

Wood Works



Master Gardeners Association Newsletter Wood County, Texas

Volume 2014, Issue 2

Edited by: Sylvia Johnson

The President's Musings...



Article and Photo by:
Ellen Atkins

As I write this, I'm feeling trapped inside my warm home thinking of all I need to be doing in the garden, yet not wanting to put on the multiple layers of clothing necessary to stay warm in the great outdoors. This must be the coldest winter I have experienced in Texas since returning from my sojourn (only 35 years) in Michigan. At least in Michigan I learned to expect this discomfort each winter!

So what is it I want to do in my garden now? I waited with bated

breath the report on my soil test. At last it arrived with Clint's instructions sprawled across the bottom: add fertilizer. What, no micro-nutrient problem to solve? No three tons of potash to scatter around the yard? Fertilizer I can do and I am anxious to get started because very soon, when the moon is full, it will be time to plant potatoes and onions. I enjoy gardening very much, but I am really partial to vegetables. I look longingly at my asparagus patch almost every day watching for that first green spike of luscious vitamin-filled goodness. "Soon", I console myself.

And soon we will be fully into SPRING! Those beautiful spring bulbs planted with such promise last fall

or years ago will peek through the remaining leaves from fall and scream with brilliantly bright colors: IT'S SPRING. We look forward to the fields of wildflowers and the bashful dogwood and redbud blossoms. It's all part of the Original promise made to man centuries ago. Did you know that the pine tree knows when it is Easter? Watch for the change during that week in April. It is truly amazing.

Spring is a season of opportunity. It is a chance to start something new; new plants, new gardens, new garden art, etc.

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

Inside this issue:

MNP-Wildscape	2
QA&B Gardens	
What U missed	
AgriLife Agent	3
Seed Collecting	
Featured Plant	
Propagation	4
Wildflower Time	8
Volunteer Hour	9
Management	
ALOOHA	10
Jr. MGs	11
From the Editor	12
Recipe	13
Free Food	13

Scheduled Meeting Subjects and Events

Every Tuesday until April 22 — Intern class 8:30am (Get your CEUs!)

March 8, 15, 22, 29 Family Gardening Class; 1:00-2:15 — Volunteers needed!

March 12—TXMG Awards submissions due

March 20—Regular Meeting—Shirley Hirt will speak on caring

for our skin when outdoors.

April 12—Plant Sale at QABG

April 17—Regular MG Meeting — Chef Debbie—Veggies from our gardens.

April 22—**Intern Graduation**

April 26 — WCMG Vendors' Table at Hooten's Landscape and Garden with Neill Sperry

- [Historian Needs Pictures](#)
- [On-Line with WCMG](#)
- [Website](#)
- [On-Line CEU](#)
- [Volunteer Hours/Shine](#)
- [Officer and Committee Listing](#)

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Mineola Nature Preserve on the Sabine River
Photo by: Sylvia

WILDSCAPE GARDEN

By: Karen Anderson & Joan Morgan

Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring (we hope). 2014 is starting off with a COLD bang, but some very good news for the Nature Preserve. We were notified in December that the grant from TransCanada in the amount of \$2,500 had been approved and was presented to our organization on Jan. 15, 2014. Now comes the fun of spending these funds and accomplishing some of our pending projects, like finishing laying the flagstone thru the flower

beds, acquiring more signage to identify our plants for the general public, improve our compost bins for demonstrational & educational purposes and to present a one day gardening seminar in the Spring of 2014 and if funds are available a Fall seminar. The next few months are going to be busy preparing the garden for the Spring seminar, Science day in May and landscaping the large grass bed. We are open to ideas and suggestions for improving how the

garden is used for the enjoyment of the general public and for educational programs.

Another bit of good news was the approval of a \$1,900 grant from Exxon for the construction of a pergola leading to the succulent bed to furnish some shade in the gardens and showcase some beautiful native vines and plants. Our work schedule will continue to be on Tuesday afternoons from [\(click here to continue\)](#)

News from the Quitman

Arboretum and the Stinson House



Photo by: Sylvia

INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PICKET FENCE By: Jan Whitlock

This is the time of the year when the "yard crew" at the Arboretum begins to wonder if spring will ever return. Leaves and pine needles remain on many of the beds, blanketing the perennials we hope to see soon. Rose pruning is just around the corner and Linda Avant and her helpers are sharpening

their pruners in preparation and can always use an extra pair of hands.

