

Wood Works



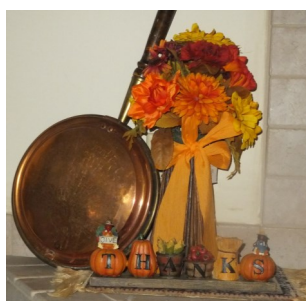
Master Gardeners Association Newsletter Wood County, Texas

Volume 2014, Issue 6

Editor: Sylvia Johnson



The President's Musings...



Article by: Ellen Atkins

Photo by: Sylvia

As the saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun!" and so it has. We have come to the last newsletter of 2014 and of my tenure as the president of Wood County Master Gardeners. Many thoughts go through my mind as I think back through this year and of the many accomplishments of WCMG. Probably most important is our 2014 award for

being the most outstanding Master Gardener association in the medium to large grouping of Texas Master Gardeners. Congratulations everyone! This award is a reflection of your dedication to the mission of educating yourselves and the public about horticulture. Keep up the great work!

I have appreciated so very much the support and assistance of the WCMG officers Molly Mathis, vice-president; Linda Bradley, secretary; and Katie Carter, treasurer. Their diligence and faithful execution of the responsibilities of their jobs has been a great blessing to me. It is because of them that our club meetings run smoothly, that we have accurate records of the issues that we

have dealt with, that we have had fascinating programs, and that we finish the year with our budget "in the black". Thank you!

Our November meeting is perhaps the most important of the entire year. We vote on many issues that affect the functioning of our association. You want your vote counted on these various subjects of concern. .

Not only will you elect a new slate of officers, you must approve the 2015 budget or not, you will vote on the five year plan for our club, as well as expressing your thoughts and opinions on these and other issues. Your attendance

[click for full article\)](#)

INDEX

QABG/Stinsonhouse	2
Wildscape	
What U missed	
AgriLife Agent	3
Tools/Winter Storage	
Things I Learned	4
Please Give	
Public Impact/Individual	6
Spring Conference	7
New Cabinet	8
Acorn Recipe	10
Hurray for Us	11
2nd VP Nominee	12
Rain Barrels	13
Chef Debbie	14
Please Don't Burn the Leaves	15
Free Food	16

Scheduled Meeting Subjects and Events

Nov 1— update volunteer hours

<http://texas.volunteersystem.org>

Winnsboro Business Expo

20—WCMG regular meeting-votes on association business

Dec 1— update hours

18-WCMG Christmas Party



Will be held at St Dunston Church in Mineola. Volunteers needed as well as food!

Come join us and learn, talk with friends and see who will win the next door prize!

• From the Editor	17
• On-Line with WCMG	
• On-Line CEU	
• Sunshine Contact	
• Volunteer hours report	
• Officer and Committee Listing	18



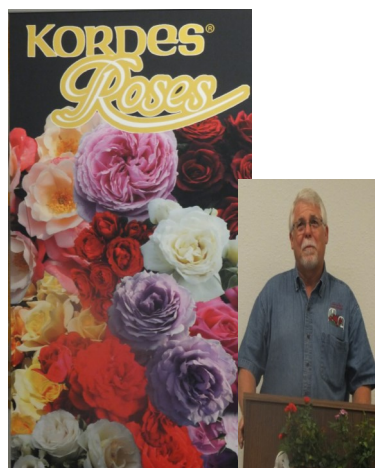
News from the QAB&G and the Stinson House

Photo by Sylvia



Mineola Nature Preserve on the Sabine River

Photo by: Sylvia



Inside and Outside the Picket Fence : Fall 2014

By: Jan Whitlock

The leaves are turning, the nights are cooler and the wild hogs and armadillos have returned to root around the cultivated areas of the Arboretum.

September and October saw the implementation and conclusion of a successful Yard Sale and an equally successful Plant Sale. Thanks to all of you who came out to support these events - we couldn't do it without you!

We are looking forward to

a wedding at the Arboretum at the end of October. I am sure a picture or two will be posted on Facebook of this happy occasion.

The first week in November will tip off the preparations for Christmas decorating. In addition, there will be a push to plant some new additions as well as a general winterizing of the gardens that are already established.

Dec 11th is the date for this year's Chamber Mixer. This

has become an annual event held at the Stinson House. Please join us and enjoy some good food, live Christmas Music, a fantastic Bake Sale and beautifully decorated rooms. We hope to see you on December 11th from 5-7 pm. This is a great opportunity to get those volunteer hours that you need for 2014, especially for those who work during the day.

