

Wood County Master Gardener Association
Wood County, Texas
Edited by: Sylvia Johnson



President's Message: SEEDS OF SUCCESS



Sandra McFall
 Picture by: Sylvia

Happy New Year to each of you and may this be a year of faithful service to Master Gardeners, stimulating education opportunities, with warm and gracious comradery, as this WCMG consortium continues to evolve into one of the strongest in our state of Texas. The word consortium was used as it defines how I see us: an agreement, combina-

tion, or group formed to undertake an enterprise beyond the resources of any one member. In other words, we are all needed. Together we can meet the standards and requirements of WCMG. We each have abilities, values, and wisdom, and as a whole (consortium) we can achieve our goals. This can be an opportunity for us all to work together by coming to monthly meetings and volunteering to work on projects and committees, thus reflecting a sense of pride and dedication to our association.

This is a brand new year to start over on some things and to

start a-new on others. So let's get started. Let's meet our goals and have a great time together as we focus on the good and use our energy for the benefit of our association.

I thank you for the honor of serving as your president and will try at all times to do my best and to do what is best for the association. I am looking forward to working with and getting to know those that I don't already know. Thank you to those who have accepted positions on committees for being willing to give of your time and energy for this cause.

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

Inside this issue:

Court Check	2
Donations 501C	
Recycled	3
Poinsettias	
Spring-Read about it	4
Things I learned	5
Tea Thyme	
Congratulations WCMG	
Most Exceptional Association	6
Jr. Master Gardeners	7
Humor	8
MNP	10
QA&BG	12
AWARDS 2014	13
Luncheon	14
Class Schedule 2014	16

VP- Scheduled Speakers

We are starting the year off with two programs by our own new members from the class of 2014.

In **January**, Deena Taylor will present Keyhole Gardens and Four Square Gardens. These two meth-

ods produce an amazing amount of produce, are great for small spaces, and perfect for those ready to scale back on the size of our vegetable gardens.

Gloria Jeane Rosewall will get us through dreary **February** with

a slide show on the gardens she visited while vacationing in Alaska last summer. I feel sure we will appreciate our long growing season after seeing all they can do in a couple of short months.

By: Melissa Deakins

Online with WCMG:

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- Online CEU
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President's Article continued:

There are many exciting projects, educational opportunities, and just fun times ahead of us this year. Starting in January the new intern class begins with Lin Grado as their leader. We need to attend and give encouragement to all of them and to use this opportunity to get our CEU requirements. This is a great time for meeting and greeting, and finding new people for projects that need some assistance.

The monthly meeting is an opportunity that you will not want to miss, for it will keep you informed of all the projects (that could use some assistance), business (old and new), and up and coming events. Mostly, though, it can be a time to visit with old and new friends. And don't forget the important CEU's that you get each meeting and information that hopefully will be of benefit to you.

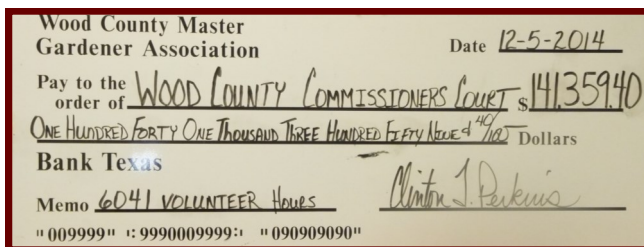
In March, 2015, the Spring Conference will be held in Quitman at the HS. As it gets closer they will need a lot of assistance from us all. So keep this date open and check with Gloria Jean and her committee to see if you can help.

These are just a few of the resources we have to offer so come and join us and get involved. You will be missed and you will miss out if you don't come.

Sincerely,
Sandra McFall

[Click to return to index](#)

“Check” Given to Wood County Commissioner's Court - 2014



The Wood County Master Gardeners presented the Court with a “check” worth **\$141,359.40**. This represented **6,041** hours of volunteer time spent on county beautification and as maintainers of county parks. This symbolizes works that the citizens of Wood County did not have to pay for with county taxes. WCMG is an division of Texas A&M AgriLife. Their mission is to promote horticultural education and information to the public.