Several members of the Friends of the Arboretum will be traveling to the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens for the annual meeting of the TAGBA. This gives us an opportunity to network and

share with arboretums from across the state and to present a video presentation showcasing our progress here in Quitman. Many thanks to Jim Willis for his fine photography and for the preparation of this video.

[\(click for full article\)](#)



Heirloom Seeds are the best to grow and save.

Sandra McFall

What U missed at our meetings!

February 2014: **SOS -- Saving Our Seeds.** According to Sandra,

"Seeds are the basic unit of life...Without Seeds no food...Without Food no Life".

She revealed some statistics:

10 Companies own 67% of all the seeds in the world

Door prize was furnished by Ellen Atkins. Homemade fertilizer was awarded to: Judy Swenson, class 2010. She has been absent for a while due to lots of traveling (China, no less). She is also

a TX Naturalist.



Article and photos by: Sylvia

AgriLife Agent Article: Lawn Burweed (sticker weed) Control

Picture: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>

Lawn burweed (*Soliva pterisperma*), more commonly called sticker weed, is best described as a low-growing, freely branched winter annual having leaves that are twice divided into narrow segments or lobes similar to the appearance of carrot leaves, but much smaller.

Lawn burweed is a winter annual member of the Aster family. The weed germinates throughout thin turf in the fall months as temperatures cool. It remains small or inconspic-

uous during the cold winter months. However, as temperatures warm in the early spring, lawn burweed initiates a period of rapid growth and begins to form spine-tipped burs in the leaf axil. It is the fruit or seed that produces the painful bur.

Here are some key identification characteristics of lawn burweed: 1) opposite, sparsely hairy leaves that are divided into numerous segments 2) small, inconspic-

uous flowers 3) spine-tipped burs that are found in the leaf axil (junction of leaf and stem). The real identifier is once the plant reaches a reproductive stage the small fruit clusters and small rosette buttons begin to form down in the leaf axils. At the tip of each seed, within the cluster, is a tiny spine that eventually dries at maturity. What's left causes you pain as they stick into tender flesh of bare feet, knees, hands, or whatever parts of the [\(click here to continue\)](#)



By:

Clint Perkins

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THE WHAT, HOW, AND WHEN OF SEED COLLECTING

By: Sandra McFall

Step 1: Collecting the seeds.

Timing is important in collecting your seeds. Keep watch over any seed heads or fruit that you are interested in harvesting.

Flower heads are usually hand-picked as they dry. It

is best if the seeds are dry when you pick them. If your seeds are not dry lay them on newspaper in a well-ventilated area to dry for several weeks. Some seeds, such as balsam and impatiens, eject their seeds so you need to place a bag or nylon hose over the pod to catch the seeds. Legumes

such as limas, pintos, and peas are best left on the plant to dry and then harvested. Plants that produce pods need to be watched so that they don't get too dry and open before you are ready to collect them. This technique is called dried collection. [\(click here for full story\)](#)



Ron Taylor gets Master Gardener Certificate— Ron is a member of the 2014 Intern Class. Go, Ron!

Featured Plant: CAMELLIAS FOR TEXAS GARDENS

Written by Peggy Rogers and Researched by Steve Fleming.

Due to the many comments and laughs garnered by Linda Timmons's "How to Kill a Camellia" in our last issue, we have a great follow up article. —Sylvia

Winter doesn't have to be only bare branches-----it could mean green leaves, fragrance and a rainbow of petals. With different varie-

ties of Camellias you can have bloom October through April. Camellias are frequently found planted in older neighborhoods but are seldom seen in new ones. Probably, because, Camellias require considerable attention to watering, mulching and soil amendment than

some gardeners are willing to provide. What a shame, for these are spectacular plants and deserve a place in every garden.