We meet at the Arboretum ([click for full article](#))

WILDSCAPE GARDEN

Article and Photos by: Karen Anderson

Another summer has come to an end. We plowed thru September and October with small work groups due to vacations and illnesses but we now have a beautiful Grass Hill that is really showcasing our plants in Fall bloom. The grasses received from SFA have grown and

are now putting out their beautiful flumes and swaying in the breeze. The Gulf Muhley really catches your attention when the sun hits it and the "Princess Caroline" Napier is now over 5 ft. tall and everyone wants to know what it is. The Cross-Vine Bed (the first one you see

when you are walking from the Pavilion) is now in full bloom with the rock rose and yellow flowers. The Cross-Vine itself is making a comeback after the storm in early spring knocked a sign over onto it. We had to cut back the vine ([click for full article](#))

What U missed at our meetings!

Article and photos by: Sylvia

September: Mark Chamblee gave us a great lecture on Kordes® this month. The Chamblee Rose Nursery sells "Environmentally Friendly Roses for Environmentally Responsible People". He said working closely with "specialist at Texas AgriLife Extension Service (Texas A&M University System), we have increased our

knowledge and ability to grow roses based on Earth-Kind principals." He gave away two potted roses as door prizes. Please visit them at: www.chambleerose.com

October: Chef Debbie, "The Traveling Chef, Have Food, Will Travel", cooked two great dishes for us. She

showed us how to make Pumpkin Sauce and Sweet Potato Bruschetta. Both recipes were quick and delicious. She is an expert at teaching us how to use our garden produce. She gave away a free cooking lesson as a door prize. Thanks Debbie!





AgriLife Agent Article:

Picture: <http://www.caf.wvu>.

The overwintering stages of four diseases of peaches, apricots and plums can be reduced with a fall application of a copper fungicide. The most prominent disease is **Coryneum Blight**. It is caused by a fungus. Spots on fruit and leaves are small, circular and purple. They eventually fall out, leaving a "shot hole" effect. Defoliation seldom occurs and fruit infection is superficial. Fruit and leaf infections are produced by spores from overwintering twig lesions.

Bacterial Spot of Peach and Plum usually is observed as irregular lesions bordered by leaf veins with a yellow halo. The centers of these spots turn black and fall out. Heavily infected leaves turn yellow and drop. Small brown, angular spots are found on infected fruit. These lesions crack open to a depth of 1/16 - 1/8 inch. Bacteria infect twigs in the fall, overwinter and provide inoculum in the spring that infects new leaves. Bacteria from leaf infections spread

to the fruit and current season twigs. **Bacterial Canker** causes elongated cankers at the base of buds on the trunk and branches. These cankers are most prominent in late summer and fall. An amber colored gum flows from these cankers. The cankers are dark and slightly sunken, and have narrow brown streaks extending into normal tissue at the bottom

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

Tips for Preparing Garden Tools for Winter Storage

By: Sandra McFall

Winter is not here yet, but it will be before we know it. So now is the time to think about and plan what we will need to do to prepare our tools and equipment for winter storage. With just a little attention to these hard working tools now, you will add years of service and reliable performance to them. It

could save you money and make spring garden madness easier when you have properly stored and prepared your tools in advance.

I find that generally a little housekeeping is needed in my garden storage area after a long, busy and hot summer. I tend to be a little

messy so when I start to clean up and put away the tools and equipment I first clean and organize the outdoor storage area.

First, a thorough cleaning is needed for all your tools and equipment. Steel wool pads. [\(click for full article\)](#)

Featured Plant: Naked Ladies

Article by: Lucy Germany

This has been the year for the beautiful red lily known as Naked Ladies which seem to have popped up **everywhere** in our part of East Texas these early days of fall. "Naked Ladies?" you say wondering if I'd lost my mind or if sweet and conservative old East Texas had

suddenly turned into some kind of a night club. But Naked Ladies is just one way to identify the radiant clumps of red blooms which have been standing tall at the end of long green stems and scattered in no certain pattern almost everywhere there's a patch of ground.

The array of scarlet color started around the first of September when the light green stalks began to peep from the ground with an almost magical suddenness. They are not scattered like many individual plants that seem to come to bloom [\(click for full article\)](#)

By: Clint Perkins

- Ag and Natural Resources County Extension Agent
- (903) 763-2924
- CTPerkins@ag.tamu.edu
- <http://txmg.woodcounty>

2015 WCMG Officer

Nominees:

President: Sandra McFall

VP: Melissa Deakins

Secretary: Jenna Nelson

Treasurer: Katie Carter

Voting will be during our November meeting. Open nomination will be accepted from the floor.

Please join us and help us make 2015 a great year.

Photo and Names-by:

Peggy Rogers



Lycoris Radiata aka as Naked Ladies, Magic Lily, Spider Lily, Hurricane Lily, School House Lily, September Lily, Surprise Lily, and British Soldier plus several more common names in different areas of the country.

President Article continued:



Your attendance at this meeting is expected and appreciated.

Then it will be time for our annual Christmas party in December. We are privileged to have the use of St. Dunstan's church in Mineola again. What lovely surroundings for our holiday celebration! Don't miss this fun event.

