

Edited by:  
Sylvia Johnson

# MG WOOD WORKS

## President: Linda Timmons

It is not too early to think about next year. One of my jobs as president this year will be to appoint a nominating committee. The nominating committee will be looking for four members to step up to take on the positions of president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. At the October association meeting the committee will present the names of nominees. The membership will vote for our 2017 officers at the November business meeting.

The nominating committee has a tough job. Its not hard to find good people. Our association is blessed with a lot of capable members. It is hard to find the people that are willing and able to do the job at this time.

If you've been asked in prior years to take a position but couldn't, please reconsider. If you think you would like the challenge of keeping WCMGA operating don't wait for someone to approach you. We're a volunteer organiza-

tion after all.

Wood County Master Gardeners Association has the responsibility and opportunity to provide public education in gardening and environmental stewardship. As an officer in the association you will be a leader in our role in improving our communities.

You can talk to any current executive committee member if interested in a position.

Thank you for all you do.

### Inside this issue:

<a href="#">AgriLife Agent</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">TMG Magazine</a>	
<a href="#">OABG-Stinson House</a>	<a href="#">4</a>
<a href="#">MNP-Bumblebee</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">Naturalizing Bulbs</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
<a href="#">Earth-Kind Expo</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">To Fence or Not to</a>	<a href="#">9</a>
<a href="#">Volunteer Opportu-</a>	<a href="#">10</a>
<a href="#">Contact and Media</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Information</a>	

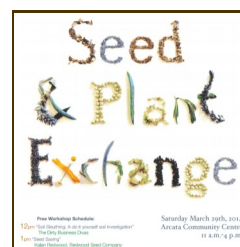
## VP: Melissa Deakins - IT MAY NOT FEEL LIKE IT, BUT HERE COME OUR FALL PROGRAMS

In **September** we will have a demonstration of how to make "shard art". That's all those fun pieces made from broken pottery and tiles. Cindy Johnson, a former Master Gardener from the Forth Worth area will give a demonstration of how to make steppingstones and show us some of the lovely birdhouses

she has created. Now you don't have to cry when you break your favorite dish...recycle it and have it forever.

**October** is that time to share again with our very popular seed and plant exchange.

Start thinking about the bulbs and plants you need to divide and collect those seedpods before they go in the compost bin. Members will be given the opportunity to give us tips on where, how and when to plant the items that they are sharing with us.



Clip-art

### 2016 Slate of Officers

**President:** Linda Timmons

**VP:** Melissa Deakins

**Treasurer:** Molly Mathis

**Secretary:** Jan Whitlock



TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION

**Fall** is getting closer. The weather will be getting cooler and wetter and gardening enthusiasts will slowly be migrating back outdoors after the heat this summer. Now is a perfect time to plan the addition of a new tree or a grouping of shrubs to the landscape. Or perhaps you have an area in the landscape that needs ‘remodeling’ or rejuvenating. The fall may be the best season to plant, surpassing even the spring.

**Many** people prefer January through March for planting, but the fall months of September through December have distinct advantages. Fall planting follows the heat of summer, before a cool winter season, and trees and shrubs planted the fall use this to good advantage. Plant roots grow anytime the soil temperature is 40 degrees or higher, which may occur all winter in Texas.

**During** the winter months, the roots systems of the fall-planted specimens develop and become established. When spring arrives, this expanded root system can support and take advantage of the full surge of spring growth.

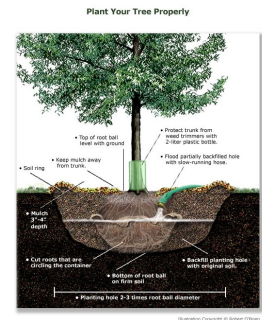
**Fall** is the optimum time to plant balled and burlap trees and shrubs. Balled and burlap plants have ample time to recover from transplanting and proliferate roots before spring growth begins. Remember however, all bare root plants, including roses, pecan and fruit trees, should be planted in late winter when they are completely dormant.

