



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

## President's Message: IS IT MAY / JUNE ALREADY?



Sandra McFall

As I write this article it is raining again and cool. The weather forecast is for this to last for 5 more days and the possibly of another front to arrive with more glorious rain. I thank God for all this rain and that the tanks, ponds, lakes, and creeks are full and flowing, but it has been impossible to get my garden tilled and planted; I sure

could use some sunshine so I can get in my garden. I was able to plant the onions in early February, but have lost many of them due to rot from the rain. Between rains I was able to replant more onions and the seed potatoes. Hope they breathe better under water than the other ones did. I know about the time this article is read we will be needing rain and you will wonder why I wrote this. We all know that in this part of Texas we are about a day away from a drought. So I will just be patient and wait for it to dry out so I can plant and play in the soil.

And then I can complain about the insects and no rain.

My greenhouse seedlings I started in late February are waiting for their new home out in the warm, rich, moist soil that I keep telling them about. Right after Easter they will go out.

The first quarter of this year has flown by for me. Our MG association had been busy getting ready for the Spring Conference scheduled for March 28th. This project was headed by Gloria Jean Rosewall and her hard working committee.

[\(click here for full](#)

### Inside this issue:

President cont...	<a href="#">2</a>
Wildscape-MNP	<a href="#">3</a>
QA&BG-Arboretum	<a href="#">4</a>
AgriLife Agent Article—Tomatoes	<a href="#">5</a>
Tea Thyme	<a href="#">6</a>
Graduation Day-Photos	<a href="#">7</a>
Why I Joined	<a href="#">8</a>
Luncheon Photos	<a href="#">9</a>
JRMG-Schedule	<a href="#">11</a>
Obituary: Lucy Germany	<a href="#">12</a>
Land Owners Conference	<a href="#">13</a>
Magazine Subscription	
WCMG-Officers	<a href="#">14</a>

## VP- Scheduled Speakers Melissa Deakins

**MAY:** The JMG Science Days for the schools had to be scheduled for May 19, 29, 21. That means that most of our members will not be at the regular meeting on Thursday and our by-laws state that we do

not have flexibility to change meeting days. Sandra will conduct a short meeting and we will not have a program.

**June:** We will begin our May program with a short presentation of "plant graffiti." Got

your attention? Peggy Rogers will then fill us in with the details of the 40acre Texas A&M Garden and Greenway Project.



### Online with WCMG:

- [Website](#)
- [Online CEU](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Sunshine](#)
- [Volunteer Hours](#)

[Click here](#)

MG WOOD WORKS

TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION

**President's Article continued:** They put together a full morning of exciting vendors, educational speakers and volunteers ready to answer questions, as well as directing and assisting all the people who attended. The bake sale was a sweet success and beautiful to look at. I heard Master Gardeners and guests all praising the keynote speaker, Steven Chamblee, chief horticulturalist at Chandor Gardens in Weatherford. Many thanks go to our own Master Gardener, Deena Taylor, for her seminar session on Keyhole Gardening. Also thanks and appreciation go out to the conference committee for all their work and time to make this a great day. And thank you to all who attended and helped with the setup and cleanup and all the other details. Lin Grado has done a great job of mentoring and seeing to the education of the new interns who, by now, have graduated, and some will have their hours completed and have their MG wings in place. Congratulations to you all and welcome to Wood County Master Gardeners Association. The graduation party was at St. Dunston Episcopal Church in Mineola on April 28th. The commissioner court attended and Clint prepared special good ol' Texas Bar B Q. Hope all of you attended and celebrated this happy day.

Each project leader has been busy getting their plans and people together to start on each of the beautification projects in the county. We all look forward to seeing these beautiful gardens.

Keith Zimmerman, our Webmaster, has been learning the ins and outs of the site and getting suggestions from members for site improvements. Be sure to look at the improvements that Keith has made and if any of you have ideas for this, contact Keith. Sylvia Johnson, our NL editor, is working with Keith and they now have the newsletter on the website.

Again, a big "Thank you" to Jenna and Ellen for the many hours and words that they used on the writing of the awards that Wood County has applied for from the State of Texas. We are all waiting to know the results.