Finally, I want to encourage each of you to continue the terrific work you do, not only in our various projects but in the everyday things you do that make Wood County Master Gardeners so special and so outstanding. Keep learning, keep teaching, and keep volunteering. I am grateful for your support this year as we tried new ideas and continued with the tried and true. I know each of you will give that same support to the new officers as they guide us through 2015.

I hope you all enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. Merry Christmas to you all!

[\(return to story beginning\)](#)

As we approach the end of the year, many of us think about end-of-the-year giving. Have you considered giving to Wood County Master Gardeners? We are a 501-C-3 non-profit organization that will joyfully receive your gift and provide a re-



Things I Learned While Playing in the Dirt (Oops, Soil!)

By: Ellen Atkins

One of the most enjoyable things about being in the garden is the quiet. Except for the sound of the birds, the garden is a very peaceful place. It's a place you can go to be alone with your thoughts. Gardening also forces you to slow down. You just can't hurry plants.

I've found that the peace and quiet helps me to be still and to be thoughtful. Planting takes organization and time helps one to organize his or her thoughts. Sometimes there are difficult things to work through in your mind as you allow the amended soil to sift through your fingers. You notice how many different elements have blended together to make your fine soil. It's the same way when you bring your thoughts-disjointed at times-together when sense is made of it all.

I find I often ask myself the same questions; "Why did that happen?" or "Why would he or she say that?" With quiet gardening time, I can come to a sensible conclusion, a reasonable response. And at the end of the gardening time, not only are the plants better for your efforts, but you feel calm with a new peace of mind.

[\(return to index\)](#)

Clip art



QAB&G continued:

(We meet at the) Arboretum to work every Wednesday between 9 and 12. We are inside if it is raining and outside every chance weather permits. Please watch you E-mail for information on extra volunteer hours available during the holiday season.

Please join us. All you need to bring is a smile. Hope to see you soon.

[\(return to story beginning\)](#)



Yard Sale Success

Article and Photos by Sylvia

The second annual **YARD SALE** to benefit the Quitman Arboretum and Stinson House was a success. Thanks to all who donated items for the sale. We had five rooms full of a great variety of items and sold almost everything. Thanks to those who worked the pre-sale accepting, cleaning, sorting, and tagging items. Thanks to those who showed up early the day of the sale to set up and arrange the items outside. Thanks to those who came and acted as sale helpers. Especially thanks to those who stayed to the end and helped tear down.

We partnered with the Friends of the Stinson House for the sale and reached over 200 customers with our messages of Wood County AgriLife Horticulture and Wood County History. The money raised this year will go towards new paint on the exterior of the Stinson House. It costs a lot to have the big ole house scraped, taped, and painted.

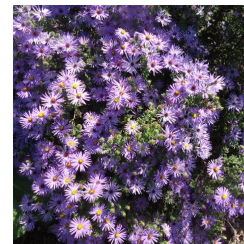


For more information on the Stinson House, send an e-mail to us at friendsarboretum@yahoo.com or call Deanna Caldwell at 903-569-8289

[\(return to index\)](#)

MNP continued:

(We had to cut back the vine) in order to get the sign restored. Thank you, Molly and Jenna for a great job restoring this bed to its original beauty. Melissa is back from Colorado (lucky her during the month of August) and is working on a landscaping plan for the Pergola. We should start working on that bed in November. The butterflies are still hanging around The Butterfly Beds which are blooming with Turk's cap, Lantana, and beautiful Fall Asters. If you like to walk on the wild side, visit the Wildscape Gardens at the Mineola Nature Preserve.



Asters



We finished off the summer with an informational/educational booth at NatureFest on Saturday, Oct. 18th. Melissa and Deena greeted visitors near the pavilion and had a nice chat with a local boy scout who is working on a project at the Preserve. According to the NatureFest officials there were approx. 700 visitors who attended this years event. We had over 100 attend our educational lecture and almost all attendees walked through our gardens where we provided spokespersons and informational guides.

Our Educational Speaker, DawnVolynn Callah from Big Chicken Daylily Farm, lectured at the WCMG Rainwater Harvesting Demo location. She presented information on how and when to divide and plant daylilies plus everyone who attended the lectures received a free daylily. She also had daylilies for sale, so of course, we being Master Gardeners, had to buy some new colors for our gardens. We also had a visit from "Big Foot" who tried to surprise Gloria. A big "Thank You" to the Master Gardeners, who helped to set up, educate the visitors and take down the exhibits when the day ended.



Two NatureFest attendees signed up to attend the 2015 Wood County Master Gardener Training Class Orientation and want to join the program. So it was a very successful day for Wood County Master Gardeners as we educated the attendees in daylily horticulture in East Texas and spread information on the good works of AgrLife Extension in Wood County.

