)](#)

References from about.com.



Christmas Cactus photo by: Petra Jones

## Featured Plant: Why am I so excited?—it's just a tree! By: Lucy Germany

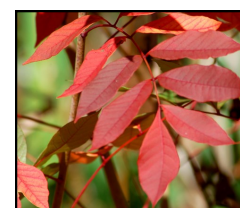
Not so long ago — at the beginning of each November I would send a virtual message to a friend I knew in New Hampshire, taunting her. "Nya,nya,nya" was my introductory taunt—you think you have the most beautiful fall colors in the U.S.—you and Vermont?? Well when

things were going as they should and we'd had our usual amount of rainfall, I was always confident that East Texas could match them and more—even outdazzle them with our dogwoods, sweet gums, tupelos, and maples. I had even offered to swap photos to prove it to

my New Hampshire friend but she was too assured of the northeastern forests' kingly magnificence to bother with a possible but "definitely not probable claim"—certainly not one from East Texas!

[\(click here for full story\)](#)

## The Lowly Sumac



<http://landscaping.about.com>

Re-published with the authorization of the Big Sandy/Hawkins Journal. Lucy is a regular contributor to their newspaper in The Holly Lake Effect column.

## President Article Continued:

but it is a necessary aspect of supplementing our budget. I believe that we need to create a fundraiser that is on-going and memorable. Please give this some thought and let me know your ideas.

All of us are grateful to Karen Anderson, Mike Ferguson, Lynette Izigarry, and Lin Grado for their service to the Master Gardener Association. Thank you for everything each of you did to make Wood County Master Gardeners the association that other counties look up to. We are all proud to be part of this outstanding group!

Did you know...that the Wood County Master Gardeners are a non-profit group with a 501(c)(3) status? This means that you may make a tax-deductible contribution to WCMG to support our many activities. Just thought you should know.



## How to Kill a Camilla by Linda Timmons

One year I came back from an early spring trip to Charleston, SC inspired by the large showy camellias that seemed to be growing everywhere. I had seen them growing near older homes in east Texas so I knew they were hardy here. I found a beautiful double pink flowered selection called 'Debutante' and planted it on the east (morning sun) side of the house. Camellias do best when sheltered from the hot sun. The spot I chose to plant the camellia also had good water from the downspout at the corner of the house. My first lesson in how to kill a camellia; there can be too much of a good thing. My camellia didn't survive the spring rainy season.

I do learn. I was very careful in site selection and planting my second camellia. I was very careful in site selection and planting my second camellia. It was planted on the east side of some big trees. I amended the soil with compost, planted it with the root ball about an inch above the surrounding soil so it was well drained and mulched it with several inches of pine needles. Camellias are particular about water. My second lesson in how to kill a camellia came at the end of that summer. At some point during the summer I let the camellia get too dry. That fall, all the leaves on my poor camellia turned brown and fell off. Camellias are supposed to be evergreen. I learned that camellias need regular water when they're young. Older shrubs only need supplemental water during extended dry periods.

The next winter I made another attempt to grow camellias. This time I used the shotgun approach. I planted three camellias in different places in the yard. I picked well drained spots with protection from mid day sun. One was near the fence by the driveway. On the other side of the fence is my neighbor's cow which I have since named "Camellia". The cow started munching on the camellia bush almost as soon as it was planted. That bush didn't make it but I do have 2 beautiful camellia shrubs. One is a sasanqua that blooms in December and the other is a japonica that blooms in March. They both have glossy evergreen foliage and showy flowers. In another 20 years I should have camellia bushes like the ones I loved in Charleston.



Sasanqua photo by: dreamtime®



## Message from Out-going President 2013:

Another eventful year has come to an end. I have learned a lot about guiding our association over the past year and want to thank my Executive Board for all their help and support. Also a big thank you to members who stepped in when last minute help was needed.

We did not accomplish everything as planned but we did train new members from Van Zandt County who have established their own Free State Master Gardeners of Van Zandt County. Best wishes for a great future.

This was our first year doing a 2 day Science Day Program (at two different locations) for local third graders. Thank you Wood County Master Gardeners (WCMG) for all your hard work with this JR Master Gardener program and Linda Avant for organizing it so well.