**When** buying plants for your landscape, be sure to get healthy, well-grown plants.

**Always** buy from a reputable dealer. Those in the plant-selling business year-round depend on repeat customers, and selling customers quality plants can be their assurance of future business. Beware of plant bargains. They can easily turn out to be real headaches. A bargain is no good if it dies. The price tag, especially the cheapest one, is not the best guide to quality.

**All** plants have growing requirements. Think about the plant’s needs before you invest. Is it adapted to your area’s soil? Will it grow in sun or shade? Does it need a wet or dry location? Is it cold hardy? Some nurseries have this type of information on tags beside the plant.

‘Plan before you plant’ is always a good rule of thumb. Whether you are planting a single plant or an entire landscape, plan first, then plant. ‘Plan before you plant’ is always a good rule of thumb. Whether you are planting a single plant or an entire landscape, plan first, (continued)



[exastreeplanting.tamu.edu/TreePlantingTools.html](http://exastreeplanting.tamu.edu/TreePlantingTools.html)

## County Extension Agent-Ag/NR: Clint Perkins

Wood County TX  
AgriLife Extension Service  
618 South Main Street  
Quitman, TX 75783-0968  
Phone: 903-763-2924

Interested in becoming a Master Gardener and contributing to your county? If so, call the Wood County AgriLife Extension office for more information and to join.

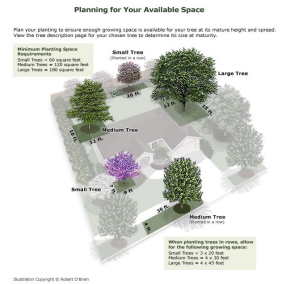
TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

## AgriLife Agent: Clint Perkins continued:

then plant. Good planning is a worthwhile investment of time that will pay off in greater enjoyment of attractive and useful home grounds and in increasing the value of your home. It's much easier to move plants on paper than to dig them up after planting in the wrong place. A plan saves many planting mistakes.

**Every** plant in the landscape should serve a purpose. Ask yourself if you want a plant for screening, for privacy or for shade. How large will it be five years from now? Plants, like people, grow up. Remember, that a small one-gallon size plant will look entirely different after a few years of growth in your landscape.

Happy Gardening



<http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/AvailableSpace.html>

[Click to return to index](#)

## Texas Master Gardener Magazine by Karen Anderson

If you have friends or family who like to garden or who want to learn more about gardening in Texas, a gift subscription to Texas Gardener Magazine would make a great gift. It is easy and puts a little money in the Wood Co. Master Gardener bank account for educational programs and projects during the year.

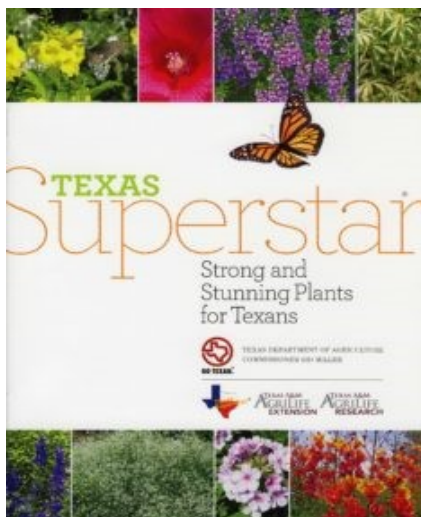
Also, if you have a subscription up for renewal and renew it thru our WCMG we receive a percentage of the renewal fee.

For further information or an order form contact Karen Anderson.

<http://www.texasgardener.com/>



## The Texas Superstar brochure is also available online at GOTEXAN.org.



Texas Superstar is a registered trademark owned by AgriLife Research, a state agency that is part of the Texas A&M University System. A list of wholesalers and retailers who stock Texas Superstar plants and labels can be found at <http://texassuperstar.com/> where one can also download the new brochure.

