



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

President's Message:



Sandra McFall

This has been a busy spring with many conferences and activities to attend. The weather has not always been cooperative; at times it has changed our plans totally. Science Day #2 was cancelled due to the rain the night before and morning of the event. Day #3 had to be moved indoors to the Quitman Elementary School be-

cause of rain too. The kids were a little disappointed not to get to leave school and go to the park, but they were happy to see us. All the volunteers were real troopers. They just continued teaching, demonstrating, and answering questions as if nothing had changed. It was a good time with people working together to make a not so perfect situation into a great time of happiness for the children. Many thanks to the principal and teachers who made it all happen.

With all the rain and cancellations of work days all the MG gar-

den projects are in need of extra care. The weeds are truly winning and taking over. So remember to volunteer at our MG Educational Project Gardens (Mineola NP; Quitman Arboretum, Quitman Library; Winnsboro Library; and Hawkins Helping Hands). They ALL need your help.

Mostly my garden is without major problems. The onions failed due to something... They just didn't grow and some rotted. Dug the potatoes and they are the best I have ever grown. ([click here for full story](#))

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VP- Scheduled Speakers Melissa Deakins

July-Peggy Rogers will fill us in on the details of the 40 acre Texas A&M Garden and Greenway Project. No CEU



August -too hot to work in the yard, but just like in the dead of winter we can begin planning next season's projects. Dana Nance, from Hooten's Lawn & Tree in Emory, will

bring us her experience and knowledge of roses. Just imagine...as Master Gardeners we could make Wood County as famous for roses as our neighbors in Tyler.

Online with WCMG: [Click here](#)

- Website
- Online CEU
- Facebook
- Sunshine
- Volunteer Hours
- Contact info

MG WOOD WORKS

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

President's Article continued:

My garlic is drying in the barn along with the potatoes. Tomatoes are making, and looking happy and healthy. My cukes tasted so good and I have been so hungry for cucumber and onion salad. Corn not so good; not sure what I did wrong. It was slow to start (weather too cool?). Peanuts are not growing either. This is my first time to try peanuts; think I have a lot to learn about them. Found the first squash bug on this new cultivar of squash called Tatum (Mexican squash) that I am trying this year. It is supposed to be almost resistant to borers but not squash bugs. It has a good taste and can be used just like yellow squash or zucchini in your cooking. I will be saving seeds from it for the seed and plant swap in the fall. Now, You All need to save some seeds or transplant some flowers to share at the swap.

Wishing you all a good summer, stay cool while working out in the heat. Wear a hat, drink water, take frequent breaks, wear skin protection, and have a good time gardening.

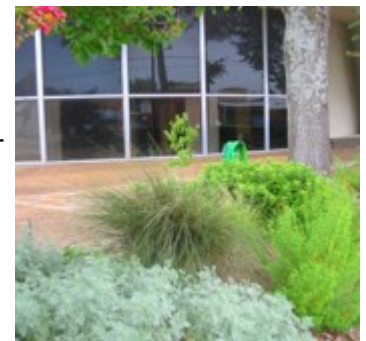
See you at the WCMG Association meetings and at Master Gardener volunteer events. Remember to take pictures of your gardens for the website. Send them to Keith Zimmerman so we can see your beautiful gardens. And turn in your volunteer hours on time.

Sandra McFall

Photo by: Sylvia

Quitman Library Garden:

The generous rain we have had and continue to experience has been a real blessing to the Quitman Library garden this year. All perennials have come back healthy, multiplied, spread and are blooming. The plants we purchased in May are still alive and responding well to their new surroundings. I would really like our Master Gardener members to feel comfortable to ask if they can have cuttings or divisions of the plant selections we have. Many of the flowers have new starts growing right next to them.



<https://local.yahoo.com>

Our summer watering schedule has started and members are asked to hand water certain areas that do not have the sprinkler system. Work day is Monday 9am and anyone wanting to join us only needs to bring their own water and work gloves.