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 receipt for you tax records.

Recycled Poinsettias

Poinsettias are the Christmas plant. Every year I get asked, "How to keep my poinsettia and care for it until next year?" Below are the instructions and a time frame in which to do them. With luck, you can have a recycled poinsettia plant in time for Christmas 2015.



ClipArt

CHRISTMAS, Pick out a colorful plant with tightly clustered yellow buds. Protect from hot or cold drafts, water when dry, and place in a room with enough natural light for reading.

NEW YEAR'S, Apply all-purpose house plant fertilizer. Continue light, water, and fertilizer. Plant should remain colorful for many weeks.

VALENTINE'S DAY, Do nothing unless your plant has become long and leggy. If it has, prune to 5 inches from the soil.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY, Remove faded and dried parts of the plant. Add more soil, preferably a commercially-available sterile mix.

MEMORIAL DAY, Poinsettia should be around 3 feet high. Trim off 2 or 3 inches from ends of branches, to promote side branching. Re-pot to larger container. Move plant outside... first to indirect, then direct light.

FOURTH OF JULY, Trim plant again. Make sure it has full sunlight. Slightly increase the amount of fertilizer. If you would like root cuttings, they will root easily if kept warm.

LABOR DAY, Poinsettia may have grown to 5 feet or more. Move indoors, but make sure it has 6 hours of direct light from a window. Reduce fertilizer.

FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN, Starting on or near September 21, give plant 13 hours of uninterrupted darkness and 11 hours of bright light per day. Keep night temperatures in the lower 60s. Continue to water and fertilize. Rotate plant each day to give all sides even light.

THANKSGIVING, Discontinue day/night treatment.

Put plant in a sunny area. Reduce water and fertilizer.

CHRISTMAS, Enjoy your now-New Poinsettia!

Happy Gardening,

Clint Perkins, AgriLife Agent

[Click to return to index](#)

Wood County TX AgriLife Extension Service

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Quitman, TX 75783-0968

Phone: 903-763-2924



Wood County Extension Agent,

Clint Perkins

Email: cltperkins@ag.tamu.edu

*Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

Spring Will Soon Arrive - Till Then **Read about It!**

It's cold; Despicable winter. Not only are all the greens gone but also the lovely interlopers—the burnished leaves, the fat persimmons, and my sudden understanding of how trees work—the smoothing of the bark, the piling of the deceased leaves against the trunk, the visibility of birds—the few that still rest on a branch before moving on.

I think of how nice it would be to live on one of the warm islands, eating hand-picked fruit year round, the visible gift of all the things that count—leaves, interesting branches, and flowers. No—I am not there even though I long to be transported to one of those places. Right now I am trying to make the best of what nature has given me. Right here. I think of chores that when completed, will mean that things will be better later on. Shrubs and small trees which are now bearing fruit—such as the yaupon near my driveway. It is full, bushy, but though there are flashes of its red fruit within the greenery it is the green that prevails. It's time to trim. I hack away and the result though not artistic gives a sense of a plant that's doing something, that has generosity. The red berries are a symbol of that interesting cycle. The blades of the iris leaves, sticking straight up, promise wonders before many months have passed. The fruit of the native persimmon—difficult to see from a distance—has become a wonderful snack allowing me not only to taste the succulent sweetness of it but also to spit—letting the flat seeds fall while I marvel at my great luck in being a part of this small drama that will soon be represented only by the damaged fruit hidden in the coarse grass waiting for birds and possible other guests to enjoy.