Specialist Training – Texas Superstar®

September 20 @ 8:00 am - September 22 @ 12:00 pm

Cost: \$200.00

Bexar County Master Gardeners—San Antonio, TX

[Click to return to index](#)

## QUITMAN ARBORETUM AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

This has been a busy summer for those of us who work the gardens and Stinson house in Quitman.

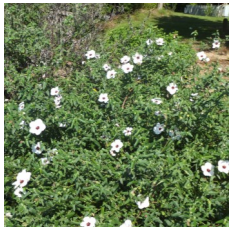
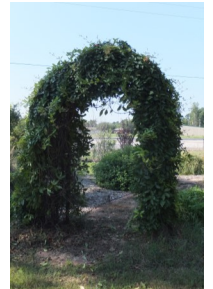
A number of tours of the house and gardens have been conducted on the Wednesdays that we are there working. Parents and Grandparents have stopped by with children and grandchildren and they have enjoyed sharing in the history that the house represents and touring the surrounding gardens. We “weederers” take a great deal of pride in the fact that people passing through town take the time to stop and visit.

Plans are being made for the revitalization of the rose gardens. Drought, time, armadillos and an occasional pest attack have all slowly combined to take their toll on some of these plants and it is time to rethink and re-plant.



We are proud of the addition John Fox has made with the planting of a hardy hibiscus bed. These plants have settled in, made it nicely through the one hundred degree days and torrential downpours of late, and they should put on a fantastic show next summer. *I went by the QABG to see the Hibiscus, they are blooming now and are beautiful. You should really see the great display for yourself. sj*

As the water-wise garden was being constructed, Dean Rogers built an arbor for that location. It is now covered with a stunning exhibit of cross-vine. In addition, the desert willows from Jim Berry have taught us a few things. They do not like too much water. One was lost due to planting in a low area that collected rainwater. The surviving plants continue to thrive and put on a stunning display during our hottest months.



One more specimen in this garden that prompts many comments and questions is the Brazilian Rock Rose. Lin Grado shared the information that the first set of buds do not actually bloom. They set the seeds for next year. The buds that follow will bloom from spring through the summer.

The “Barn Boys” continue to labor on our new storage area. I am amazed at the progress that has been made during the hottest days of summer. Thanks to Louis, Leo, Larry and Mike. I will not type their nicknames for publication.

The Fourth of July Celebration was successful once again. The colors were presented, the DAR read the Declaration of Independence, the apple pie contest was tasty, and the rain held off. Our resident chef, Linda Cowan, has snacks and cold drinks ready for purchase and all in all it was a Yankee Doodle Dandy time for all. It was great to see some of our Master Gardener friends in attendance this year!

As fall approaches, we gird ourselves for the annual **Yard Sale on September 23rd\*** and close behind comes the **Fall Plant Sale on October 8th**. All Hands on Deck. We can use all the help we can muster! If you would like to join us as a helper during either/both events. . . come on out. See you there.

Check our website [www.quitmanarboretum](http://www.quitmanarboretum) for details.

*\* You may take your contributions to the Stinson House any Wednesday during work hours. They will accept any thing that can be sold **except clothes and shoes**. So clean out your closets and garage and help us make this sale a great fund raiser for the QABG! sj*



## Bumblebee Facts

The Wildscape Garden at the Mineola Nature Preserve is just drifting along this summer. The wildlife really appreciate our efforts. Several rabbits seem to have made their home in the garden. They have been sighted nibbling on the yaupon holly leaves. Hummingbirds appreciate all the orange flowering plants. They have plenty to choose from. The Flame Acanthus, trumpet vine, Turks cap, and butterfly weed are blooming now. A hive of honeybees decided to locate in one of the water meter boxes. The local beekeepers are moving them to the bee hut down the path at the Nature Preserve. Hoards of bumblebees gather pollen and nectar on the salvias. They are fun to watch. They're kind of roly-poly and don't look very aerodynamic.

### A few bumblebee facts:

There are 9 bumblebee species in Texas. At least 4 of those species have been identified in Wood County.