Camellias are evergreen shrub that can be developed into a tree, but also can be

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



Camilla Tree

Photo by Peggy Rogers

President Article continued:

It's also a great time to make new friends while working at one or more of our award-winning projects. This year will offer the WCMG members and interns many ways to volunteer. It's both rewarding and inspiring to volunteer at something that has so many ways to be successful. When you are called upon to volunteer, I hope you will agree to work toward the success of the Wood County Master Gardeners!

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.



When is a disposable water bottle not just a disposable water bottle? When it becomes a “mini-greenhouse”! By: Charla Martin

Lectures are wonderful and valuable learning tools for students. However, hands-on experience seems to stay implanted in your mind just a little longer. Recently, Lin Grado and members of the Wood County Master Gardeners presented this year's trainee class with the opportunity for hands-on seed starting and planting of cuttings provided by their members. There was such an abundance and variety of plant material, I had a hard time deciding which ones I wanted to choose.

The trainees experimented with starting seeds in a variety of ways such as wetting a paper towel and placing seeds inside, folding the paper towel up and placing it into a zip lock bag. Heeding the helpful hints passed on to us, I placed mine on top of my refrigerator so it would get the heat generated from the refrigerator. I also planted seeds in a potting mixture, placed the pot with wet soil into a zip lock bag and also placed that on top of the refrigerator, labeling with the name of the seed. One of my experiments failed, but the seeds I planted in potting soil are thriving and I am hoping to have a baby red yucca that I can nurture and watch grow.

We also used various types of pots to transplant cuttings. One of the most ingenious was the self watering pot which is a shallow pot with a small terracotta pot placed in the middle of the planting medium, in this case potting soil. Lin plugged the hole on the terracotta pot with candle wax so the water would not “run out” but would “seep” into the soil. All my transplants, in this pot, are looking healthy and happy, with new leaves being added weekly.

One of the most intriguing processes was the air layering technique to start a new leaf on a rubber tree. Trainees located a suitable area on the plant and then removed the bark, down to the cambium layer, applied rotting hormone, and then wrapped this area in wet sphagnum moss. The moss was covered in saran wrap and then in aluminum foil and then taped into place. Hopefully, we will get to see the outcome of this process in a few months.

We punched holes into Styrofoam cups, in the middle and at the bottom, filled the cup with half vermiculite and half perlite, and then planted cuttings. We placed the first cup into a slightly larger clear plastic cup and then poured water in between the two cups. You can watch the planting medium soak up the water through the holes and you know when you need to add water.

[\(click here to continue\)](#)

Seed Collection Article continued:

For a wet collection technique, allow the fruit to be very ripe to ensure mature seeds. Cucumbers need to remain on the vine until they are in the yellow blimp stage. Eggplant should be starting to brown and to rot. Tomatoes and pepper need to be just past real ripe stage. Tomatoes and cucumbers are “wet” seeds. They have a gel sac around each seed that hinders germination and can harbor disease. They need to be soaked to remove the sac. Take the over ripe fruit and scrape the seed from the tomato cavities. Label a jar and place the seeds into the jar, cover and allow it to ferment for 4-5 days until a white film on top of the pulp and seeds. Water should not be added during this time. At this time you start to wash the seeds to remove the pulp and remove any non-viable seeds. Add water to fill enough so that seed can have room to float do this in a bowl so you have room to work with the seeds. The good seeds will sink while the immature seeds will float along with the pulp. Pour off the pulp and continue to do this until all that remains is the good seeds on the bottom. Strain this and lay out the seeds to dry in a cool, airy place. The best surface to use to dry the seeds on is glass or ceramic dish, cookie sheet, window screens. Newspaper, paper plate, paper towels should not be used because the seeds stick to the paper and you could damage the seed removing them. Be sure to label each drying set of seeds. The tomato seeds will be clumped together. When they are half dried stir a little to break them apart. When completely dried, break up any clumps and pack for storage. Label with name, date, and any other information needed. Have a good collection of old jars, plastic bags, or envelopes to store the seeds in.

Step 2: Cleaning and Drying

If your seeds are in flower heads you need to remove the seeds from them. Some, such as marigolds, can just be pulled out altogether. Some have a seed ball. Remove these seeds by gently rolling the ball between your fingers and remove the shaft and seeds. These are dried collections.

With wet collections each vegetable has a technique similar to the tomatoes. Be sure seeds are dried before storing.