You wish briefly for a visit by true winter—not just this half-hearted stigma of bare limbs and fallen branches that announce the victory of the season. Winter is supposed to be snow and crystalline icicles hanging from your porch roof. You even wish for physical tasks to get you back into the cycle you cherish—such as planting seeds—certainly it's not too late to set out English peas, the champion of all sweet vegetables! And of course there's a need for the trimming of unsightly bare branches of all kinds of shrubs which now lean like alcoholic drifters against one another. This is a good time for planning—maybe moving this plant or that one so each can get more sunlight or be more readily viewed when it blooms. And then you become morose as you pass the huge mass of sprawling branches of the Lantana which you know you'll have to cut to the quick to get it into survival/blooming mode this coming spring. It's too early for that kind of work and waiting for it to begin is a challenge in that it forces you to wait, to keep collected all that pent-up gardening energy.

Waiting—that's the name of the game. Meantime, though, all your eventual spring beauty now lies like a pile of ancient vessels tossed up on an empty beach. The thing to do now is to read the catalogues, study the new varieties, make notes and think instead of work, of the magical rewards that await. The thing not to do is worry about getting into the mass of crisply dry Lantana branches sprawling all over your garden, whacking away at them so that new life can emerge and you can stand knee-deep in beautiful blooms. Not so fast! Wait until early spring for the assassination and you will receive your reward. Meantime, put checkmarks on all the plants you must have and think of the magic garden that will be your reward.

Lucy Germany

[Click to return to index](#)



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from WCMG, Contact
Katy Carter.

Picture from TG website



Clip art

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

In the garden, some things can be put off, but some things can't. Sometimes when I procrastinate, I end up paying a price. The garden teaches one not to delay. Now granted, you can get away with putting things off occasionally, but why go through the stress? So you were busy and didn't get outside to water today, besides, it was hot (or cold). Those plants will wait one more day. Well, yes, they may. But then again, they may not. Delays in watering cause plant stress and that affects efficient growth or production. Kind of the same way with people. That chore that wasn't done-for whatever reason-will only be moved to tomorrow's list of chores. It hasn't gone away; it still looms before you needing to be done. Tomorrow's list is now longer and there is added stress.

I tend to put off things I don't like to do. Vacuuming comes quickly to mind. You might be wondering why that is such a big deal. Well, when the garden soil from my shoe is left on the wood floor, in time it becomes sand. Walking through that sand not only spreads it throughout the house, but underfoot it becomes like sandpaper. It ruins the finish on the floor which requires an expensive process to rectify.

If you've ever lost a plant due to procrastination, you have a very real picture of the point here. The garden is sometimes a demanding place where everything depends on your commitment to doing things in a timely manner. Routine can be your helper to overcome procrastination. When I develop habits that create routine, I find that tasks are completed more easily and on time!

Ellen Atkins

[Click to return to index](#)

Tea Thyme: Sandra McFall

If you like teas and have never made your own tea mix you may want to try some of these mixes. Tea is named either according to the region it originates from, or from the special blending of the tea. Not all tea comes from the tea plant, *camellia sinensis*. It seems that just about any drink brewed from spices, herbs, flowers, fruits, roots, zest and bark is called, "tea". The most common of these being herb teas also referred to as tisanes. A true herbal tea has no commercial leaves in it, but you can mix the leaves if you like. Many herbal teas have flavor, aroma, and appearance equal to that of the best imported teas.



Clip art

Because the flavor of fresh herb is less concentrated than that of dried herb you must use greater amounts when using fresh herbs. One tablespoon of fresh herbs equals one teaspoon of dried herbs. To prepare your tea to drink use two teaspoons of dried herbs for each pint of near boiling water or one teaspoon to each cup for a single serving.

[Click for more on tea](#)

CONGRATULATIONS ...



Photo: Sylvia

to all members of Wood County Master Gardeners. This 1st Place Award was received for work and events held in 2013 while Karen Anderson was President. Her great work, and that of all her officers, lead us to the top.

Congrats to all who also won Awards in Individual & Project categories; your efforts led to us all winning. Also, thanks to Clint Perkins for his stewardship and insight throughout the year.