Only the worker females sting and they can sting repeatedly.

Bumblebees are more effective pollinators than honeybees for many vegetable and fruit crops. They work faster and catch more pollen on their hairy coats.

Colonies may consist of as few as 40 to as many as 400 workers.

The old queen and all the workers and males die in the winter. Only the young queens hibernate and recolonize when the weather warms.

Studies in Europe and Canada in the last 10 years have confirmed a decline in numbers of bumblebees and the extinction of some of their species.

If you want to help encourage bumblebees, plant nectar producing flowering plants that flower over a long season. Native plants, wildflowers, and herbs are especially good. Bumblebees need a damp area for water and an undisturbed area (a little brush, dry grass, sticks) to nest. I've even read that queens occasionally nest in unused bird houses or old nests.



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

## Festival and Farmer Markets by: Juki Luce



Photo by: Linda Timmons

The Wood County Master Gardeners will have a booth at the Fall Farmers Markets Oct. 8th in Winnsboro and Oct. 15 in Mineola. There will be information on WC Master Gardner's, soil testing, and seed packets to give away. The items to sale will include From Garden to Table tip book, brochures on wildflowers, herbs, plants, and bulbs.

The Spring Farmers Market booths in Winnsboro and Mineola were very successful and the information provided resulted in many people signing up for the 2017 Master Gardner Class! Our goal is to provide information and teach the community about good garden and lawn procedures.

## Naturalizing Bulbs

Those of you who have heard Chris Wiesinger speak or have his books on bulbs know that he is called, "The Bulb Hunter." He is sometimes able to find bulbs on old homesteads and is given permission to gather antique bulbs growing there. I have never been able to achieve that much nerve, to ask to rescue bulbs from other people's property, so I buy my bulbs. In doing so, I want to get the best, the most, and the biggest bulbs that I can.



<http://www.bulbhunter.com>

Photo and book reference used by permission from Chris.

After receiving the ordered bulbs I want to plant and arrange them so that they appear in a casual naturalized pattern in my own garden. A naturalized garden of bulbs is my favorite type of garden area. I like the informal-looking, unplanned planting of bulbs. For this type of naturalized planting you need to pick bulb species and varieties that spread freely in fields, meadows, lawns along paths, bulbs that can be planted in front of shrubs or mixed in with daylilies and iris. Over time the bulbs multiply and spread redesigning themselves and expanding into patterns designed by nature; giving you pleasure each year without needing much care in return. There are several ways to plant bulbs for naturalizing. You want your design to have gentle curves and undulating lines giving your garden flowing, informal designs. To produce this, outline the boundaries of the planting area with an old water hose or rope making the area irregularly shaped with rounded edges. If you are planting a large area, recruit a helper; this makes the planting more fun and faster.

Plant your bulbs where they will get at least six hours of sunshine a day and in a well-drained spot. You can scatter the bulbs across the area and then space them as needed. If you are using several species, use the largest first so that their size makes them the focus of the planting, with the smaller bulbs creating the background. Fill in any spot that is missed during the scattering process. Now the fun part – get down on your kneepads and dig. Know your planting depth and place the bulbs in the hole with the pointed end up. Do not cover up the bulbs until they are all placed where you want them to be. When the placement is complete, cover them with compost. Scatter compost over each bulb, filling the hole, then water them in and add more compost if needed. Fertilizing is next. I do this by broadcasting over the planted area to give the bulbs the needed help for strong growth. You can use either organic or synthetic fertilizer, as you like. Mulch the bed in good and keep it watered; not soggy, but don't let it dry out. Remember, bone meal doesn't supply enough nitrogen or potassium so try either alfalfa meal or dried seaweed. With the synthetic fertilizer, use a product specifically for bulbs or a balanced 10-10-10 product. Apply an additional application of fertilizer just as the shoots emerge in spring.