We had a very pleasant surprise while working at the gardens on Tuesday Oct. 14. Billie Wilder (former WCMG and project leader for the Wildscape Gardens) stopped by for a visit. Billie told us how much she enjoys it when she can get out and stroll through the gardens and see how much they have grown and improved. Thank you, Billie for stopping by and for the kind words of encouragement. [\(return to story beginning\)](#)



Public Impact by WCMGA Individual

Ellen Atkins won big time at the Rains County Fair this Fall. She entered an array of home canned items. WCMG's October meeting attendees got a special treat. She gave away one of the award winning jars as the monthly Door Prize. Her canning efforts, made with her freshly grown produce from her garden, reflect well on all of us. This is an educational moment for Wood County residents as well as the residents of the surrounding counties. This shows what the Wood County Master Gardeners are capable of as we use the AgrLife methods to grow vegetables and fruits. This also expands our outreach to the public about our program and goals. Our Continuing Education at each monthly meeting has frequently featured Canning as a method to use surplus harvest from our home gardens. Congrats Ellen, and thanks for the Door Prizes at each meeting all year.

Article by: Sylvia Photo by: Ellen

[\(return to index\)](#)

Featured Plant continued :

bloom stage one by one in early September. Naked Ladies are almost always clumped—in tightly formed and startlingly eye-catching communities of vivid red. They turn up suddenly in places where you may have planted certain bedding plants or in neglected spots in which you had noticed nothing other than weeds. And that suddenness—without a shred of announcement—is one of the things that make them seem almost magical. That plus the fact that the blooms take their own sweet time completing their cycle. You will still see the sturdy stalks and red blooms in early-September all the way through to mid October, making you wonder by what artifice of nature they could be both so sturdy and beautiful at the same time. The blooms are at the end of seven arms, spread into a circle at the end of each is a small green knot. The mature plant then forms six petal clumps which end in circles of delicate threads. The stalk is a sturdy looking pale green —shooting straight up like the mast on a sailboat moving gently in a west wind. They could be perfect material for a poet's masterpiece...even better than Wordsworth's daffodils.

The beauty of these plants is that they create no mess, attract no “bad” bugs, seem not to be of interest to browsing deer and have a wondrously long life span. When they have finished blooming—voila—they are suddenly gone—no leaves to rake, no mess, no fuss. But you know they'll be back next year—better than ever.

The history of these plants goes far back in time and place—they seem to have brightened the empty spaces of many countries and have been found to work their magic in many parts of North America. The Chinese used the plant to decorate cemeteries and they have cropped up in many an English garden. They are members of the Amaryllis family which includes a variety of different colors and kinds of bulbs. When you select the words “popped up” as a descriptive for how they “just appear” that is no figment of a gardener's imagination. As to how they came to America, one conjecture is that they were brought by a doctor by the name of George Rogers Hall who brought them first to France from whence they were either transported by him or others who visualized a future for the plant as bright as their petals.

One caveat—do not put this plant on your list of edibles—being a member of the Lycoris family of lilies they may have toxic alkaloids flowing in their stems. But they can be forgiven that caveat since the beauty and longevity of Naked Ladies far outpaces that small shadow.

Some people have the nerve to call Naked Ladies a prolific weed, the kind you rip from the ground and toss into the trash bin. But because of their neat, respectful habits and the beauty and longevity of their blooms, there are countless gardeners who respect the Naked Ladies and are happy to let them run their course in the home garden. And don't forget the bonus they'll give you—no digging, no insecticide, no special care. Just let them alone and watch beauty grow. [\(return to story beginning\)](#)



“ Time to Plant Smarter”



Clipart

Spring 201 Conference: by Lori Clark, Chairperson

Preparations are underway for the Wood Co. 2015 Spring Conference “Time to Plant Smarter” and the featured speaker will be Steven L. Chamblee.

Currently, Steven is the Chief Horticulturist for Chandor Gardens in Weatherford, Texas. He also serves as Consulting Editor and author for Neil Sperry's GARDENS magazine, writes a monthly e-newsletter column “Native Son” and is an Adjunct Instructor for Tarrant Co. College and Texas Christian University's Extended Education.

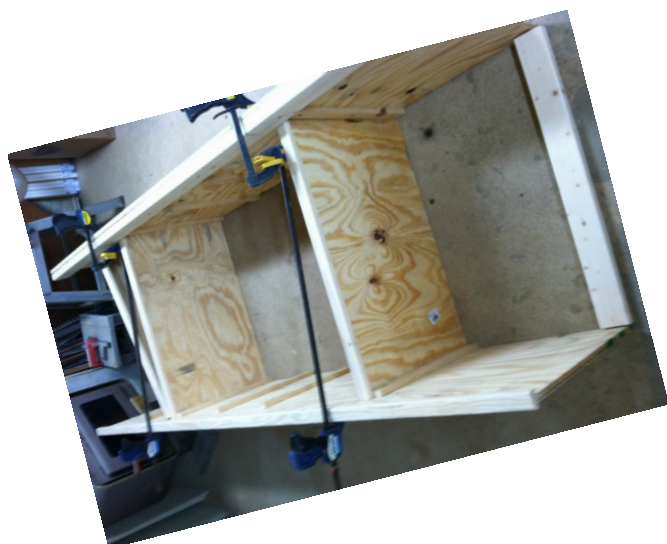
His experience and love for plants and gardens spans over 30 years and will bring a wealth of information and instruction for all attending the conference.