The WCMG are well recognized across the State of Texas and this is evident in the state awards we won for 2013; 3 first, 1 second and 1 third. This includes the honor of having the State Master Gardener Award presented to Peggy Rogers. In addition to state awards our Master Gardeners have written articles for newspapers and newsletters, given talks to garden clubs, social organizations and schools, demos at local festivals and taught classes for new trainees. We are a very diverse group of people and thank you all for your contributions in 2013.

Now it is time to plan for 2014 and you have elected an excellent board to continue the WCMG programs and contributions to Wood County and the surrounding counties. The new President is Ellen Atkins (Class 2009), Vice President, Molly Mathis (Class 2013), Secretary, Linda Bradley (Class 2013) and Treasurer Katie Carter (Class 2012). Congratulations to each one of these officers and best wishes for a very successful 2014. They will need all your support, ideas and hard work to keep WCMG growing and serving our county with knowledge and information.

Karen Anderson

President, 2013



Karen hands off the gavel to Ellen

Photo by Jim Willis



Photo by Petra Jones

### Wood County Master Gardeners Officers 2014

President is	Ellen Atkins
Vice President	Molly Mathis
Secretary	Linda Bradley
Treasures	Katie Carter (not shown)

## **Master Gardener Service Awards 2013 :** by Karen Anderson

Congratulations to the members who were presented awards at our December meeting for their time, ideas and hard work this past year. The association chose some very dedicated and talented people to acknowledge for their contributions in 2013. Thank you so very much for all you did to further the Master Gardener program for Wood County.

### **ROOKIE FOR 2013: Linda Bradley**

Linda is a very enthusiastic lady who wants to learn all she can about gardening and loves people. She took on a project at the Arboretum along with some fellow trainees to establish a water-wise garden. They put in many long, hot hours with Linda's guidance, to establish a beautiful garden that requires little water or maintenance. After her experience as a trainee she has volunteered to assist with the 2014 trainee class and will also be the WCMG Secretary for the coming year. Linda has many good ideas to help promote the Master Gardener educational program in the future. Congratulations for a job well done and wishing you a very eventful 2014.

### **PROJECT LEADER: Joan Morgan, Mineola Nature Preserve/Wildscape Gardens**

Joan has been the project leader at the Mineola Nature Preserve for 3 years and has done a fantastic job. She has worked hard keeping the beds looking beautiful and people friendly. She coordinated the first 3<sup>rd</sup> graders Science Day at the Mineola Nature Preserve in conjunction with the Science Day at the Arboretum with Linda Avant. The event went very well and everyone enjoyed their learning experience at the Preserve. She has supervised the installation of the Rainwater Harvesting and drip irrigation project, installation of the split rail fencing, signage for the plants, flagstone paths among the beds and promoted the Nature Preserve and the Master Gardener Wildscape Gardens. Good job Joan and thank you for your guidance and hard work.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH: John Fox**

John is one of those behind the scene volunteers who gets the job done without much fanfare. He has put in many hours working at the Arboretum installing a drip irrigation system for the flower beds, worked on special events like the Spring and Fall plant sales, helping with the restoration of the Stinson House and promoting the Master Gardener program. John has also worked with the Quitman Garden Club maintaining the beautiful gardens around the Quitman Library by installing a drip irrigation system. John is very innovative and has contributed many ideas for the on-going projects of the Master Gardeners. Thank you John for all your time and ideas.

### **INNOVATOR: Sylvia Johnson, Newsletter Editor**

Sylvia became the Wood County Master Gardener newsletter editor 2 years ago and is another behind the scenes worker who has contributed many hours keeping our members and public informed about the master gardeners program. She revamped the format to keep it up to date and fun to read. Our newsletter won 1st place at the State Awards for 2012 and I am sure we will be in the running for 2013. Sylvia has done a great job combining informational articles on gardening, humorous episodes by members in their gardening experiences, activities by our master gardeners and promoting our association. (continued next page)

## MG Service Awards 2013 continued:

It is not an easy job being an editor and accumulating all the information needed but you have done a fabulous job. Congratulations and thank you for a job well done.