Step 3: Storage

Put your dried seeds in jars (they are best in keeping them drier). Use silica gel packs if you have them. This gives the seeds added protection from moisture. Label seed type with name, date, location found, or any other information that may be needed. Keep these in a cool, dry, dark place. Some people keep them in the refrigerator and some freeze them. If you freeze them, be sure that you allow them to completely defrost and come to room temperature before opening the container. This will keep the seed from absorbing moisture and keep them from being damaged by sudden temperature changes. If you have a lot of seeds it may be helpful to organize them with a large box with index cards. This way you can catalog the seeds according to season, age, cultivars, and anything you want.

Inside and Outside the Picket Fence continued:

March will find us busy with bed clean-up and preparation. Plans have been made to complete the Pergola Project during this planting season and to improve the path to this venue. We would love some help from any gardeners who are so inclined. We meet every Wednesday at the Stinson house, located on the grounds of the Arboretum, and proceed with the tasks at hand. Snacks, cold drinks and coffee are always available in the kitchen of the house and all you need to bring are your gloves and a good set of pruners.

ATTENTION: Master Gardener grads of 2013. Your water wise garden has wintered well and is now awaiting some tender loving care in preparation for a new growing season, a spring time tune-up as it were.

April will be a busy month for all of us. The semi-annual Plant Sale will be held on Saturday, April 12th, with a members only preview and sale the night before. We are looking forward to new and renewing memberships at this time, as it is these funds (plant sales and memberships) that keep the Arboretum moving forward.

The Sulphur Springs Garden Club will be coming to the Stinson House for lunch and a tour of the gardens on Tuesday, April 22nd. Then, on Tuesday, April 29th, we will host the Holly Lake Garden club for another guided garden tour.

Please come and see us this spring. A lot of changes have been made in the past year and the “Grande Dame” of The Arboretum, The Col. James Stinson House, is about to receive a long awaited new roof. Join us as we cheer the roofers on! The squirrels in the attic are not happy but those who love this old house are overjoyed.



Mini Greenhouse continued:

To keep the moisture in, we then made “mini-greenhouses” by cutting the bottom off disposable water bottles and placing this over the plant and pressing it down into the planting medium.

The class time seemed to fly by, and at the end of the session, we came away with a greater knowledge not only in the different ways to start plants but in the different ways we can use common items to create unexpected items, such as mini-greenhouses or self watering pots.



Birth Month

Flowers



Daffodil:
March



Daisy:
April

Featured Plant continued : Grow Camellias in Texas

grown as a container plant. The leaves are alternately arranged, simple, thick, serrated and usually glossy. The flowers are usually large and conspicuous with five to nine petals.

The color of the flowers vary from white through pink to red; truly yellow flowers are found only in South China and North Vietnam. The so-called fruit of camellia plants is a dry capsule, sometimes subdivided in up to five compartments, each compartment containing up to eight seeds.

Like so many of the South's cherished ornamental plants, camellias originated in China and came to North America by way of Europe. The genus *Camellia* includes many species, but three of them are of special importance and interest as Southern plants: *Camellia sinensis*, *Camellia japonica* and *Camellia sasanqua*.

The *Camellia sinensis* received intense interest in the early days for the plant's foliage, which when dried and processed can be brewed into a tea. The shrub is a reasonably attractive evergreen that bears single, cream colored flowers.

The *Camellia japonica* is best known for its handsome foliage and showy, elegant winter and early spring flowers. The flowers range from white to bright red, with many variegated forms. This species goes back to our Southern gardening heritage marking the sites of many important plantations and old homesteads throughout the South.

The *Camellia sasanqua* is a shrub of Japanese origin. They are broad-leaved evergreen shrubs with leathery, dark, rich-green; shiny leaves – usually darker green and smaller than the leaves of *C. japonica*. They are coveted for their individual blossoms, though beautiful, not as spectacular as those of *C. japonica*. *Camellia sasanqua* fill an important garden niche because of its early fall blooming, but even if it never bloomed it would be prized for its foliage alone.