A MOST EXCEPTIONAL ASSOCIATION!

By: Past President Ellen Atkins

The Wood County Master Gardeners (WCMG) are wrapping up another very rewarding year. Every member has worked diligently to continue the excellence of our programming while volunteering thousands of hours in service to community projects. In January, WCMG received notification that the grant for a new educational program was being awarded in the amount of \$2500. Although the class was a new concept for WCMG Association, it was a unique learning experience for all involved and provided funds for some much needed equipment. Master Gardeners Karen Anderson and Pam Reilly also were awarded grants for projects at specific venues; The Mineola Nature Preserve and The Arboretum/Stinson House respectively. The membership of this exceptional association is 85 with 14 interns trained beginning in January. All the interns that finished the classwork have now completed the volunteer hours and have joined the ranks of Texas Certified Master Gardeners.

In February, the association submitted five applications to the Texas Master Gardeners Association Awards Committee. At the yearly state convention, the WCMG won the award for being the Most Outstanding Medium-Large Association in the entire state of Texas! WOW!!

March and April were months of trying a new class and reinstituting the annual Spring Conference. The new class was a "first look" at something different and will need more fine-tuning if WCMG wants to continue to present this class to families. The 2015 Spring Conference committee began the planning to bring back a very successful educational event. Everyone is looking forward to March 2015, to see what WCMG has in store for this learning event.

In May, we again hosted our county's third graders from elementary schools in Wood County. More than 360 area third graders took part in this yearly event. It is well received by the students, teachers, principals and superintendents. We plan to streamline this effort next year under Linda Avant's leadership and create teams that may be "pressed into service" in other venues. May also brought some changes to the Wildscape at the Mineola Nature Preserve and the Rainwater Harvesting System because of the awarded grant money. Presentations demonstrated the rainwater collection system to the general public in May and October.

During the summer months, Master Gardener Ellen Atkins attended the Home Fruit and Nut Specialists training class in College Station, TX. Also accomplished during the summer was the construction of a new storage cabinet at the Extension Office for the express use of the WCMG Association.

The WCMG manned educational outreach booths at seven area festivals in Wood and Rains County. The association created all the public interaction during the New Landowners Conference by manning three educational tables about three various subjects and contributing all the door prizes.

In the fall months, WCMG Association members begin planning for the events and training of 2015. The Association is focusing on more educational outreach while maintaining and improving those activities and events that have served well in the past.

I want everyone to know how much I have enjoyed serving beside you in working to meet our mission: Texas Master Gardeners is a volunteer program designed to grow horticultural information throughout the state, town by town. The Executive Officers team has been a wonderful group to work with. Each one has performed her duties with efficiency and excellence. I appreciate each of you; Molly, Linda and Katie! I know all the members of WCMG will work to support and help all the new in-coming officers and committee chairpersons. Our new president, Sandra McFall, has many challenging and exciting ideas to improve our club and maintain our status as "The Most Outstanding Association in Texas"!

It has been a great year, but the best is yet to come!

[Click to return to index](#)

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER

2014 FALL SEMESTER

By: Linda Avant

Twenty three 8th grade students in Ms. Jackson's class at Quitman Jr. High participated in Level II of the Junior Master Gardener program this past semester. Students learned how plants are necessary and how plants are classified. They made posters showing examples of plant parts. Next, plant types were introduced so that the students would have a better knowledge of what plants would be more successful in the landscape. Seeds were given out for seed propagation. Lastly they were instructed on how to plant a tree. This resulted in their community service project of planting a tree on the campus.

Next semester another class in Yantis will be added to the WCMG JMG Program. We are planting seeds in young minds by educating our future gardeners through Jr. Master Gardener Projects.



[Click to return to index](#)

Humorous Mishaps

By

Lynn AronSpeer

Can Pigolet Learn to Salsa?