Wood Co.'s 2015 Spring Conference will be held March 21, 2015 at the Quitman High School. In addition to Steven's main program, mini seminars will cover native plants, rainwater collection and vegetable gardening.

To volunteer or for more information: lorikclark05@peoplescom.net or gloriajeanrosewall@gmail.com

[\(return to index\)](#)

Photos by Ellen Atkins.



Michael and Ellen Atkins built the new WCMG storage cabinet in the AgriLife Storage Room. Thanks to Curtis Perkins for his help. This will safely store our equipment, educational materials and supplies.

Thanks Y'all! [\(return to index\)](#)



Preparing Garden Tools for Winter continued:

any rough or splintered areas and sand them down. Apply the linseed oil to the metal parts of your tools and this will help prevent rusting. This a good time to sharpen the tools and examine them for any damages that need to be repaired.

Drain water from garden hoses and sprinklers and hang to dry. Check the washers and make any needed repairs.

Make sure the fertilizer/pesticide sprayers are empty and rinsed out and dried. Check all moving parts and oil as needed. This will be a good time to store unused pesticides in their original containers away from children and pets. Protect from freezing and moisture.

Clean the mowers of grass and dirt stuck to the blade, under the carriage, and on top of the deck of the machine. Do this with a blower and rinse off with water (before you ready it for storage). Remove the oil and fuel from all your equipment. Drain the fuel or run the equipment until empty. There are products to help stabilize fuel so it can be stored over winter; however, it is best to remove fuel from your equipment for longer life of the equipment. Change the spark plugs if needed, lubricate moving parts as per manufacturer's directions. If needed, sharpen the blade/s to save time later.

Garden tillers, hedge clippers, grass edgers, wood chippers all require the same treatment of cleaning, removing fuel, repair and lubrication as per manufacturer's directions.

Store these power tools and any sharp tools out of the children's reach so the sharp edges are unable to cause injury.

Enjoy your winter's rest and spend the time planning your gardens for the spring.

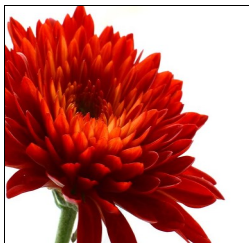
[\(return to story beginning\)](#)



Birth Month Flowers:

Photos: Pintrest

November



Chrysanthemum

December



Narcissus

Agrilife Agent Article continued:

Gum is present in the cavities below the bark surface. Infection occurs at leaf scars or wounds. Cankers increase in size during winter and are visible in the spring. Pruning trees with bacterial canker before dormancy can spread the bacterium on the pruning shears. Prune after the tree is dormant.



Peach Leaf Curl is caused by a fungus which overwinters on bud scales. Leaves are infected if free water is present on the buds in the spring and the temperature ranges from 70-75F. Symptoms include puckering, thickening, and curling of leaves. Infected leaves are light green to a reddish color. Infected leaves shed during the spring. Infection is normally limited to the first few leaves that emerge in the spring. Control is impossible after symptoms appear.

Spraying to control these four diseases is triggered by fall leaf drop. Examples of fungicides are, but not limited to, Kocide 101, Kocide DF, Blueshield, or Champion. All are copper containing fungicides that are labeled for peaches at this time.

[\(return to story beginning\)](#)



Recipe : Acorn Griddle Cakes

To make cakes, you will need the following:

2/3 C finely ground leached acorn meal

1/3 C unbleached flour

1 tsp. baking powder

1/3 tsp. salt

1 Tbl honey

1 egg, beaten

3/4 C milk

3 Tbl melted butter

Combine dry ingredients. Mix together egg and milk, then beat into dry ingredients, forming a smooth batter. Add butter. Drop batter onto hot, greased griddle. Bake, turning each cake when it is browned on underside and puffed and slightly set on top. Makes 12 to 15.



<http://www.thepeoplespaths.net/NAIFood/acorns.htm>

[\(return to index\)](#)

Hurray for Us!

The Wood County Master Gardener Association won 1st Place for 2013 in the **Medium to Large** category. A full write up on this award will be submitted to the local press by our President, Ellen Atkins. This will let the general public know about our good works, educational programs and State wide impact.