Camellias are best grown in the eastern third of Texas. The combination of acid soil, rainfall and temperatures are more conducive to success with all three of the species mentioned. *Sasanquas* are considered to be easier to grow than *japonicas* and are often used as hedges as well as specimen plants and as background shrubs in borders. Camellias should be planted in filtered sun and can tolerate many different soil types, but prefer rich, moist, well-drained, crumbly soil that has been amended with organic matter such as peat moss, composted manure with a slightly acid pH. They are shallow-rooted, so should not be planted deeply and the soil should not be packed down on their delicate, fibrous roots. Mulch around the plants with organic mulch such as compost, shredded leaves or shredded bark to moderate the ground temperatures. Camellias require high temperatures and long days in order to develop their flower buds, but for them to open, cool temperatures and short days are needed.

It is recommended that you fertilize your camellia four times a year; in the dormant season; after the first spring growth; mid-summer and early winter. Each time, apply ½ lb. of 15-15-15 fertilizer per 100 square feet by scattering it around the base of the plant then watering the soil to disperse the nutrients.

Camellias have been planted in southern gardeners from the mid – 1800s to present. Camellias are often called the “Winter Rose” as it is blooming in the winter when all else is dormant. [More info at http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu) or www.camellias-acs.com

AgriLife Agent Article continued:

body that may come in contact with them.

If you had lawn burweed in your lawn last summer and did not apply a pre-emergent herbicide earlier this fall, then you most likely will have them again and will have to endure their painful spines again this summer.

Once the fruiting clusters have formed and produced the tiny seeds and spines, killing the plants will only eliminate the weeds. The tiny spines and seed will remain to inflict pain for another summer. There are several good post-emergent herbicide choices (Atrazine, 2,4-D, Dicamba, Metsulfuron Methyl, Chlorsulfuron, and etc.) that will control this weed along with most other winter annual weed species, but timing is critical.



It's Wild Flower Time: By Lucy Germany -Here are some books you might want to consult:

I have in my library an extensive list of wild flower books common to this part of Texas and known to most of our Master Gardeners. My plan is to offer from time to time in our wonderful news letter (magazine) some descriptive details and possible location of a flowering plant of this area with photo by our talented photographer Jim Willis. Admittedly most of us will be able to become reacquainted with any or all of these plants by checking out some of the popular plant books focusing on this part of Texas. For greater detail this is the way to go. Among the plant books most useful for this area (and take note: some are out of print, some are heavy, some are costly so you might want to google several to make a choice of which one you want to own—if any).

The books I own (and some of them are beginning to shed pages and look as if they have survived five years of Texas drought are as follows):

Texas Wildflowers: Campbell and Lynn Loughmiller (1992) large book, good color, mediocre text

Flowers of the Texas Hill Country: Marshall Enquest (Lone Star Botanical series, 1987. Good close-up photos and text

Wild Flowers of the United States: Harold William Rickett (McGraw-Hill) Two formidable volumes (Texas was the only state having two volumes) Sometimes hard to wade through. Good photos.

Native Texas Plants: Sally Wasowski and Andy Wasowski. Good text and photos

Wild Flowers of the Big Thicket: Gyota Ajilvsgi: Small photos, large text Many of these are prevalent in our area.

Native American Seed Catalogue: www.seedsource.com (free) Includes text and photos of butterflies, and planting data such as how to make things grow.

Lucy Germany's East Texas Plant List: description but no photos. (List is free if I can get somebody to copy it)

Weeds of the Southern United States: Texas A and M Extension Service Small photos, modest text,

[\(click here to continue\)](#)

MNP Article continued:

1:00 P.M. until everyone gets tired as long as the weather permits and thru graduation for the trainee class. After graduation it will be back to early morning work days due to the hot weather. So come join us at our beautiful Wildscape and make your mark by planting plants, educating the public and children and enjoying the sights and sounds of the Preserve.