### MASTER GARDENR of the Year - 2013: Jim Willis

Jim is another quiet behind the scenes Master Gardener who uses his favorite hobby and knowledge to promote our programs and has contributed so much to our association. Jim loves photography and has assisted many Master Gardeners with their programs by taking photos, setting up power point presentations and his new hobby, videos. You mention something that might help at a project and when you come to work the next time it has been completed. At the Mineola Nature Preserve Jim has built a sitting area under the only shade tree we have available, a deck and benches under the roof of the lean-to, set up and installed our Rainwater Harvesting system, installed our split rail fence and contributed many suggestions and ideas to improve the gardens. He has also improved our Website and monitors it. Thank you Jim for all your assistance and guidance over the five years you have been a Wood County Master Gardener.

Congratulations to each one of you and the Wood County Master Gardeners thank you for all your contributions to our association and programs in 2013.

### Karen presents 2013 Awards all photos by Jim Willis or Mrs. Willis



Linda Bradley



Joan Morgan



Jim Willis



John Fox



Sylvia Johnson

**Poinsettias** - outrank all other Christmas plants combined in popularity. They are well adapted to indoor temperatures so long as they are not allowed to sit in hot or cold drafts. Place them in a bright window and aim at keeping the soil evenly moist, but never soggy wet or overly dry. Poinsettias used to be pretty sensitive to changes from a greenhouse environment to that of a home, with leaf and flower drop being a common problem. With newer varieties available today, however, you can just about plan on you poinsettias looking nice on Valentine's Day, if you keep them around that long. Poinsettias are not poisonous.

**Kalanchoes** - should be kept in a sunny window. This plant flowers when the days (daylight hours) are short; consequently they are difficult to re-flower in the home if they are carried for another year. Lights used in the home provide long days and the plants will not set flower buds under such conditions. Just remove the flower stalks and use a foliage plant.

**Christmas Cactus** - isn't a typical cactus. It requires as much water as any other houseplant, though it should not be over watered. This is one plant that can be kept over to bloom again next Christmas with good success. Keep it in a sunny window until danger of frost is past, then place it in a shady spot out of doors during the summer. Bring it inside next fall, place in a cool room, and with reasonable luck, flowers should appear by Christmas. Christmas cactus is a short-day plant and will require short days of autumn out-of-doors before bringing in doors for the winter. The grower may also place the plant in two extra hours of darkness each day until flower buds form.

**Cyclamen** - or shooting stars are old favorites. Their large showy flowers are red, pink, salmon or white and really do resemble falling stars. Unfortunately, the flowers fade and fall fast, so cyclamen has a short "shelf life" as flowering plant inside the home. To prolong its beauty, keep the plant cool as possible. Avoid hot drafts and over-watering. Cyclamens are difficult to maintain as an attractive houseplant beyond the holiday season.

**Christmas Pepper** - is becoming more popular each year as a gift plant. The colorful, red yellow, orange and green peppers make it a distinctive plant to give or receive. Ornamental peppers will thrive inside the home for several weeks, and will make an interesting potted or container plant for the patio or porch after the holidays. Do not allow the plant to be subjected to temperatures below 35 degrees.

**Jerusalem Cherry** - produce showy, globe-shaped fruit, green turning yellow and scarlet. The persistent fruit are poisonous. Provide a sunny location and plan to put it out-of-doors after danger of frost for a long-lasting, productive plant.

**Amaryllis** - a native of South Africa is a popular flowering bulb and is often a gift plant. The modest foliage is accented by a bold stem which produces magnificent large funnel-shaped blooms of vivid reds, oranges, peppermint, salmon, pinks and white. The flowers are long-lasting and once faded, should be removed along with the stems. Many varieties flourish out-of-doors in protected semi-shaded areas and may be planted in the garden after danger of frost.

All holiday plants need natural light and perform best out of direct sun. Once the top soil of the pot dries to the touch, water well, and allow to dry before watering again. It is best to under water rather than over water. It may be necessary to remove decorative wraps, ribbons, etc. which may impede good drainage.

Hopefully these plants can brighten your holidays. With a little care, they can last long time.



## Humorous Mishaps by Lynn ArronSpear

### Lady Carrying the Silk Purse ...

Dear Darlene –

We are still on the road but now on the road to your barnyard. You see, we had a terrible misfortune when a tiny tornado or huge dust devil swept us up and we got totally turned around. It wasn't until we ran into that same Stray Bar that we even knew we were going the wrong way! What's more, rooting around outside were four tattooed pigs and, of course, Pigolet was certain the one carrying the silk purse was his long lost mother—imagine! I had to nip this in the bud so I went over to them and struck up a conversation, using my wit and charm (of which no doubt you are well aware.) It seems they're on the lamb, as it were, from some fiend who enjoys tattooing animals as an art form.