Dear Scratch –

I'm glad you decided to *lay* low (a pun we girls use often!) This way I can still sneak out to see you occasionally and you can reconnoiter until you get the (heh, heh) *lay* of the land and just watch Beakorama's moves for awhile. He's just a big bag of feathers so you really don't need to be as afraid as your body language would indicate—all squinched down like that, peeking through the fence. I'll sneak you a couple more watermelon rinds and aged zucchini muffins to fill you out a little and then you'll just strut in and take over. I get all



Darlene-Photobucket

breathless, just picturing your arrival. I'll set it all up. You'll make your grand entrance when the Big Things are here by the barnyard. Miss Beaky and Miss Pecky and I will all act swoony around you so the Big Things will know you mean business. Plus, we'll all do our best to up our output so you'll look productively busy. I did as you asked and had a close look at Beakorama's cock claws and they *do* look pretty well developed to me. But here's a plan. Just before you decide to enter the pen, text-peck me and I'll ask Miss Pecky to have a go at those feet of his. She isn't called Miss Pecky for nothing and I've seen her do fearsome things when she's motivated and he's nearly riled her a time or two already with his feeble and unwanted attentions.

Now, as far as Pigolet is concerned, don't be. I've taken the little cutie in hand and taught him not to roll in the mud or nibble at anything that looks like the Big Things' toes and he's working on dancing on his hind legs while tucking in his fore feet. As he masters that, I'll encourage him to salsa in a circle and the Big Things won't be able to resist him. Must say he hasn't much rhythm but I didn't frankly expect much. All the girls think he's darling—until he speaks! What a loud voice! We're working on some modulation there. When we introduce him to the Big Things, depending on their reaction, it might be good for you to remain in the wings and if all goes well, appear shortly thereafter in the afterglow, as it were. Ta-Ta for now,

Your text-pecking darling,

Darlene.



Pigolet-Photobucket

Epilogue

Dear Readers –

Nearly all went as planned: When he arrived and when they met in the barnyard, Scratch beat the chickpeas out of Beakorama. As a result of Beakorama's limping around the barnyard in order to gain sympathy, the Big Things took him up to the house and he's not been seen since.

The Big Things were entranced by Pigolet's antics in his tutu and told a very distant cousin by marriage, Miss Piggy, about his talents. Miss P. had been invited to go on *Dancing with the Stars* but was having trouble finding a partner whose stature would make her look good. Upon their meeting, Pigolet fell head over heels in love with her and she's happily taken him away where he remains totally under her supervision awaiting their debut. Keep watching.

The love story between Scratch and Darlene is in full swing and they are secretly planning to hide a clutch of eggs in order to have chicks of their own. Life in the barnyard is good.



Beakorama -Photobucket

We have all enjoyed this hilarious series of adventures through the eyes and beaks of the barnyard. Lynn you have added a lite side to our newsletter. Although we are sad to say goodbye to this group of tech savvy animals, we are looking forward to what or who you will write about in the coming year. What gardening adventure awaits?

[Click to return to index](#)

TEA cont.

Experiment with the different choices. Use what you have in your garden. You can use either fresh or dried herbs.

You may want to try growing some of these that you have never grown and experience the great taste you will create. Most tea herbs are easy to grow with well-drained soil and lots of sunshine and with a little afternoon protection in the summer here in Texas.

Watch for Sandra's tea blends throughout the year.

TEA BLENDS:

- rosehips, chamomile and pineapple sage
- lemon verbena, orange mint, cinnamon basil
- raspberry leaf, bee balm, chamomile, licorice
- anise hyssop, lemon balm, lemon thyme
- lemon verbena, rosemary

[Click to return to pg. 5](#)

[Click to return to index](#)

MINEOLA NATURE PRESERVE “WILDSCAPE GARDEN”

2014— END OF YEAR SUMMARY

The “Wildscape” Garden at the Mineola Nature Preserve has had a very busy and eventful year in 2014. To start the year off right we were awarded a \$2,500 grant from *Trans-Canada Charitable Fund at East Texas Communities Foundation*. This gave us a monetary way to implement some additions and improvements to the gardens and as well as to present two educational seminars.