Luckily most of the large garden area is in the shade in the morning. This is a good opportunity to perhaps see varieties of plants you are unfamiliar with or you may be considering buying. Some of our perennials are a few years old and established and could give you some insight as to where they might fit in your garden bed at home.

Lori Clark

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Agent Article: Root Knot Nematodes -

A Home Gardeners Nemesis

Root-knot nematodes are microscopic worms that live in soil and feed on the roots of many common garden crops. The nematode gets its name because its feeding causes galls (swellings or “knots”) to form on the roots of infected plants.



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

Some of the crops that may be severely damaged are tomato, pepper, okra, watermelon, cantaloupe, onion, pumpkin, squash, sweet potato, sweet corn, carrot, eggplant, bean and pea. Root-knot nematodes also feed and multiply on many garden weeds, although they may not injure these plants to any extent. A female root-knot nematode can lay up to 500 eggs at a time, and root damage results from the sheer number of nematodes feeding on roots by the end of the summer. Root-knot nematodes tend to be more of a problem in sandy soils.

So how do you tell if root-knot nematodes are a problem in your garden?

First, look for plants that are not performing well. Usually, not all of your plants will be affected to the same degree, and some will be “more sick” than others. Symptoms can include stunting, yellowing, wilting during the heat of the day with recovery at night, fewer and smaller fruit and general decline – usually during the summer as the plants get bigger.

Carefully dig up some of the sick plants and examine the roots to see if galls are present. If you are inspecting legumes (beans or peas), be careful not to confuse the galls caused by the nematode with the nitrogen-fixing nodules that are a normal part of the root system. It may be helpful to also pull up a healthy plant and look at its roots for comparison. If roots are knotted, many times also accompanied by severe rotting, then root-knot nematodes should be suspected.

Although chemical nematicides have been widely used in commercial agriculture to control nematodes, they are both highly toxic and very expensive. **Nematicides are not suitable for home garden use.** Control of root-knot nematodes in gardens involves a combination of growing resistant varieties where available, good cultural practices and encouraging natural biological control.

Here are some suggestions for the home gardener:

Use Resistant or Tolerant Varieties - Some vegetable and field crop varieties have resistance to root knot nematodes, and are advertised as such. When you buy tomato plants, pepper plants, okra seed, bean seed or pea seed, read the variety label to see if it says anything about resistance to nematodes. The label may list the capital letters VFN. These letters indicate that the variety has resistance to certain diseases: V = Verticillium wilt resistant; F = Fusarium wilt resistant; and N = root-knot nematode resistant.

Crop Rotation – Rotate the garden to non-host crops or crops that are known to lower nematode numbers. Broccoli, cauliflower, grain sorghum or millet (for bird feed) can lower root-knot numbers, particularly if they are grown for two consecutive years. Cereal rye (Elbon rye is a variety available in this area), grown as a winter cover crop, will also help lower nematode populations. There has been some work done using some of the brassicas and turning them under to control nematodes. ([continued on next page](#))

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.

Nemittodes continued:

Clean Summer Fallow - dry summer fallow with cultivations every 3 to 4 weeks is an effective method of reducing nematode populations. This method may be impractical in some instances.

Solarization - an area of the garden each summer to reduce nematodes and other pests. First, till the area smooth (no clods or trash), then sprinkle-irrigate overnight or until the soil is wet. Immediately place a 2- to 4-mil clear piece of plastic over the area and weight down one edge with soil. Stretch the plastic smooth to the other side and weight that edge down. Weight down the ends with soil and allow the plastic to stay in place for at least two months, preferably during June and July or June-August. Remove the plastic carefully, allow soil to dry a few days, then plant a fall crop directly into the solarized soil without tilling. Tillage will bring weed seeds and nematodes back up into the solarized layer. Of course, tillage for weed control will have to be done later, but delay as long as possible. The plastic can be left until the next spring but may need repair with clear plastic tape occasionally.