2013 was the first year we competed in the larger category; the competition is stiff folks. This is a great indication that our reputation of being among the best (if not the best?) MG Associations in Texas is right on the money.



Article and Photos by: Sylvia

Congratulations to us all.



[\(return to index\)](#)



You are always wanted and needed.

Mondays Quitman Library

Tuesdays MNP/Wildscape Gardens January–April WCMG Trainee Class

Wednesdays Quitman Arboretum and Botanical Gardens/Stinson House

Many other days and hours during the year. If you have a few hours, we have a project that needs help. See the Volunteer Project Chairperson List on page 16 for contact information. Also don't forget the new Trainee Class will start in January. Come and meet the trainees and help with the classes

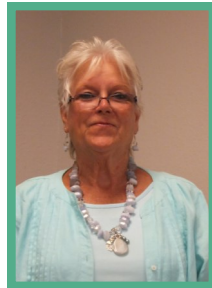


Texas Master Gardeners Association 2nd VP Nominee for 2015

Peggy Rogers

From Peggy:

The nominating committee for TMGA called me two weeks ago and asked me to considering being nominated for 2nd VP for 2015 with a four year commitment to move up to 1st VP in 2016 and President in 2017 and serving as past president in 2018. I had several sleepless nights and wrestled with whether I could handle the duties. Wow, I am so honored to even be asked! With encouragement from Clint and several MG friends, I have accepted to be nominated at the state conference in Midland-Odessa in a couple of weeks. At this point it is a nomination from the nominating committee and nominations can be made from the floor at that time. If it happens, Wood County Master Gardener Association will be even more well known with a state officer from your association. I truly feel humbled by this nomination and will strive to always keep what is the best for Master Gardeners at the top. Hopefully, you will join me in celebration of making WCMGA even more well known. (I'm a little scared!)



Peggy,

We are so excited about your nomination. We fully expect your nomination to be met with a vote of confidence during the state meeting. We are proud of you and know that you will take your knowledge and enthusiasm to TMGA and lead us in great works. We also know you will represent Wood and Rains Counties well. TMGA's reputation will only increase with you aboard at the Officer level. We look forward to helping you in your efforts to make TMGA bigger and better!

With appreciation,

All of us in WCMG

Article and Photo by Sylvia

[\(return to index\)](#)



WCMG hold a Rain Water Harvesting Class at MNP Demo Station. Photo by: Karen Anderson

Rain Barrels for Sale by WCMG

By: Sylvia

This is a reminder that WCMGA sales rain barrels to the public. We share our knowledge of Rain Water Harvesting with each barrel sold. This is making an impact not only with the local county residents but farther afield also.

Our newsletter readership is not just limited to association members but also reaches their family, friends, and others that get the information from our great Website and Facebook page.

It is amazing how far our Educational Outreach spreads. Touch one life and it effects many others. Thanks to the below readers for giving us feedback and letting us know that they love our newsletter. Please feel free to tell all your friends, family and Media Pals to visit our sites. Jim Willis (website chair) and Peggy Rogers (Facebook chair) do a great job helping us spread the word about the Texas A&M AgriLife horticultural and conservation messages. They put our publication and articles on the great information hi-way. Let's help them spread the word. Tell everyone to put our site in their "Favorites" and to "Like Us". See page 15 on all media information.

Don't forget, we still sell the barrels and although we do not usually deliver we would be glad for you to take one to your buddies too.

A different spout system on our Rain Barrels:

I received the below pictures from a "Wood Works" reader in the Houston area. They follow our work and tips monthly. Did you know we have "Wood Works" Newsletter readers all over the state of Texas and beyond? Here is an example of feedback we have received.

After reading about Karen Anderson's great Rain Water Harvesting class during the spring event at the Nature Preserve, they ordered a barrel. I delivered it in May since I was going there for a family event. They have sent in feedback after using it for the summer. For their large yard the water flow was a little too slow. So, they replaced the brass fitting with a larger PVC fitting and now they have enough water pressure to flow to the far side of their yard.

They are quite impressed with our Rain Water Harvesting Program and have implemented the suggestions that came with the barrel. They are avid readers and look forward to each issue. So do their neighbors!

Contact Karen Anderson for info on Rain Barrels or Rain Water Harvesting: kkjta46@yahoo.com



Photo by: Jerry Drinkwater

[\(return to index\)](#)

Chef Debbie's Fall Recipes demonstrated at the October WCMG regular meeting

Pumpkin sauce (a twist on apple sauce)

1 small pie pumpkin- seeded, peeled and diced
1/2 cup white sugar
1 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
Cinnamon (or pumpkin pie spice will work)
Nutmeg (or pumpkin pie spice will work)
Water (enough to cover half the diced pumpkin)

Take all the above ingredients and add to a large sauce pan, bring to a boil, then turn heat down to med, let pumpkin become very soft, stirring occasionally. You may have to add more water, a little at a time, depending on how thick you want it to be. More water the thinner it will be!!! Once the pumpkin has become soft use a potato masher and mash until it is how you want it to be chunky or very soft and mashed like applesauce. Taste and add more spices or sugars as need to your taste. Serve hot or cold. Put into small hollowed out gourds or tiny pumpkins to serve! Bigger pumpkin hollowed out makes a great bowl for the thanksgiving table.