MNP gets grant from TransCanada for Wildscape improvements



Volunteer Hours Management System website: <http://www.texas.volunteersystem.org> (VMS)

Enter your email --Scroll down to **NEW USER**--Reenter email--It will tell you VMS will email you a password

Minimize the VMS screen

Open your regular email program--VMS will have sent you a onetime use password-- **COPY IT DOWN**

Maximize VMS screen--(may have to reenter email) **type in the VMS supplied password**

Click Login-- A new screen opens--Top left side-- **Click on Edit Profile**--Check your information, correct if needed

Further down this page you will find a place to **add a picture**. Skip if you do not want to add picture

You will also find **Change Your Password** - Enter a password that you will remember each time you login

Continue to bottom of page **Click SAVE** (a MUST do!)-- That takes you back to the first page

Click Add hours--Enter Event Description - (watered, pulled weeds, maintenance, etc.) If it is a CEU, put WCMGA program-whatever education program/event you attended. Make separate entries for CEU's and volunteer hours

Event Date – what date did you volunteer/attend class

Apply to Project - See the little down arrow - **click and select from our projects**

Click Miles driven- if you want to keep up with them. Miles are for volunteer hours not Regular Meetings/CEUs

YOU ARE NOT THROUGH.....scroll a little further down and **CLICK SAVE**. Now you are ready to **Log out**.

If anyone has any trouble, please call me and I'll walk you through it on the phone. [214.794.2853](tel:2147942853). Peggy Rogers

ALOHA

When you start planning your once in a lifetime trip you hope it will be as spectacular you envision it. Well, my trip was more than I could have imagined. We left cold, windy Texas and Oklahoma and landed in cool, windy paradise. When you go to Hawaii in Jan. & Feb. you take your chances on the weather. For the 2 weeks we were there we did have 5 days of sunshine and crammed as much in on those days as we could. They don't do it justice when they call them the "Garden Isles". Everything is so green, the blues of the water hypnotize you and even on a cloudy day the colors of the flowers are brilliant.



Just stop and think about gardening year round with fresh fruits like pineapple, mango, papaya, and fresh vegetables every day. The shrubs around your fenced in yard is solid Hibiscus in shades of red, yellow, peach and the leaves of wild vines are huge. But I discovered that Hawaii has very Big Mountains too so the small strip of land between them and the ocean is packed with farming, towns and lots of tourists. Everyone should subscribe to the motto "Island time, hang loose" it sure lowers your blood pressure (except in Honolulu in the traffic on Pro Bowl weekend).

We kayaked 5 miles up a river (round trip) to hike 1 ½ miles (one way) thru the jungle full of mud, tree roots as big as a car in order to see a beautiful secret waterfall and then back again. To say the least we were mud from head to toe but it was worth the trip. Another trip was a catamaran trip around the west end of Kuauai (Na Pali Coastline) and we hit it lucky. We saw 2 pairs of momma whales with babies, 1 juvenile who swam under our catamaran checking us out and numerous whales breaching further out in the ocean. It was a fabulous day.



But the part I really wanted to see was the plants and gardens. If you go to Kuauai you must go see Na 'Aina Kai Botanical Gardens and Sculpture Park. See what Mrs. Doty dreamed about, researched and designed. Then her husband built it for her (like someone in our association). It is a 240 acre park that was their home which they have donated to the Island of Kuauai for preservation and the enjoyment of visitors. Have you ever heard of a "desert garden" in Hawaii? There is one with all varieties of cactus and succulents. They survive in the humidity and rain because of the soil used and how the beds were designed. This garden also has a "Rainbow Garden for Children", "Navajo Compound", "Formal Gardens" and research facilities for native plants of Hawaii. You could spend 2-3 days there and not see everything. The highlight was getting to see the "Rainbow Eucalyptus" sitting in a grove of bamboo.

So I close with a very heart- felt ALOOHA

and hope to return again to finish my adventure.



Photos by: Karen Anderson (and her sister)

Jr. Master Gardeners We are “Growing Good Kids” in Wood County

Last year we had 8 certified Junior Master Gardeners that received Wildlife certification. Pictured are some of the girls with hummingbird feeders they made from recycled materials at the Quitman Arboretum.



Journey Tolle, Keyanna Bradshaw, Cheyanne George, Katie Mote

This year we are working at the Winnsboro High School greenhouses with the horticulture lab class. We began with helping clean, organize and prepare for “plugs”. When the plugs have matured there will be a local plant sale that will give the students experience in marketing as well as running a greenhouse as a career opportunity.