## Bulbs continued...

When selecting naturalizing bulbs choose ones that will grow prolifically with no additional human care after planting. I have found that Grape Hyacinths multiply quickly, bloom early, come in many colors, grow in sun or shade, and thrive in alkaline soil in zones 4-8. I recommend "Blue Magic" for naturalizing. The best bulbs for naturalizing are those that adapt to a broad range of climates and are not fussy about moisture, light, or soil type. Crocus, daffodils, jonquils, and bluebells are old favorites that do great here. Remember to label your beds with the type of bulbs planted in each.



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muscari>

After they bloom don't cut off the dying tops and don't tie in a knot. Leave them alone until are all brown then you can cut off the dead leaves and tops. The green tops keep funneling the needed nutrition to the bulbs for next year's flowers.

There are many bulbs you can try for all seasons, soils, and colors, so get to digging and have a beautiful bed.

[Click to return to index](#)

## Earth-Kind Living:



A balanced system using University research proven techniques, for quality living, environmental stewardship, and overall well-being

Join us for the Earth-Kind Living Expo that will discuss topics related to agriculture production, land stewardship, and health and wellness. Attendees will have the opportunity to listen to engaging sessions from respected experts in the field.

<http://agrilife.org/eahttps://youtu.be/gGLZpaKy8Lwrthkindliving/#>

[Click to return to index](#)

Can we grow this great HERB in our gardens?

“Meat was scarce before the Spaniards arrived, so the Mexican natives used corn and beans as their main nutritional staple. Heavy spices were used to give their dishes flavor.” One of these unique native herbs is Epazote. An herb well-known to Mexican and Caribbean cooking. The name comes from the Aztec (Nahuatl) epazotl. It is also known as pigweed or Mexican tea and is frequently regarded as a garden pest.”



young epazote plant,  
photo by : [gourmetsleuth.com](http://gourmetsleuth.com)

<http://mexicanfood.about.com/od/introtomexicanfood/a/Ingredients>

### Cooking Epazote:

“Epazote' is a herb sometimes used in Mexican recipes, but which should be used (sparingly). Many cooks in Texas kitchens put a sprig into a pot of beans as both flavor and with the idea that it will reduce flatulence. Another use is to slip a leaf into a tamale or taco. Much like cilantro, it is referred to as an "acquired taste". “There is no good substitute for the flavor so if you can't find it, leave it out.” It is one of the herbs that make Mexican food Mexican food! It is also used in some Caribbean dishes.

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/Herb> <http://www.gourmetsleuth.com/ingredients/detail/epazote>

### Growing:

Epazote will grow to roughly 4' tall, with long slender leaves and clusters of tiny green flowers.

Epazote can be directly sown after the first frost of the spring, and will grow quickly with heat and light.

Epazote can spread very quickly, and potentially invade other plants. If possible grow them away from other plants or in containers. For a continuous supply, restart every two weeks.

Epazote should be grown in full sun, and can grow in a wide range of soil types. It is native to desert regions of North America and is tolerant of sandy soil. Requires less water than most other herbs. Sow lightly, approximately 1/4" beneath the surface of the soil and keep moist until germination. Epazote is native to drier regions of Central America and should not be over-watered.

### Harvesting/Saving Seeds:

The leaf, flowers and stem can be cut anytime with a scissors or snip. The small, tan seeds can be collected in late fall by rubbing stalk and collecting beneath with a basket, bowl, bag, or other container. Seeds can be collected in same manner as with harvesting. Store in a sealed container in a dry, cool location out of direct sunlight for optimum life .

<http://www.heirloom-organics.com/guide/va/guidetogrowingepazote.html>

<https://bonnieplants.com/growing/growing-epazote/>

**Medical Uses:** Epazote, “An agent to expel intestinal hookworms (wormseed)”. According to Jessica Houdret (The Ultimate Book of Herbs and Herb Gardening)” This was used for cattle, dogs and sometimes people. **CAUTION:** This herb is poisonous in very large doses.