Photos by: Sylvia

Sweet potato Bruschetta for 4 people

2 large Sweet potatoes or yams, diced and roasted
1-2 small bottles of capers, drained
1 med size purple onion, diced, or whatever color onion you like!
Salt, pepper, granulated or chopped fresh garlic to taste.
Balsamic vinegar glaze, extra virgin olive oil just enough to coat potatoes and for taste.
Fresh diced sweet basil

Roast the potatoes whole or peeled and diced in a 350 degree oven only till barely soft. If whole, cool and peel, then dice. You may also cook the potatoes in the microwave! Add all the other ingredients together in a large bowl and toss to coat real well! Serve in a hollowed out gourd or pumpkin for a great fall table setting. You may serve this warm, room temp, or cold. I use crackers or crostini or both.

Crostini

1 loaf of good baguette or French bread sliced and brushed with olive oil and herbs. Toast in the oven till golden at 350 degrees.



[\(return to index\)](#)

Please don't burn your leaves – they are valuable.

By: Willie Kay Paredes

All soils need organic matter and leaves are a good source. Burning leaves is a terrible waste and not good for the environment. Burning leaves on top of a tree's root zone is not good for the tree.



Clip Art

For many years, I lived and gardened in Grand Prairie with its heavy clay soil. Mr. Williams lived in back of us and had the best garden soil. He had moved into the house in 1943. Every year in the fall, he gathered all his leaves and piled them in his garden. He mowed those several times to break them up before tilling them into the garden. He had planted 5 pecan trees around his house and by the time we moved into the neighborhood in 1955, the trees were producing many leaves for his garden. My garden soil just over the fence from his garden dried into concrete until I was able to follow his example and add more organic matter into my soil. Since that time I have valued my leaves.

Now that I am in the land of sand, I need my leaves even more. As I add leaves to my soil, it is turning much darker. The organic matter from leaves help aerate the soil and increase its ability to hold water. As the leaves break down, they provide free fertilizer for plants and increase good soil microorganisms.

Leaves may be used tilled into the soil and also as mulch on top of the soil.

It is good gardening practices to mulch soil to help retain moisture and keep the soil somewhat cooler especially in our hot summers. I use leaves mixed with chipped up limbs as mulch. Since organic mulch decomposes, it must be renewed every year. Luckily, nature provides me many leaves every fall. I try to get shredded limbs from the electric coop every year; these wood chips are best used after being aged at least 6 months.

Leaves may also be used to produce leaf mold. Bag the leaves somewhat wet in black bags. Close the bag, punch some holes in the bag, and place in shade to slowly decompose. They should be ready to use as mulch by spring. Also, I mix in small branches into the leaves.

Leaves can be used to produce compost. Compost heats up really well and decomposes quicker if you have some chicken or ruminant manure. I have a wire enclosure in which I pile leaves, branches and anything else organic. Since I don't have animal manure my compost takes longer to make.

It is not advisable to use chicken manure from commercial chicken houses as they are fed arsenic to help them put on weight. I do not knowingly use any compost that has this manure as I do not want to add poison to my soil.

Some chicken producers have stated that they are discontinuing the arsenic in their feed. But since I don't know if all have; I avoid all potentially contaminated soil amendments with arsenic.

Ben Green reported in his books that old horse traders fed older horses arsenic with their grain to get them to fill out and look younger and more valuable. All the traders had to do was to file the horses' teeth to finish making the horse looker younger. So arsenic has been used in more than in chicken feed in the past.

Just remember that to produce healthy plants; we need to have healthy soil.



Clip art

The addition of leaves can improve the soil health and therefore the health of all our plants.

Try it you might like it!

[\(return to index\)](#)

Free Food: Acorns

By: Sylvia Johnson

Scientific Name: *Quercus* spp.

What: nuts

When: fall

Other uses: tanning leather

Abundance: common

Where: Oak Trees (white, red, live, burr, post, pin, etc)

Nutritional Value: protein, minerals, fats and carbohydrates

Dangers: very bitter if tannic acid isn't leached

How: leach out tannins with lots of running water

Nutritional Value: • Rich in vitamins B12, B6, folate riboflavin, thiamin and niacin

- 1 oz. of nut meat contains 4-5 time the Vitamin C than Orange Juice
- Minerals-calcium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, manganese, sodium, copper and zinc
- Good source of fiber and Protein
- High in Complex carbohydrates
- Lower in fat compared to other nuts
- Help control blood sugar level

How to process: Check gathered and discard any with pin holes as they contain worms. Crack and shell as you would any nut. Roast in 400° oven until brown and eat or...