General Sanitation - Pull up all nematode-infested plants and destroy them after the season. Remove the plant material, particularly the roots, completely from the garden area.

Till infested soil a few times during the winter months to expose nematodes and remaining plant roots to the cold weather. Freezing temperatures and dry, cold wind help kill surviving nematodes.

Don't bring nematode-infested plants into your garden. Look at the roots of tomato and pepper plants before planting them. Plants with galls should not be set out.



Above Pictures: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Root-knot_nematode

Happy Gardening

Clint Perkins



This photo was taken by Ellen Atkins in 2014.

*She used the **Solarization** technique on her tomato beds.*

You can read her story in "MG Wood Works" Volume 2014-Issue 5 .

-Editor

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

Things are looking up at the “Wildscape Educational Gardens and Sensory Gardens”. The sun has come back and now the work begins. In-between rain storms we were able to get the Sensory Beds cleaned out and some replacement plants put in to fill in the bare spots. So far they are hanging in there.

The garden has looked terrible with all the rain and the grass has grown almost head-high for us short people but we have been making head way on getting it back in shape. The good news is we will have a group of teenagers helping us June 16, 17 & 18. They are from a church camp and this is their community service project so we are so very thankful for their contribution to our Master Gardener project.

Another piece of good news was the grant money we received from the Native Plant Society of Texas to help “Bring Back the Monarch Butterfly to Texas” project. The response was so overwhelming they had to limit the number of requests accepted and lower the payout amounts in order to have enough funds. Our request was cut back from \$500 to \$100, but, every little bit helps and this way we can add milkweed and other plants to our butterfly garden to feed and host their young.

Despite all the weeds and grass the flowers are starting to shine. The Salvia, Lantana, Monarda, Black-eyed Susans, Milkweed, and other wildflowers are beautiful. The Princess Caroline Napier grass survived the winter and is already three feet high and is outstanding again this year.

We now have a resident bunny rabbit and we had two visitors one work day – a pair of skunks. They were roaming around in the wildflower meadow. When we thought they had left we went to work. Later in the morning someone squealed and started running toward the rest of the group. The momma skunk was headed for her and the bed she was working in; they had built a den in that bed. So we had to call animal control to come and clear the area, thankfully no one got sprayed. Even Mother Nature loves our gardening beds!

On September 26th there will be a concert presented by Casey Musgraves at the Nature Preserve. The fair will be from noon to midnight in the meadow and on the hill just past the Wildscape Gardens. The tickets are \$28 in advance or \$38 at the gate. You will need to bring lawn chairs or blankets as it is a nature preserve. The funds raised are going to the Arts Department at Mineola High School. For further information contact the Mineola City Hall at 903-569-6183 or the Mineola Nature Preserve website at www.mineolanaturepreserve.com.

Article and Photo: Karen Anderson



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INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PICKET FENCE:

Quitman Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

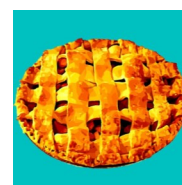
The rains have stopped, the gardens are finally drying out, and we have been busy planting inside the picket fence and in front of the Stinson House porch.

Needless to say, there are roses to be pruned and many other gardening chores that have been temporarily put on "hold". Wednesday workdays do roll around however, and we have gone into overdrive to catch up with Mother Nature and the interesting spring she sprang on us this year.

Our annual July 4th celebration will be bigger and better this year. The festivities will begin at 10:00 with a color guard presentation to be followed by the pledge of allegiance and the reading of the Declaration of Independence by the D.A.R. These ladies always arrive in period costume which adds to the uniqueness of the day. For more info look at the Quitman, Texas Facebook Page.

Music will be provided by Delene Allen and the Acoustic Jam Group of Wood County.

Wanted: Apple Pies! The second annual apple pie contest will be held during the celebration. Bring your best apple pie and our impartial judges will decide who takes home the blue ribbon this year.