Pigolet was somewhat willful and ed was his mother so I urged him dogging them at a distance, I es- were swapping pig tales and fi- When I addressed the “lady” with a foreign dialect that Pigolet was been mistaken. This brought on



Tattooed Pigs by Wim Delvoye



Wim Delvoye's Tattooed Pig

have to man-

lene, I don't know how we're going to manage him when rive. Do you have any ideas what we should do with him? your Big Things will notice he's not one of us and he can't eggs ... so what could possibly be his value?

stubborn about the one he suspect- to have a word with her. Instead of corted him to where these swine nally got their attention once more. the silk purse, she answered in such once and for all convinced he had one of his Pigolet pouts that I will age until he snaps out of it. Dar-



Pigolet-Photobucket

we ar- Surely lay

Fortunately I was able to recharge the Droid but when I used it to call you numerous times, there was never an answer. I'm worried about you now so I've flagged down a willing dove who's agreed to deliver this personally to you and await your reply. You must know that if any harm were to befall the remarkable sheen of your gorgeous leg scales, I would be totally bereft.

Master Gardeners: Please send your faux pas to [lynnaronspeer@msn.com](mailto:lynnaronspeer@msn.com). Thank you.



Scratch's Famous Farm  
Photo from Photobucket

## SERVICE AWARD PINS — DECEMBER 2013

### 2009 – 5 YEAR

Anderson, Karen

AronSpeer, Lynn

Atkins, Ellen

Connor, Bonnie

Johnson, Sylvia

Jones, Petra

Norris, Ann

Waggoner, Rod

Walters, Adrienne

Whitcomb, Jeff

Wills, Jim

### 2004 – 10 year

Boyce, Lois

Chaney, Mary

Marshall, Sandy

Weaver, Nancy

### 1993 – 20 Year

McFall, Sandra

Congratulations Wood County Master Gardeners  
for your service and contributions over the past 5,  
10 and 20 years. Thank you all for your hard  
work and helping to build our association.

Karen Anderson, President, 2013



**Class of 2009**

Photo by Mrs. Willis

## Quitman Arboretum & Botanical Garden continued:

and listening to live Christmas music while visiting with friends and pretending we didn't have any more Christmas shopping to do.

In January and February we will focus our attention back outside. Work will continue in established garden areas and we look forward to a new class of Master Gardeners to help us revitalize what has already been established. Even plants get tired and need a "boost" every now and then.

This will be our fifth year to participate in a statewide conference for established arboretums. How proud we were last year to visit with employees and volunteers from all over the state at the Clark Gardens in Mineral Wells and then at the Chandor Gardens in Weatherford. Employees and volunteers shared their progress and visions for the future at their various locations and our own Deanna Caldwell presented an outstanding power point on behalf of the Quitman Arboretum.



Photo from: Peggy Rogers

Wood County Master Gardeners presented a "mock check" representing the labor value of our volunteer services provided to Wood County in 2013. The amount of \$120,252.96 was funds that the citizens of the county did not have to provide. Master Gardeners are a big benefit to the county's quality of life providing citizens with well tended parks/ trails/ preserves/arboretum and educational programs.

We are a 501K non-profit association. For more information on donations of money, merchandise and/or supplies please contact our Officers or AgriLife Agent. Contact info is on the last sheet of this newsletter.