- ◇ coarsely chop them in a blender or food processor then repeatedly run them through a coffee maker with paper filter until they no longer taste bitter
- ◇ freeze the un-shelled acorns and just leach and grind as you need them. Frozen, vacuum-packed acorns still in their shell can last up to a year

History: Acorn nuts cannot be eaten out of hand because their high tannin content makes them bitter, unpalatable, and toxic when consumed in large quantities. The Native Americans pulverized the nuts and leached them of their tannins in water, turning them into acorn meal or, as the Spaniards call it, harina de bellota. It was then eaten as a nutritious mush (like oatmeal), or baked into breads and griddlecakes. The Koreans take it one step further and refine the acorn meal into a starch and then the jelly. The Jelly can still be found in Korean dishes today. Have a look for Acorn Jelly next time your at a Korean restaurant or Asian shop. It can be used like tofu. It is a great non-gluten food.

<https://nutrition1.knoji.com/the-health-and-medicinal-benefits-of-acorns/>

<http://www.thepeoplespaths.net/NAIFood/acorns.htm>

<http://mgid.com/mg5006.html>

See this issue's Recipe Page for a sample of using your acorn meal.

[\(return to index\)](#)



On-line with Wood County Master Gardeners;

[\(return to index\)](#)

—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!

—**Sunshine**, If you know of a member who needs cheering up or sympathy please contact our chairperson at: joycemhollaway@hotmail.com

—**Volunteer Hours**

<http://texas.volunteersystem.org>

Just click on the link and you will be 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 at: peggyrog-ersc21@gmail.com



From the Newsletter Editor:

How to earn more Volunteer Hours — By: Sylvia Johnson

Submitting articles and pictures is another way you may earn your volunteer hours. You may count the article writing time as volunteer time. 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)
- 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, 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.

Articles will be accepted in Microsoft Word & Work, sent from iPad, sent from phone, or hard copy. I can use most pictures sent by e-mail and compatible with Windows. Pictures must be accredited to photographer.

The leading delivery of malware comes in E-Mails,

I DELETE E-MAILS WITH NO SUBJECT LINE (even if you are a Prince from Nairobi)!

Please fill free to contact me with any questions. mgnewsletter@hotmail.com

[\(return to index\)](#)

2014 WCMGA Volunteer Projects									
PROJECT			CHAIR			EMAIL			
Hawkins Helping Hands			Lucy Germany			lgermany@etex.net			
Junior Master Gardeners			Linda Avant			linavant@peoplescom.net			
Mineola NP Wildscape/Sensory Gardens			Karen Anderson			kkita@yahoo.com			
Quitman Arboretum & Stinson House			Pam Riley			pam_riley2003@yahoo.com			
Quitman Library			John & Jean Fox			jfoxes@sbcglobal.net			
Winnsboro Projects			Jerri Sutphin			granfarm@peoplescom.net			
			Sandra Patrick			sppat57@suddenlink.net			
Winnsboro Greenhouse			Linda Avant			linavant@peoplescom.net			
2014 WCMGA COMMITTEES									
AUDIT			Jim Willis, Petra Jones, Pat Wilson						
BUDGET DEVELOPMENT			jrwillisjr@yahoo.com						
EDUCATION			Sandra McFall			sandra.retired@hotmail.com			
EMAILS			Peggy Rogers			peggyrogersc21@gmail.com			
FACEBOOK			Peggy Rogers			peggyrogersc21@gmail.com			
FESTIVALS			Lynette Irizarry			platinumfish@msn.com			
HISTORIAN/SCRAPBOOK			?						
INTERN CLASS			Peggy Rogers			peggyrogersc21@gmail.com			
NEWSLETTER			Sylvia Johnson			mgnewsletter@hotmail.com			
SUNSHINE			Joyce Holloway			joycemholloway@hotmail.com			
VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM			Peggy Rogers			peggyrogersc21@gmail.com			
WEBSITE			Jim Willis			jrwillisjr@yahoo.com			
2015 SPRING CONFERENCE			Gloria Jeane Rosewall			gloriajeanerosewall@gmail.com			
2014 WCMGA OFFICERS									
CEA ADVISOR			Clint Perkins			ctperkins@ag.tamu.edu			
President			Ellen Atkins			ellen.atkins@hotmail.com			
Vice President			Molly Mathis			mollymouse@peoplescom.net			
Secretary			Linda Bradley			lk_bradley58@yahoo.com			
Treasurer			Katy Carter			texancarters@yahoo.com			
TMGA Director			Peggy Rogers			peggyrogersc21@gmail.com			
TMGA Director			Linda Bradley			li_bradley58@yahoo.com			

(return to index)

[\(return to index\)](#)