As May starts MG will be in Mineola at the NP for Spring Fling. Karen has lots of great plans and fun for all. They have been working very hard trying to catch up on the weeds after all of the rain. Raised beds, soil mixtures, how to prune roses and crepe myrtles will be the educational presentations. Sounds like a great start to May.

Master Gardeners will be helping Clint with the Tri-County Landowners Conference in Emory on May 8th. We will host a booth featuring educational information on soil samples, composting, water conservation, and square foot gardening. Hope to see you all there. The speakers at the conference: Dr. George, Earth-Kind Principles and Vegetable Varieties; Keith Hanson, Planning the Home Fruit Orchard; Deena Taylor, Square Foot Gardening; and Bobby and Cathy Eatherton, Bees. This will be a good opportunity to acquire important and useful information for new landowners and the general public.

And last but not least, Science Days May 19-21th. There will be three days of working with third graders from Yantis, Quitman and Winnsboro. As always, working with children you learn as much as they do. So, come out and help with this program and learn as they learn. We will need lots of support from the association for this worthy project. If you need more information and were not able to attend the meeting on April 7th, call Linda Avant.

As you can see there are many opportunities for volunteering and giving of yourself to others. You are needed and will be missed if you are not involved in your association.

Project leaders and anyone thinking about applying for awards need to keep up to date records, take pictures (if needed), and keep the association informed of your project and its progress in the NL. This is required documentation for volunteer hours with the State of Texas.

And then there is June. All of the gardens will need to be cared for during the long hot summer and always the weeds will need to be pulled. Our monthly meetings will continue to offer interesting educational sessions with coffee and chatting. So come and join us and have fun.

Please help as you can,

Sandra McFall

[Click to return to index](#)

## Mineola Nature Preserve: **Wildscape and Sensory Educational Gardens**

I hate to say this but I wish the rain would let up for a little while. We appreciate the rain but it seems to pick our work days and the weeds love it. When you look out over the gardens and meadow it is as green as Ireland but when you look closer most of it is weeds. I think down among those weeds there are some wildflowers reaching for the sun, whenever it shines. The Bluebonnets have gone crazy and the clumps are huge with beautiful blooms all over the grass hill and down into the wildflower beds.

Work has started on the pergola with the cattle panels for vines and in the next few weeks the water troughs will be installed and plants are being chosen to blend with the “Xeriscape” bed.



We are still waiting to hear about the Monarch Butterfly Waystation but we have started preparing the area by having it mowed this week and then will start building the bed using the “Earth-Kind” method of “Lasagna” gardening. This bed will be an extension of our current Butterfly Garden and should attract more butterflies in the future.



One of our beds used to be in full sun, but since the tree has gotten so large it is now a shade garden, so we plan to strip and redo using shade and semi-shade plants. Anyone who is interested in helping to plan and re-do a bed is invited to join our work crew on Tuesdays during April from 1:00 until.... Starting in May the work schedule will be from 8:00 or 8:30 in the morning until it gets too hot to work. So come put your knowledge and planning skills to work as we have money we need to spend on landscaping before the end of May.

We also have two Sensory beds at the Pavilion that need to be cleaned and replanted with herbs. Holly Ross is bringing us some herbs when she gives her talk next week so we should be able to work on these a couple of days (if it doesn't rain) and get them in shape for “Spring Fling”.

The final item on our agenda is “Spring Fling” on May 2, 2015 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. The agenda will include 3 topics, “Pruning, What, Where and When” at 9:00 am, “Saving Seeds From Your Garden for the Future” by Sandra McFall at 10:00 am and “Building a Butterfly Garden to save Our Monarchs” at 11:00 am. Each of these presentations will last 20 to 45 minutes each and everyone is welcome. We will need Master Gardeners to handle the information tables; hand out printed materials, talk to people about the Master Gardener program and recruit interested people for the 2016 class. If you are able to help please be there by 8:00 am to help set up.

So come join us at the “Wildscape Gardens” and enjoy nature at its finest.