## Class of 2014 SCHEDULE:

2014 WOOD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION TRAINEE CLASS SCHEDULE					
Date	Subject	Speaker	Hours	Chapter	Notes
1/7/2014	Botany, Structure, Processes	Clint Perkins	3	1	Project Leaders part 1
1/14/2014	Soil 1	Clint Perkins	3	2	Project Leaders part 2
1/21/2014	Propagagation Part 1	Fran McKinney Mike Ferguson Lin Grado	2	1	
	Soil 2	Clint Perkins	1	2	
1/28/2014	Propagation Part 2	Fran McKinney Mike Ferguson Lin Grado	3	1	
2/4/2014	Vegetable and Herb Gardening	Ellen Atkins	3	6	
2/11/2014	Bulbs for Southern Gardens	Chris Wiesinger	1.5	7	
	Bulbs 101	Lin Grado	1.5	7	
2/18/2014	Trees - Forests	Eric Taylor	2	7	
	Trees - Urban	Daniel Duncum	2	7	At Arboretum
2/25/2014	Earth Kind Gardening	Peggy Rogers	4	3, 8	
3/4/2014	Gardening in Containers/ Raised Bed Gardens	Holly Ross	3	6	
3/11/2014	Entomology	Allen Smith	3	4	
3/18/2014	Integrated Pest Management	Linda Timmons	3	4	
3/25/2014	Rainwater Harvesting/ Trip to MNP	Karen Anderson	4	3	
4/1/2014	Fruits and Nuts	Tommy Phillips	2	5	
	Texas Natives	Liz Soutendijk	2	3, 7	
4/8/2014	Composting	Donna Burcham Lou Ellen Bliss	3	3	Includes vermicomposting
4/15/2014	Field Trip	TBD	5		Big Chicken Daylily Farm/Blue Moon Gardens
4/22/2014	Graduation				Stinson House
	Total Hours		51		
	Time: 8:30 - 11:45				

This is the schedule as published on December 29. As always “your schedule may vary”. People have situations, weather is contrary, and stuff just happens to make the best plans change. I am sure that Peggy, as training class chairperson, will keep us updated to changes throughout the entire 2014 semester.

— Sylvia

## On-line with Wood County Master Gardeners;

—Visit our **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 jrwillisjr@yahoo.com.

—Go on **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 from Kentucky ,

Page 3 Wood County Master Gardeners, Quitman.

Then "like" us!

### —CEU Credit ON LINE

Directions: <http://txmg.org>  
Drop down a little ways, look to side of page, click on Training, click on Training Opportunities, down a little ways on page 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 and answer questions.....You are not graded on the test so you can't fail it. So now you have the directions so let's get those CEU's done!

—**Volunteer Hours** are now submitted online at the TMGA website.

—**Sunshine** , If you know of a member who needs cheering up or sympathy

please contact our chairperson at: Joycemhollaway@hotmail.com

### Historian Needs

**Pictures** Please send pictures, news clippings, festival activities, or any other activities to be included in the Wood County Master Gardner History to:

[awilkins67@gmail.com](mailto:awilkins67@gmail.com) Or Anna Wilkins, 946 Greenbriar Trl,



## From the Editor: To the 2014 Trainee Class (and a reminder for all)

### How to earn more CEUs — By: Sylvia Johnson

Welcome class of 2014. I am looking forward to having many years of fun together. I hope you become an active member of our association and, as the "MG Wood Works" Newsletter Editor, I sincerely hope you will participate in our newsletter. We are always accepting articles, information, pictures, and gardening tips. We also have a Biography outline ([click here](#)) that we would love you to fill out and let us publish that we all may get to know y'all better. This is a tool we use to know about the innate talent pool available to our organization. We have many talented and experienced members and try to use that information as projects become available. Submitting articles and pictures is another way you may earn your volunteer hours also. You may count the article writing time as volunteer time. This is a great help when the weather is bad, your not feeling up-to working outside, or just have an extra minute or two! All article are required to meet the following conditions:

- Written by yourself, we love true first person accounts
- Written by another or compiled from different resources, but full credit annotated to original source
- Pictures must be credited to photographer — annotate whether you took them or where you got them (must have permission when copying from the web or be from a "free" site but annotation still required
- Be related to Master Gardeners and gardening, any subject covered in MG training class, work day, or project
- We have ongoing needs for articles about: native plants, heirloom plants, vegetable plants, zeroscape plants, people interacting with plants, eating plants, insects and plants, etc...you get the idea. Just follow the examples in our past issues.
- You must allow editing by yours truly. Submission is considered permission!