The horticulture teacher in Winnsboro is in need of volunteers for his class. They have 2 greenhouses and 18 students in the class. What is needed is volunteers to help with the students that are planting and caring of the plants. Plugs have been ordered and are expected to arrive about the 2nd week of February to get ready for a spring sale in March. However help is needed every week. The class period is 10:15 to 11:15. This is an opportunity to get hours that are in a warm environment. Please contact me if interested so a schedule can be set up. Thanks for all you do.

Linda Avant — Article and Photos

903-245-5567 or linavant@peoplescom.net



Wildflower Books continued:

Sunset Western Garden Book: Alphabetical plant listings. B/W illustrations. Good detail

Wild Flowers of Texas: Geyota Ajilvsgi: Arranged by color photos and text. Focus on the best-known flowering plants.

A Field Guide to Southwest and Texas Wild Flowers: Niehaus, Ripper, Savage: Mostly black and white drawings and brief descriptions.

Roadside Flowers of Texas (1961): **Mary Mote Willis**: Hand colored (watercolor?) photos with text.

Wild Flowers of the Eastern United States: Willard H. Duncan, Leonard E Foote (University of Georgia Press) Mediocre color.

Field Guide to North American Wild Flowers: The Audubon Society, William A. Niering Good photos.

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 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 articles are required to meet the following conditions:

- Written by yourself, we love true first person accounts and Biographies
- 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, native 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-MAILS WITH NO SUBJECT LINES (even if you are stuck in Nigeria)!**

Recipe by: Chef Debbie

Stuffed jalapenos halves:

I use 1 jalapeno per person, sliced in half and seeded. For softer bite on the jalapenos bake in 350 degree oven for about 2-3 min or until fork tender or al dente! Let them cool! Take 4oz cream cheese soften, salt and pepper to taste, 1 tbsps. minced garlic, and chopped dill to taste. Start with about 2 tbsps. of dill! You may also add 1 tsp onion powder or about 4 of the white part of green onions chopped up small. You may have to use a little milk or cream to loosen the cream cheese mixture! Mix all together till smooth and well blended. Fill the jalapeno halves with this mixture and top with a few chives if desired. Enjoy!!!



Be sure to come hear Chef Debbie give us some more tips and recipes during our April WCMG Regular Meeting!



Free Food: Evening Primrose

by Sylvia Johnson

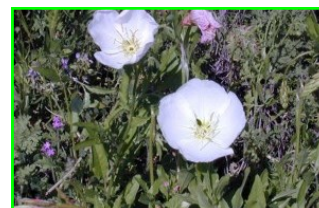


Photo from: Uvalde.tamu.edu

A beautiful sight along Texas highways during the spring is the Pink Evening Primrose. I was amazed to find that you can eat this plant and gain some very rare nutrition. Ever heard of Vitamin F? Vitamin F is composed of two fatty acids - linoleic acid (LA) and alpha-linoleic acid (LNA). There are two basic categories of EFA's - omega-3 and omega-6, which include linoleic acid and gamma-linoleic acid. The body is not capable of manufacturing essential fatty acids and so they have to be derived from food. Omega-6 essential fatty acid is found in raw nuts, seeds, legumes, grape seed oil and flaxseed oil, **PRIMROSE LEAVES**; while omega-3 essential fatty acid is found in fish, canola oil and walnut oil.

Plant Characteristics: Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center

Duration: Perennial **Habit:** Herb **Leaf Retention:** Semi-evergreen

How used: Pick young leaves and put them in salads raw or boil them as you would spinach. Pick young leaves on young plants not yet in flower for eating raw. If unsure of plant recognition wait until after some plants start to bloom and then choose their young neighbors. Do not pull up plant as they are Perennial and you do not want to eat next years crop. Flowers and flowering plant leaves may be used if boiled with several changes of water to release the bitterness.

Nutritional Value: Vitamin F, some fatty acids

You can also buy Evening Primrose Oil to use as a dietary source of supplemental essential fatty acids.

Read More: <http://uvalde.tamu.edu/herbarium/forbs-common-name-index/white-evening-primrose/>

<http://www.foragingtexas.com> Vitamin F - Sources - Functions - Effects - FAQs at: <http://www.medindia.net/patients/patientinfo/vitamin-f.htm#ixzz2u5ddybHm>

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