[Click to return to index](#)



# INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PICKET FENCE

## The Quitman Arboretum and Botanical Gardens: **Welcome Spring!**

I hope you had the opportunity to drive through The Quitman Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and see the breathtaking display of tulips. Planting 5300 tulips is a daunting thought. The Friends of the Arboretum attacked this Herculean task with some trowels, a spade here and there and even a tiller to achieve their goal. Success was measured by the number of visitors to the Park and the compliments that followed as red, yellow, pink, and finally white tulips each took their turn.

The Clematis vines planted on the south side of the Stinson house are really coming into their own this year. It is time for a trellis to support these sturdy plants!



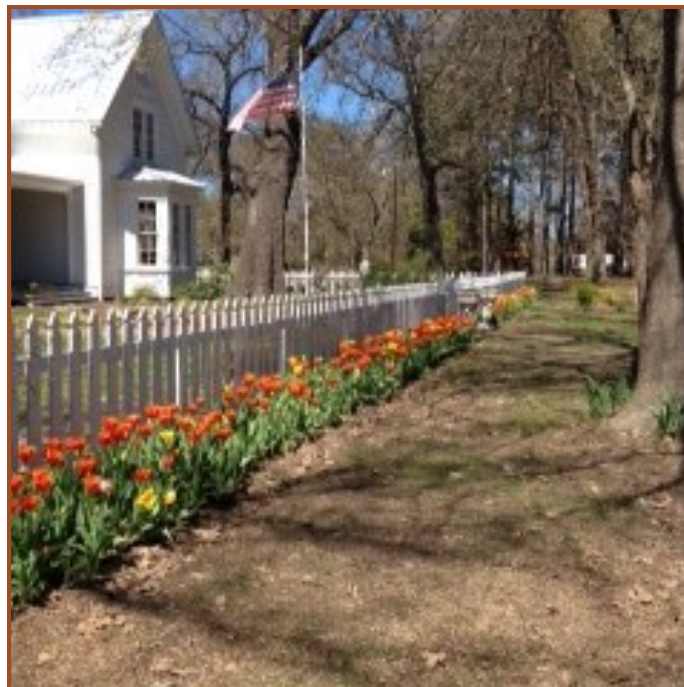
A new addition to the garden, in front of the Stinson porch, is the Cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus*). A few more examples of this unusual plant can also be found in the water wise garden. I was unfamiliar with this beautiful specimen plant and a bit of research told me it is a “very close relative of the edible globe artichoke” (Thank you to Howard Garrett for that information). As a longtime resident of the Lone Star State, this was my first encounter with this dramatic plant and I hope to see it included in our plantings again next year.

Tickets are now available for an elegant Mother’s Day Luncheon to be served in the Stinson House on Saturday, May 9th. This will be held in conjunction with an exhibit by local artists who will be showcasing their work in various media. Please call Pam Riley to secure a reservation for this event.

Many thanks to the members of this year’s Master Gardener Class. Your hours spent planning and implementing additions to the Water Wise Garden are going to present years of enjoyment to those who visit the park.

Please join us on Wednesdays if you enjoy the planting and maintenance of public gardens. If your back will no longer allow you to pursue time weeding and planting, do join us anyway. There is always a “non-invasive” activity that could use your help.

Jan Whitlock



[Click to return to index](#)

## Agent Article: Common Tomato Problems

I'm writing this article on April 7, 2015 to be published for the May/June issue of the Wood County Master Gardener Newsletter. In fact, I planted my tomatoes this year on April 6<sup>th</sup>. But, every year, I get questions starting in May and June about tomato problems. I thought that I would share some of these questions, and the answers I give, to you all. Please see below:



<http://all-free-download.com/>

Q. My tomato plants look great. They are dark green, vigorous and healthy. However, flowers are not forming any fruit. What is the problem?

A. There are several conditions that cause tomatoes to fail to set fruit. Too much nitrogen fertilizer, high night time temperatures (over 70<sup>0</sup> F), low temperatures (below 50<sup>0</sup> F), irregular watering, insects such as thrips, and planting the wrong variety may result in poor fruit set. Anyone of these by itself can cause poor fruit set, but combinations can be even more damaging.