I publish in **Tw Cen MT 10** font, I will accept Documents in Word & Work, sent from iPad, sent from phone, or hard copy. I can use most pictures sent by e-mail and compatible with Windows. **The leading delivery of malware comes in E-Mails, I DELETE E-MAIL WITH NO SUBJECT (even if you are stuck in Nigeria)!**

Thank you for joining us and please fill free to contact me with any questions. [mgnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:mgnewsletter@hotmail.com)



(Fill in what you want us to know, leave blank what you do not wish to share. Fill free to adlib as this is only a guide to get you started :)

## WCMG Member Biography

Name:

What would you like to tell us about your family:

Where do you live:

Current Employment, Retired From, Background you are trained in:

Childhood Plant experiences (if any):

Garden Mentors (if any):

Why did you join WCMG? What is your favorite part of our Association? Do you have any recommendations for change:

Do you hold any "Master Training" Awards from TMGA, if so in which subjects:

Current garden interest/goals/dreams:

Favorite garden/arboretum/location:

Favorite plant/Least favorite plant:

Favorite/least favorite garden critters:

Other Hobbies/interests/volunteer work:

What else would you like us to know about you:

Would you like to share any pictures with us:

Would you like anyone to "friend", "follow", or communicate with you in any modern format? If so, give information needed here:

Thank you for taking the time to let your fellow members know you better. It is amazing the diversity of knowledge and talent the members in our organization possess. I think, if needed, we would have a member versed in almost any area of life! Sylvia

**Featured Plant continued: The lowly Sumac**

But we managed to match them—red leaves to red leaves, sweet gums to sugar maples year after year, And back in early September I thought about asking her once again—“care to swap photos”?

Fortunately I didn't get that letter off and it's a good thing because, sadly, this year, the worm suddenly turned. The long- term rainless hot season we had to endure beginning in September meant that most of our color bearers couldn't produce and we slid waaaay down in the scale of fall beauty. But the purpose of this essay ( if you can call it that) is to tell you that there is redemption in the downfall—all is not lost. Now driving through East Texas all you will see in the forests which once shone like brilliant headlights on dark roads are this year's crop of rusty dogwood survivors, dull yellow and brown sweet gums; defeated, brown oaks and hickories and very little more of note. But then---suddenly---around a curve, up against a fence row, stuck out on the road shoulder so you can't miss it, there is a sumac so boldly red that it startles your eyes, so shockingly beautiful that you can't believe it—yes, it's the lowly sumac, the tree that many of us would willingly have once called—and some unfortunately still do-- a “trash tree”, all suddenly, startlingly scarlet, standing tall (as tall as a sumac can grow), boldly flashing its color as if to say—“we ain't done yet”!

How wonderful to understand the tricks of nature! It gives and takes away, then gives again in the most startling unexpected fashion. Who would have thought a sumac could display leaves as brilliant as peacock tail feathers, only totally scarlet, not just dark red, not mottled, but masses of broad pointed leaves so red they seem to be burning. If you have not experienced this phenomenon, it's time to take a drive. It's as if somebody had left the porch light on in the forest and the porch light bulbs are red. I was certain we would have to accept our plight and be forced to turn our attention to hope for a better year in 2014 but the unexpected beauty of a much-maligned tree (or shrub for sumac often takes that form along fence lines) tells us a different story. When all trees are in their red costume, one merges with another and we are hard pressed to select any particular species to honor, but, when one species only comes out in such roaring red regalia, particularly when it's the most unexpected of the lot, you have to rethink your priorities. You have to take another look at the small and lowly, the tree many people immediately single out for destruction. I have been sharing my enthusiasm for this transformation ever since it burst upon the landscape about three or four weeks ago. I was so excited I began calling friends. “Calm down...what are you talking about, are you telling me to get in my car and go hunt for a sumac?” one of them asked in a voice of incredulity.

(continued on next page)

## Sumac continued:

“A sumac?” She put a heavy emphasis on the name, as if she had discovered a cockroach in her kitchen sink.

I even suggested I might be available to lead a sumac tour in which I would drive and stop, drive and stop, trying to restrain my enthusiasm to give others a chance to comprehend this beauty. Now—to keep this going, we need a song for the sumac, and maybe a conducted tour of particularly awesome specimens. For once you’ve seen one, it is hard to go away and leave it. I know I am suffering from a heavy case of leaf worship. But I wanted all of you to know about this East Texas treasure—in case you have relatives in New Hampshire or Vermont. If they treat your story with skepticism, promise you’ll send photos.