In March we were given a \$2,000 donation from *XTO Energy* to build a pergola to add more structure and height to the gardens. The pergola was completed in the late spring; it was time to start planning the landscaping around it. Melissa Deakins has accepted the challenge to complete this project and we are making progress. Once it warms up we will be getting the raised beds implemented and plants planted. The City of Mineola is going to apply water sealer to the pergola to help extend the life of the lumber.

Wood County Master Gardeners would like to express our appreciation to both Charitable Funds for investing in us and our work. With continued support from the community we can continue to improve the Wildscape. Thank you, we look forward to a continuing relationship with the businesses and charities you represent.

We had two trainee classes; Wood County and Free State (Rains County) attend a demonstration of the Rainwater Collection System in conjunction with their classroom instructions. This gave them an idea of a simple system to install at their home with 55 gal. barrels or how they can use a more sophisticated system in order to collect more rainwater.

In May we had our first “Spring Fling” gardening seminar which was very successful and the attendees were very pleased with our programs. Lin Grado did a presentation on “Vericomposting”. Linda Timmons gave a tour of the gardens and talked about the native and “Super Star” plants used there and how attendees could use them in their home gardens. Karen Anderson gave an educational talk and demonstration on “Rainwater Harvesting”. We sold 5 rain barrels and distributed educational material about plants and vegetables for home gardens. The fest had an estimated 250 attendees.

In May the Free State Master Gardeners came and helped our crew get the Wildscape de-weeded and cleaned up so the grasses and landscaped flower beds showed especially well this year; it was nice to work with a neighboring MG Association. We also planted two different batches of “Princess Caroline” Napier grass (donated by SFA). The grass must have loved the planting location because it became our show stopper by growing to over 5 feet tall. Thanks to SFA for the donation of plants, including the Napier grass.



In June a local Church Youth Group joined us for their day of service and added their enthusiasm and young backs to our efforts. They cleaned flower beds, moved and spread mulch and cleaned up the compost bin area. They learned about gardening and we learned that the local youth care about their county. Thank y'all for the help; you added joy to our work.

The Wildflower garden was beautiful this year with all sorts of wildflowers (along with some voluntary grass and weeds) it looked natural and showed how tough wildflowers have to be to survive in the wild with only rain fall and the nutrients from un-amended soil.

Finally, we participated in the “NatureFest meets Big Foot” festival in October with the City of Mineola. We had Educational displays, tours and hand- outs. Our speaker was Dawnvollyn from “Big Chicken Daylily Farm”. We thank her for sharing her knowledge of bulbs and plants with us and the public.

We have a lot of projects lined up for 2015 which include:

1. finish the landscaping around the pergola
2. re-vamp the large flower bed under the now large shade tree which has become a shade area instead of full a sun area
3. finish the rain-water garden
4. work on adding more plants to the big grass hill
5. present 2 gardening seminars, one in the spring and one in the fall

We have another busy year ahead of us and everyone is welcome to help. We work every Tuesday afternoon from 1:00-5:00 during the winter months and trainee class days. When it starts getting warm (usually the first of May) we switch to early morning hours of 8:30-12:00. Come enjoy your native Wildscape and listen to the music (birds) while you work.

Article and Photo: Karen Anderson

[Click to return to index](#)

Online with WCMG

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

—**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 from Kentucky
- Page 2 is Wood County Master Gardeners
- Page 3 Wood County Master Gardeners, Quitman
- Then "like" us!

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

—**Sunshine** , **Position Open**, contact Sandra if you would like to fill this office.