Q. What causes a tomato to crack and what can I do to prevent it?

A. Cracking is a physiological disorder caused by moisture fluctuations. When the tomato reaches the mature green stage and the water supply to the plant is reduced or cut off, the tomato will begin to ripen. At this time, a cellophane-like wrapper around the outer surface of the tomato becomes thicker and more rigid in order to protect the tomato during ripening and after harvest. If the water supply is restored after the ripening process begins, the plant will resume translocation of nutrients and moisture into the fruit. This will cause the tomato to enlarge; which in turn splits the wrapper around the fruit and results in cracking. The single best control for cracking is to assure that the water supply is constant and regular. It is helpful to apply a layer of organic mulch to the base of the plant. This serves as a buffer and helps prevent soil moisture fluctuation. Water your plants weekly. This is especially important when the fruits are maturing.

Q. My tomatoes were healthy during the spring and early summer, yet after a recent rain, they wilted and died very rapidly. I found a white fungal growth at the base of the plant.

A. This sounds like Southern Blight. It is a soil-borne fungus and lives on organic material in the soil. The use of Terrachlor as a pre-plant treatment will help reduce the problem. Also, the deep burial of undecomposed organic material in the soil will help reduce the problem. It is important that you control foliage diseases on tomato plants as the falling leaves around the base of the plant will act as a source for the fungus, and it will build up in this area and cause damage later. Crop rotation will also help eliminate this problem to some extent.



Happy Gardening, Clint

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

Wood County TX AgriLife Extension Service

618 South Main Street

Quitman, TX 75783-0968

Phone: 903-763-2924



Wood County Extension Agent,

Clint Perkins

Email: [ctperkins@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:ctperkins@ag.tamu.edu)

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

## Work Days and Schedules

**MNP**—Tuesdays starting around 8:00. Bring your basic gardening tools. We do have larger tools like shovels, rakes, etc. We will work every Tues. unless there is a chance of severe weather or high percentage of rain. The large bed under the tree will be stripped, the bed rebuilt and new plants installed. Melissa is working on getting the landscaping around the pergola finished and we are working on plans for the butterfly/Monarch bed. So come join us and enjoy nature while you work.

**Quitman Library**—Mondays at 0930. New mulch and plants will be put in this spring. Please bring your gardening tools. Drinking water provided.

**QA&BG**—Wednesdays at 0900. Bring your own gardening tools. Please come and help us maintain our public garden.

**JMG**—SCIENCE DAYS MEETING: Tuesday, May 5th, 1:00 p.m. We need volunteers each morning for May 19th, 20th, 21st. Let's make it the best yet.

More opportunities are available. Project Chairpersons and contact info can be found on the Master Gardeners Committee List.

[Click to return to index](#)

## Tea Thyme: Sandra McFall

### Sweet Harvest Tea

1/4 cup loosely packed, fresh lemon balm  
1/4 cup loosely packed, fresh peppermint leaves  
1 tsp. fresh or dried lavender blossoms  
3 inch slice of (orange part only) orange peel  
2 cups water

Place herbs and orange peel in a large teapot. In a small saucepan, heat to almost boiling and pour over herbs in teapot. Cover and let mixture steep for 10 minutes. Pour through a strainer to serve.

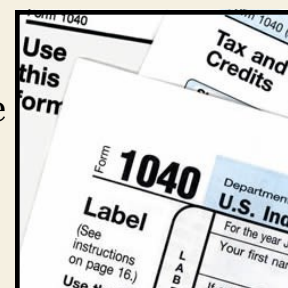


Clip art

[Click to return to index](#)

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.