Clip Art

In addition to patriotism, music, and apple pies - the city will sponsor a children's parade with bicycles and pets (in costume perhaps).

Arts and crafts vendors are encouraged to attend with their wares (no registration fee charged - just come out and join the celebration).

Snow cones, chopped beef sandwiches, cold drinks, etc. will be for sale.

Come early (with your pie ready for judging if you wish) and stay late. Festivities will end around 2:00 p.m.

Oops, don't forget your lawn chairs!

For more info see: <http://www.quitmanarboretum.com/?reload=true#!events/c8hd>

Article and Photo: Jan Whitlock



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Member Biography #1

Pat Wilson



Selfie

Name: Pat Wilson

Family: Husband, Bob 1-Daughter 3- Step-Children 4-Step-Grandchildren

Town: Emory, Rains Co.

Currently: Retired Accountant with 40 years with Town East Ford

When and Why: In 2008, I decided that I would like to learn more about gardening and be involved in an education based program. I joined three more Rains County area acquaintances and we had fun carpooling, learning about gardening, “soil” and bonding.

Garden Mentors: Parents and Grandparents

Childhood Plant and Gardening Experiences: My Mother loved grooming house plants. It was a passion and she did it with much happiness in her heart. We always had a large family garden where all hands were expected to participate. At the age of nine I became involved in the 4-H Club program in Hopkins County.

Current gardening interest: Vegetable and flower gardening. My goal is to have a yard for friends and family to admire and enjoy. Also, to grow vegetables to share with the above. My dream is to interest others in the wonders of God’s beautiful creation with my enthusiasm about nurturing the soil and promoting flower and vegetable gardening.

Favorite Plants: It is difficult for me to choose favorites. I love all God’s creations. The more character, color and fullness the better!

Pat Wilson cont.

Least Favorite Plant/Insect: That would be all those that create problems, for instance, roots, bug, seasonal droppings and those things that cause allergies.

Favorite Critters: I love ladybugs, bees, butterflies and everything that pollinates.

Other Hobbies or Interests: My church is very important to me and I volunteer for as many of it's projects as I can. My next interest is doing things for my family. I also enjoy silk flower arranging, sewing, reading and people watching.

My favorite thing about WCMGA: The wonderful learning experience it offers. I have had the opportunity to meet a number of successful, talented, and notable gardeners, as well as tree and food experts in the past seven years. Oh, and don't leave out or forget the Bee and Bug Guys! Getting to know my fellow MG is also a favorite too as I have learned a lot from all of them. I really didn't know gardening was such a big deal. I thought it was something you did in the flower beds around the house and built the vegetable garden on a plot at the further corner of the back yard.

What would I like to see incorporated into the Association: I am smart enough not to stick my neck out making suggestions. I think that the Guys and Gals in leadership positions are doing a great job growing the program. Clint Perkins is an outstanding leader, overseeing and guiding the organization. I would like to see him receive more recognition on the local, state and national level of Master Gardening.

Attention All Associates:

We are taking orders for new t-shirts. There was a sparse crowd at the June MG meeting so for those who could not attend:

- T- shirts will have the new logo used at the spring conference
- They will be pistachio green, 100% cotton, short sleeve
- Use a local vendor (yea!) from Emory

Please send me, **Lori Clark**, an E-mail to order.

- Reply to me with your size
- Indicate the number of shirts you want
- They are just \$10.00

You can pay when we receive them.



New WCMG LOGO

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This issues tip:

“Get” your Gardener

I discovered my love for plants when I got a summer job at Brady’s Flowers in Tyler after college. This job and Mr. Brady introduced me to all kinds of flowers and plants which led to dozens of books where I primarily educated myself. After that many, many, many plants gave up their lives to further my education.

Alas, I enjoyed my hobby by myself or so it seemed to me. I didn’t have any friends or coworkers who cared about plants or even owned a plant. Still I gained a plant reputation and people came to me with plant/flower questions. I had plants in my office and on my desk; as many as it would hold. Yet, when my birthday or Christmas came around no one thought to give me a plant or garden related item as a gift. I thought it was a no brainer for those who really knew me.