—**Volunteer Hours:** <http://texas.volunteersystem.org>

Just click on the link and you will see where to enter your password. Before logging in, right click on the page and save to favorites or bookmark or Create Shortcut to you desktop. Thanks for entering your hours. If you need help contact Peggy at: peggyrogersc21@gmail.com

Inside and outside the Picket Fence

Quitman Arboretum and Botanical Garden

The gardens are asleep and the house is now quiet after a number of Christmas Parties. The Friends of the Arboretum and the many Master Gardener volunteers who work there are resting up after a few busy weeks getting the house and the grounds ready for the Holiday Season.

Many thanks to all of those who volunteered their services when it came time to decorate the house and yard for holiday functions, and a special “Thank You” to all who provided baked goods for our annual Bake Sale during the evening Open House. If you were not able to make the Open House this year you missed an evening of good music, great food and drink, and the opportunity to experience the past and the present mixed together in some beautiful decorations. Anne Norris and her “group” of traveling minstrels serenaded the guests with seasonal music and, as usual, encouraged sing-a-longs.

Spring of 2015 will see some revamping of existing garden space as we strive to enhance and improve upon those perennials that are the backbone of our gardening efforts. We look forward to providing signage to assist visitors in identifying the trees and plants that we nurture along.

A wonderful surprise arrived on the front porch of the Stinson House a few weeks ago. Don and Sue Gallier have moved back to Quitman from North Carolina and paid us a surprise visit as we were decorating for Christmas. Welcome Home to the Galliers – your good company and friendship have been missed.

The friends of the Arboretum would like to welcome the Master Gardener Class of 2015. Please feel free to contact us if we can assist you in your pursuit of gardening knowledge. As usual, we are ready to learn from you as we have with each and every class that has passed through the back of Hogg Park.

Stay warm, enjoy friends and family and listen carefully...the bulbs are waking up.

Jan Whitcomb



Photo from: Friends of the Arboretum

[Click to return to index](#)



Wood County Master Gardeners 2014 Christmas Luncheon and Awards Ceremony



This year's bash was again held at St. Dunston's Church in

Mineola. Due to WCMG President Ellen Atkin's ankle operation she was not able to preside over this year's Awards Ceremony. However, Molly Mathis, our VP, did a great job of bestowing the awards with help from Clint Perkins, our AgriLife Agent.

The following people were awarded after the largest member vote to date. Congratulations to all:

Master Gardener of the Year 2014—Linda Avant—her Chairmanship of the JMG Program reached over 350 Wood County 3rd grade students, as well as 28 students in the Quitman Jr. High School agriculture class. She is really a steward for the next generation of gardeners.



Project Leader of the Year 2014 — Can you believe we had a tie!

—**Linda Avant**— see above

—**Pam Riley**— for her work in the continued expansion and improvement of the Stinson House and Botanical Gardens. She oversaw the house's new roof installation and addition of a store room to the kitchen. She coordinated the many events, educational opportunities and fund raisers held on the grounds this year. Thousands of visitors to Wood County visit this historical site and its gardens each year. As President of The Friends of the Arboretum she is the face of the site to the county.



Innovator of the Year 2014—Karen Anderson—Karen is known throughout the county as a Rainwater Harvesting Guru. Her dedication to this subject has spread the word that you can garden without being water wasteful. In conjunction with her Educational Seminars she has also spearheaded our Rain Barrel Fund Raiser. Thanks to her efforts (also a big thanks to Andy) we have made funds that enabled WCMG to spread the word about our great Association. Karen also wrote and received two grants for funds to enhance the Wildscape and fund her classes.



Community Outreach of the Year 2014—Lin Grado—Lin seems to be everywhere there is work to be done; she volunteered for many programs this year. It seemed that every time we held an educational event, put spade into the ground, started planning next year's Spring Conference, or just held a meeting...Lin was there to put her knowledge of all forward for all.