Contact Katy Carter, WCMG Treasurer



Clip art



# MG Trainee GRADUATION DAY!

Article and Luncheon Photos by: Sylvia Johnson

Graduation Photos by: Donna G. Davis

On April 28, 2015, we welcomed a new class of graduates to our Association. Wood County Commissioner, Jerry Gas-kill, attended to express the county's appreciation of the work and time put in by Master Gardeners. He and Sandra McFall, our President, presented the certificates. The Graduation Luncheon was held at the Episcopal Church in Mineola. What a wonderful job by the committee that set up, served, cleaned, and made the day fun for us all. Thank You Ladies. All tables had original decorations provided by Master Gardeners. Your work and talent are recognized and greatly appreciated. Clint, as usual, did a delicious job on the BBQ. We know that it takes hours to make a good brisket and we feel honored that you did that for us. It was GOOD! Thanks also to all who furnished side dishes, salads, bread, and drinks. I challenge anyone to leave one of our luncheons hungry.

There were 15 trainees this year. Two of which had enough volunteer hours to make full Master Gardener status. Lin Grado was the Class Coordinator for this year's class and she did a professional job. Her class honored her with gifts, a kneeling bench and a special tree. Lin would like to thank everyone who taught a class, helped with a class, provided materials and those who attended as support for the Trainees. We as an Association appreciate her and all who helped expand our membership and who helped spread the word of Master Gardeners and AgriLife.

## Graduates:





1st Row, L-R: Lin Grado, Pricilla Massey, Debbie Quadracci, Letreva Jones, Patty Alford, Claudeane Sublett, Donna Davis Stillwagoner, Marty Martin.

2nd Row, L-R: David Wayne Palk\*, Tonya Rabenaldt, Judi Luce, Anthonia Maddin, JoAnn Zimmerman\*, Keith Zimmerman, Carrie Hacker, Robin Sanchez, Scarlet Kephart (not pictured)

\* Denotes full Master Gardener Graduates

### Why did I join this class?...

I always thought Gardening was the next best thing to breathing ( health, all the senses). Treva

My husband and son have always been the gardeners in our family. Two years ago we bought a farm in Emory with pecan trees and my husband and son proceeded to plant 5 acres of blueberry and blackberry bushes as well as irises and vegetables gardens. They are the ones that sent me to Master Gardener classes to " to learn what I can". Now, you might say the gardening bug has bitten me too; I am excited to start putting to use the things I have learned here in designing and planting our front and backyard gardens at the farm. Patty

I've been around vegetable gardens as long as I can remember. My father grew vegetables which I always enjoyed. Moving up from the gulf Coast I needed to learn about gardening in Northeast Texas. Keith

I want to be a Master Gardener because it gives me great joy to know more about plants and flowers. After moving to East Texas, I started to enjoy the wonderful world of dirt (oops soil) and what it produces. I love nature and what it has to offer me. The Master Gardener group has been a blessing and now a big part of my life. Marty Martin

Because nothing is more rewarding than watching Gods amazing creations grow into absolute Beautiful Perfection and knowing that I have a hand in helping his wonder along. This fills my heart with so much Joy. Also it is the best therapy ever ! Donna Gail

The reason I wanted to take the Master Gardening classes is because Keith and I have always enjoyed growing flowers and vegetables, but while we were working we had very little time to devote to a vegetable garden. We have become so disenchanted with the expense and poor quality of produce in the stores and I want us to live and eat healthier. "...we moved to East Texas and plan to grow our own produce. We thought the classes would be a way for us to stay active, learn new things and to meet people with like interests. So far it's working out very well. Joanne



## LUNCHEON PHOTOGRAPHS









## SCIENCE DAYS AT THE PARK



Plans are underway for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Science Day at the Park in Quitman. The following schools have committed on these dates.

### May 19<sup>th</sup>

- Alba-Golden 4 classes
- Yantis 2 classes

### May 20<sup>th</sup>

- Winnsboro 6 classes

### May 21<sup>st</sup>

- Quitman 5 classes

The six stations for this year are as follows:

- Sensory Nature Walk Presenter – Reggie Askins
- Food We Grow and Eat Presenter – Jan Whitlock
- Rainwater Harvesting Presenter – Karen Anderson
- Bees Presenter – Robin Sanchez
- Wildlife in Garden Presenter – Kimberly Mason
- Soils Presenter – ? (Linda Avant)

With over 300 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students we will need lots of help including presenter helpers, assistance in setting up and taking down, and things that we have not thought about at this time. It is always a lot of fun to watch our replacements, youth, develop a love of gardening.