## “Herb Says” continued:

fat, or calories in your diet, preparing your foods from scratch and not using processed foods is best. Start with fresh produce such as when making salsa. [\(click here for recipe\)](#)

Experiment with salt-free seasoning blends. Check grocery stores or make your own. Use dried tomatoes, hot or sweet peppers, garlic, dill, or any dried herbs you like. Lemon pepper is a spicy complement to any herb salt.

If you eat air-popped popcorn but find it to be too bland, try some of these tips. Spray with butter- flavored cooking spray and add seasoning such as chili powder (read label for salt), salt-free blends, or a sugar-cinnamon mixture.

The American Heart Association Low-Salt Cookbook (2nd edition) has a very extensive source of recipes that use spices and herbs to add back flavor when reducing salt, fat, and sugar in foods. You can find more information at: [http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/GettingHealthy/NutritionCenter/CookbooksandHealthGuides/Special-Diet-Cookbooks\\_UCM\\_303871\\_TabbedPage.jsp#](http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/GettingHealthy/NutritionCenter/CookbooksandHealthGuides/Special-Diet-Cookbooks_UCM_303871_TabbedPage.jsp#)

Add extra herbs to your vegetables and meats for more flavor and use less salt and fat. Again, start small and add the herbs to your taste. Eat fresh green salads. Add fresh herbs such as basil, thyme, rosemary, and chives. With all these flavors you really don’t need a dressing, but if you can’t eat without using dressing, use lemon juice, pepper, and drop by drop of olive oil to get the taste you want.

To reduce sugar, to me, is the hard one. Experiment with stevia and agave.

Herbs can help, so give them a try and enjoy better health in the New Year.

“An herb is the friend of physicians and the praise of cooks.” - Charlemagne

## Salsa Recipe by Sandra

2 cups chopped tomatoes

¼ cup chopped onions

¼ cup chopped peppers

1-2 tablespoons lemon juice

2 cloves chopped garlic

jalapeno peppers to taste

½ cup chopped fresh cilantro

Mix together. Refrigerate for several hours to allow blending. Serve.

(Note from Editor: Salsa goes great on potatoes instead of butter and sour cream!)



Clip art



## Free Food by Sylvia Johnson



Photo from: Uvalde.tamu.edu

Winter is a slow time in the garden in East Texas, but do you realize that you have been growing your “free garden” all year long? What is your “free garden” you ask. It is nature, it is natural landscape, it is the wild woods and yes, your lawn. This winter when you long for fresh greens from your garden, look at your lawn and woods. Everyone has one growing right outside their door if only we take the time and effort to look. What would we find in winter? We find Dandelions!

Dandelions: Pick, wash, eat the leaves and flowers cooked or raw. Roots may be boiled and water drained to help reduce bitterness then incorporate them in other dishes. Place in salads, soups, add to potatoes and stuffing. Adding dandelions will increase your winter nutrition levels as they contain:

Folate, Magnesium, Phosphorus and Copper, and a very good source of Dietary Fiber, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, Vitamin E (Alpha Tocopherol), Vitamin K, Thiamin, Riboflavin, Vitamin B6, Calcium, Iron, Potassium and Manganese.

Read More & watch a video: <http://uvalde.tamu.edu/herbarium/forbs-common-name-index/common-dandelion/>

For more on exact nutrition values: <http://nutritiondata.self.com/facts/vegetables-and-vegetable-products/2441/2#ixzz2obgXlilc>

For recipes: [http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=how+to+cook+dandelion+greens&sm=3](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=how+to+cook+dandelion+greens&sm=3)

	2014	WCMGA	Volunteer Projects		
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Junior Master Gardeners			Linda Avant	linavant@peoplescom.net	JMG
Mineola NP Wildscap/Sensory Gardens			Karen Anderson	kkjta@yahoo.com	MWG1
Quitman Arboretum & Stinson House			Pam Riley	pam_riley2003@yahoo.com	GHPA
Quitman Public Library			John & Jean Fox	jfoxes@sbcglobal.net	QL
Quitman Special Ed Greenhouse			Fran McKinney Clyde McKinney	mckfran@gmail.com mckclyde@gmail.com	QSE
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TMGA Director		?		?	
TMGA Director		?		?	
Alternate Director		?		?	
Alternate Director		?		?	