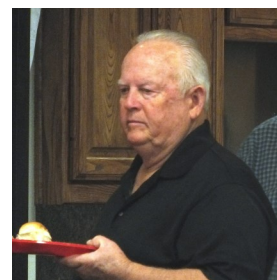


Rookie of the Year 2014—Gloria Jean Rosewall—Wow, Gloria is a prime example of what great new talent can add to an Association. As soon as she became a member she volunteered to head the Spring Conference Committee. She has shown such dedication and organization that we are all amazed with the news and updates presented at each month's meeting. Bright new ideas, new location, and an esteemed lecturer are what we are looking forward to for Spring Conference 2015.



Now to the good stuff and I do mean GOOD. We would like to thank the Ladies of St. Dunston's for arranging use of the reception hall, setting up the room, coordinating the kitchen and laying the buffet. And for the ever accompanying job of clean-up and dishes. You ladies are truly thanked again this year. Chef Debbie cooked succulent and plentiful Pulled Pork Roast and Turkey Roast. The buffet table once again groaned under the weight of the plethora of side dishes provided by the rest of the attendees. It was a table of delight when you walked past the deserts. Santa would be proud to have any of these sweets left out for him. Thanks to those who brought the tea, plates, napkins, and bread you cannot have a luncheon without these!

Enjoy the pictures, Sylvia Johnson





Lin Grado accepting award without disguise!



[Click to return to index](#)

2015 Training Class Schedule

As the New Year starts, so does another Wood County Master Gardener intern training class. We have 18 students enrolled this year for the classes that start January 6. This year's class coordinators are Lin Grado, Linda Bradley, Deena Taylor, and Louis Theriault.

We have a few changes and additions this year, as well as a return of some classes that have been very well received in the past. Linda Timmons will offer a session on Landscape Design, and Lowell Tanksley will reprise his Truck Farming presentation. We have some new classes, too, including a unit on keyhole gardening and another on drip irrigation. Here's the whole run-down:

Date	Subject	Speaker	Hours
1/6/2015	Botany, Structure, Processes	Clint Perkins	3
1/13/2015	Soil 1	Clint Perkins	3
1/20/2015	Soil 2	Clint Perkins	1
1/20/2015	Propagation Part 1	Lin Grado	2
1/27/2015	Herb Gardening/Gardening in containers	Kathi Ladewig	1.5
1/27/2015	Keyhole Gardens/Square Foot Gardens	Deena Taylor	1.5
2/3/2015	Earth Kind Gardening	Peggy Rogers	2.5
2/3/2015	Project intro		.5
2/10/2015	Vegetable Farming	Lowell Tanksley	1.5
2/10/2015	Home Vegetable Gardening	Ellen Atkins	1.5
2/17/2015	Landscape Design	Linda Timmons	3
2/24/2015	Composting/Vermicomposting/Containers	Holly Ross	3
3/3/2015	Tree ID (or woodlands management)**	Eric Taylor	1.5
3/3/2015	Trees for the Urban environment**	Daniel Duncum	1.5
3/10/2015	Entomology	Allen Smith	3
3/17/2015	Integrated Pest Management	Linda Timmons	3
3/24/2015	Fruits and Nuts	Tommy Phillips	1.5
3/24/2015	Texas Natives	Liz Soutendijk	1.5
3/31/2015	Rainwater Harvesting / Trip to MNP ***	Karen Anderson	3
4/7/2015	Propagation Part 2	Lin Grado	3
4/14/2015	Drip Irrigation	John Fox	3
4/21/2015	Field Trip	TBD	5
4/28/2015	Graduation	TBD	

** Trip to Quitman Arboretum for Tree Evaluation if weather permits.

Classes will be held each Tuesday from 8:30 till 11:30

***Trip to the Mineola Nature Preserve if weather permits.

As any of us who have been in WCMG for more than 6 month will testify...schedules change! Please watch your e-mail as I am sure Lin will be sending out notices as things occur. But, who cares if the subject changes, just show up and have fun with your friends. Oh yes, there are those CEU to be earned too!