<http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/2012/jun/epazote.htm>



## To Fence or Not to Fence—By Ellen Atkins

The kitchen garden had been on the "wish list" since we moved to TX. With all the remodeling going on, there just wasn't time for the garden. Then my new neighbor appeared on his tractor and offered to disc a patch of the yard for a garden. I smiled broadly and said, "Sure!" That was nine years ago. Each year I've added lots of amendments, compost and mulch. Those first years, I was truly surprised with the vegetables my garden produced in that brick-like red clay. I knew I needed to learn more about gardening in east Texas and joined the class of Master Gardeners in 2009. With each ensuing year, the soil improved and eventually we built raised beds and an irrigation system. There were animals that occasionally enjoyed the fruits of my labor. It didn't seem like the critters did that much damage back then. These days, it's a totally different story!



Ellen's Kitchen Garden

Over the years, the deer have discovered a very nice peninsula that offers them needed cover, food and water. I always called it my backyard, but the herd treats it as their personal habitat. There are ten in all; bucks, does and fawns. They help themselves to the wandering Jew, the sweet potato vine, grape vines, okra and cucumber leaves, ripe tomato as well as green tomatoes and almost all of the lima and green beans. I'm not sure if it's the deer or the rabbits eating the Swiss chard and kale. Fortunately we were smart enough to put a high fence around each tree in the orchard and the blueberries we planted to 5' high. Depending on the growth habit and size of the individual fruit trees the fence may have an 16' diameter or a smaller 8' diameter. The trees in our yard are young oak trees to replace the old oaks we lost after the drought to Hypoxylon Canker. To protect the small trunks from deer rubbing antlers against the bark, we formed a 12" diameter cage of hardware cloth and enclosed only the trunk area. But I didn't want to fence the kitchen garden. \*

Each time I whine to my son about the deer stealing my vegetables, he always says the same thing. "You need to put a fence around it." But I don't want a fence around the garden. How would we get the tractor in to move soil, compost and mulch? How would I get the golf cart and trailer close to collect spent plants for the compost pile? No, I complained, I would have to open and close a gate each time I dashed out to collect fresh vegetables or herbs for a meal. Nope, no fence! When I invited my son to hunt in Texas again this year, he said, "You need to put in a fence." Then I went through the many reasons why I didn't want a fence. I still don't want a fence. Besides, fences make mowing impossible.

This fall my husband and I will be going to Michigan for about three weeks. I plan to put in my fall vegetables before we leave in mid-September. My fence dilemma is now fully "in my face"! If we don't put up a fence, we will return to no fall vegetables at all. I still don't want a fence, but perhaps a temporary fence will work. I am even considering an electric fence. I guess I'll find out when I return in October. I will let you know what I find upon my return in a follow-up article.

*\* See the following issues for information on why Ellen had to take out over 60 Oak Trees on her property:*

[MG Wood Works March/April 2012—Agent Article—Hypoxylon Canker](#)

[MG Wood Works Sept/Oct 2012—Ellen's Article](#)

[MG Wood Works \(Hypoxylon Canker\) 2015 Issue 5—Agent's Follow-up Article](#)

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

## Work Days and Schedules

**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. Project Leader: Karen Anderson

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



*If you are a Wood County Master Gardeners Association Member and have time to work but can't make the above schedule, call the project leader and tell them you want to work. They will let you know what needs to be accomplished. Just because you cannot meet the schedule does not mean that you are not needed! Even an hour of your time would help keep our projects updated. If you are working on your own without the "group" be sure to wear your WCMGA nametag to identify yourself to the public and other Associates. You may also want to wear you official T-shirt. sj*

## 2016 WCMG Officers



Photo by Keith Zimmerman

Melissa Deakins, Linda Timmons, Jan Whitlock, Molly Mathias

### 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 **Jenna Nelson:** [Jnelson@peoplescom.net](mailto:Jnelson@peoplescom.net)

–**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/or contact information on the Membership Roster sent to you by E-mail or on the Member Roster on the Volunteer Hours Website site above.*

*Unless otherwise annotated, all photos in this publication were taken by the author of the article in which they appear. SJ Editor*

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