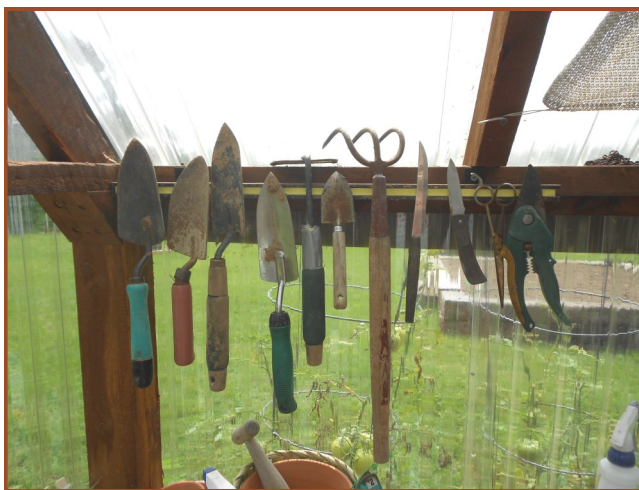
My husband “gets” me. He gave me the best thing I never knew I wanted. First, he gave me a greenhouse which is awesome in itself but a simple utility magnetic bar he hung inside is “the bomb”. It’s the same gadget you use in the kitchen to hold your knives except I keep all of my metal hand tools on it. It’s perfect and I love it every time I use it. This could be attached to your potting bench or on the wall of your garage where you keep the bigger tools. It’s so simple and the absolute best way to keep up with your hand tools or miscellaneous items. Get one; you’ll be glad you did. I still tell my husband how much I like it even years later. You can find them at Walmart or online and they can range from \$10 to \$30. They are usually 24 inches long and attach with screws.

The best gift I ever gave *myself* was to join a garden club. Finally I’m with people who “get” me.

Article and Photo: Lori Clark

Wood Co. Master Gardener

Quitman Garden Club Member



Member Biography #2



My name is Karen Sanders and I currently work at Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas as part of the Water University Team. I specialize in Indoor Water Efficiency, Rainwater Harvesting and Municipal Government Water Efficiency.

I am extremely dedicated to water efficiency and currently a certified American Rainwater Catchment System Association Certified Professional and will be a licensed Irrigation professional in the near future. I have worked in municipal government for 12 years prior to joining the Water University Team in November 2012.

While working in municipal government I joined Kaufman County Master Gardeners in 2009 and my love for plants and the environment took off. Even with a full time job which takes 50-55 hours a week with 25-40% travel, I have been able to give 100 hours to Master Gardeners this past year. I maintained the Facebook page and took care of three garden areas at the Garden Learning Center in Kaufman.

I have been married for 26 years to my wonderful husband Rodney and I have three beautiful children Shelby, Cheyenne and Jackson. My oldest blessed us with twin grandchildren Sadie and Ave who are now 4.

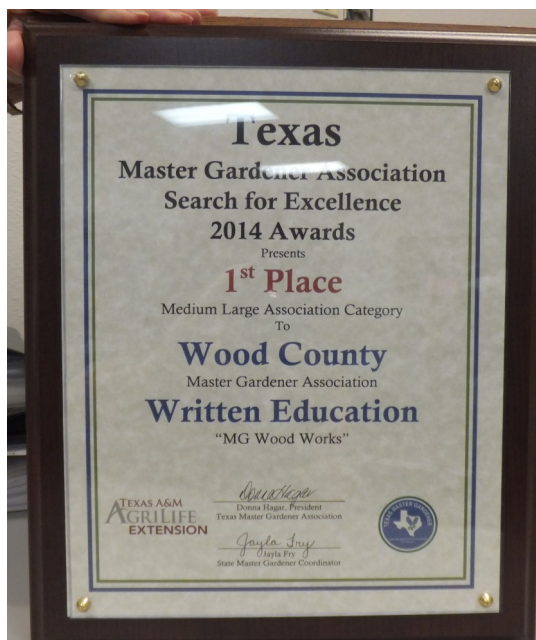
I look forward to working with my new Master Gardener Team in Wood County. Thank you.