Article and Photo by: Linda Avant

[Click to return to index](#)



## IN MEMORY OF LUCY GERMANY



The Wood County Master Gardeners have lost a very beloved member, Lucy Germany. Lucy was a member of the 2008 class and loved gardening, especially her Edible Weeds. She loved the Mineola Nature Preserve with all its natural beauty and especially working in the Wildscape Gardens. You could always count on someone calling "Lucy what kind of weed is this or is it a flower" It was so much fun working with Lucy as you never knew what her dry sense of humor would come up with. Lucy's favorite past time was writing novels, short stories and especially poetry. Our newsletter was filled with articles written by Lucy and she was a wealth of knowledge and was always willing to answer questions about gardening or any subject. Lucy was very knowledgeable in many fields as she had a BS in Biology, post-baccalaureate studies at Columbia University in Journalism and South Texas College of Law in Houston.

A memorial service was held at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Longview on April 28, 2015 at 2:00 pm. Wood County Master Gardeners were represented by Karen Anderson, Joan Morgan and Lynette Irizarry. We found out from the Rector, Rev. Kevin Wittmayer that Lucy was very well loved by her church members and especially the rector. She kept pushing him until he finally submitted his application for the position of Rector and he has been there ever since. Lucy enjoyed her missionary visits to many African countries and was a world traveler having been to China and many foreign countries. She was also an advocate for women in the Church and was not afraid to voice her opinion as she did one time when they had a guest speaker in her Sunday School class. Rev. Wittmayer said Lucy sat thru the talk and held her tongue but after it was over she came up to him and said "we don't need to have him come back again". We also met her two daughters and visited with them. We informed them that we had ordered a brick in her honor for the Preserve and they asked us to let them know when we plan to dedicate it. They love coming back to East Texas. It was a very lovely service and it was nice that the Rev. had known her personally for so many years and gave some good stories about the Lucy we knew.

She may have been small in stature but she was strong in her beliefs and ideas. She will be greatly missed at our meetings, working at the Wildscape Gardens and just being "Lucy".

Karen Anderson

Pictures by WCMG



Lucy Germany last on right-Wildscape Garden-MNP

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

## Tri-County Landowners Conference

**From your AgriLife Agent,**

I wanted to tell everybody about a new educational program we are doing for Wood, Rains, and Van Zandt Counties. It's called the Tri-County Landowners Conference. It will be held in Emory since that is a central location for all three counties. Topics are listed below. This program is in line with the conference we held last year as a pilot program. I would like for the Wood County Master Gardeners to have educational booths at this program. Deena has agreed to her presentation on square foot gardening!!!

### Tri-County Landowners Conference May 8, 2015 8:00-12:30

Dr. Blake Bennett (Texas A&M AgriLife Economist)

Square foot gardening (Deena Taylor)

Earth-Kind Principles and vegetable varieties (Dr. Steve George)

Planning the home fruit orchard (Keith Hansen CEA Horticulture, Smith Co)

Clint Perkins, Wood County AgriLife Agent

[ctperkins@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:ctperkins@ag.tamu.edu)



Picture from TG website

Don't forget our fund raiser magazine subscriptions. This would make a great **Mother's Day Gift** for the Mom who gardens or who just loves reading about it. She will love the recipes and gardening trivia.

What a great way to show **Mom** you care.

Remember renewing your subscription through WCMG also supports our Association.

**Get your subscription from WCMG,  
Contact Katy Carter.**

[Click to return to index](#)



**Left to Right**

**Treasurer: Katy Carter**

**Secretary: Jenna Nelson**

**President: Sandra McFall**

**Vice President: Melissa Deakins**

[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 [keithzim@yahoo.com](mailto:keithzim@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
- Page 2 is Wood County Master Gardeners from Kentucky
- Page 3 Wood County Master Gardeners, Quitman
- Then "like" us!

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

–**Sunshine**, If you know of someone who needs a warm thought or sympathy contact **Joyce Holloway**

–**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](mailto:peggyrogersc21@gmail.com)