Karen Sanders

Family Photo submitted by Karen

Texas State Master Gardeners Awards—We Won! This was the first year we entered the Texas State Awards in Association size category “Medium Large”. We brought home four awards. Congratulation to all who worked on all these projects. None of these projects are done by an individual they are all teamwork projects. Thanks to all who “do the work”.

Photo by: Sylvia



1st Place - Newsletter

Editor: Sylvia Johnson



1st Place - Youth JMG- Science Days

Chair: Linda Avant



3rd Place - Wood County Master Gardeners Association

All WCMG who participated in 2014



3rd Place Project - Quitman Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

Chair: Jan Whitlock/Pam Riley

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WE WON 1st Place! - Again!

As the “*MG Wood Works*” newsletter Editor, I am very proud of us and our 2014 TMG Award. **Thank You to all the Associates who submitted articles, photos and stories 2014.** This makes the third **1st Place** State Award earned by “*MG Wood Works*” in the last 7 years. Add to that our other “placed” awards and you can see what an effort we all put into this newsletter. I am always accepting articles, information, pictures, and gardening tips. There is also have a Biography outline that we would love you to submit to help fellow associates get to know you better. You may count the article writing time as volunteer time. Again, I thank all who have submitted in the past and look forward to many new and interesting articles in the future.

All articles should meet the following conditions:

- Written by yourself. (We love first hand accounts about what you are doing in your garden/landscape.) Written or compiled from different resources, but full credit annotated to original source/s
- Pictures must be credited to photographer — annotate whether you took them or where you got them (must have permission when copying from the web or be from a “free” site but annotation still required)
- Be related to Master Gardeners Associates or any subject covered in MG training class or projects
- We have ongoing needs for articles about: MG Associates, native plants, heirloom plants, water wise plants, insects and plants, vegetables, etc...you get the idea!
- You must allow editing by yours truly. Submission is considered permission! **The leading delivery method of malware is E-Mails, I delete E-Mails with no subject line.** E-mails should have “WCMG” or Newsletter in the subject line.

I publish in **Georgia 11** font but will accept other fonts. I can use documents in Word & Work, sent from iPad, sent from phone, E-mail or hard copy. Adobe documents must “allow editing”. I can use most pictures sent by e-mail and compatible with Windows.

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

Sylvia Johnson



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Work Days and Schedules

Quitman Library—Mondays at 0930. Please bring your gardening tools. Drinking water provided.

Wildscape—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.

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

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

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Tea Thyme: Sandra McFall

Berry-Mint Iced Tea

6 cups water
1/4 cup sugar
4 tea bags raspberry or strawberry tea
5 tea bags orange pekoe tea
1/2 cup packed, fresh peppermint or orange mint

Heat 3 cups of water and sugar in a small pan until almost boiling. Add tea and mint, cover and set aside for 8 minutes. Strain tea in to pitcher and add the remaining 3 cups of water. Chill and serve over ice.

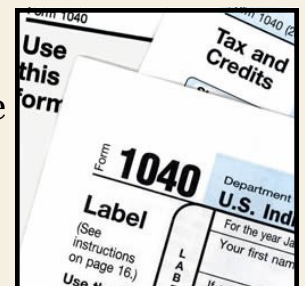


Clip art

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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



Left to Right

Treasurer: Katy Carter

Secretary: Jenna Nelson

President: Sandra McFall

Vice President: Melissa Deakins

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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 Keith Zimmerman.

—**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 / 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 a member 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 Rogers.

Editor-you can find all E-mail address and contact information on the Membership Roster sent to you by E-mail or in the Member Roster on the Volunteer Hours Website site above.