

## MG WOOD WORKS

*Edited by: Sylvia Johnson*

2018, Issue 3

*July/Oct*

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### Note from the Editor:

The July/Aug and Sept/Oct issues of "MG Woodworks" have been rolled into one.

Thank you for your understanding,

Sylvia

### *President Reggie Askins: The early bird ...*



.. might catch the worm, but more importantly will she avoid heat exhaustion?

Triple digit temps, no rain in sight, nocturnal visits from armadillos when I water, gardening is in survival mode. However when I am out at dawn, there are figs to gather, hummers feeding on my pink flocks and turk's cap, and other pollinators are snacking on my fennel, zinnias, lantana and sages. Then I feel at peace and happy. The effort is worth the pride and pleasure I gain.

My garden is fairly well established and to start from scratch this time of year would be daunting. Not so for Ann Reynolds and her team: Judy Bieroth, Ann Fair-Irby, Heather & Leo Fisher, Gayle Mullinax, and Theresa Pruitt. They have been busy weeding and re-landscaping the Hawkins Community Park Garden. Their goal is to create a pollinator garden with educational signage. Visitors can enjoy the beauty plus get ideas for water wise pollinator plants for their own landscape.

Despite the lack of rain, I

am still able to water my potted plants from my rain barrel. With the dry hot weather, I know our Build a Barrel workshop will be well received this fall. Attendees, for a nominal fee, will leave with a totally plumbed out rain barrel. Also, they will receive ideas of how to make their barrel a landscaping accent if desired. A demonstration of lasagna gardening is also planned. So start spreading the word: September 22nd at the Mineola Nature Center Pavilion. ([cont. page 2](#))

### *VP Melodee Eishen: WCMG Programs for 2018*

**September 20th** meeting: we have scheduled an interesting topic covering "Plant Therapy". We should be very encouraged about all of the physical, mental and emotional health benefits of gardening. We may have a special guest speaker for this if we can work out some details.

**October 18th's** gathering will be in Mineola at the Mineola Wildlife Preserve where we will have our annual "Seed and Plant Exchange". So I will encourage you to right now begin planning for this event. I would like to encourage you to perhaps print out or write out information regarding

your plants or seeds so that those receiving them can be very successful in growing them. Example, I'm going to bring some Goto Kola starts. I don't think that too many people know or at least grow this herb. I'm finding it's easy to grow and the plant multiplies easily, ...

([cont. page 2](#))

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



## President Article Cont.

Many of our members have been spending long hours in the classroom this year receiving specialist training. I want to thank them for giving up their time and treasure and strengthening our association's horticultural knowledge. Remember that is the main goal of Texas Master Gardeners; the receiving and sharing of this knowledge. The following are the members who have completed or committed to specialist training in 2018.

Phil Young - Irrigation

Ann McKelroy - Greenhouse Management

Katie Carter & Ann McKelroy - Compost

Deena Taylor & Gayle Mullinax - Vegetable

Peggy Rogers & Linda Bradley - Landscaping Part I



Eastern Poison Ivy - summer

Stay hydrated as you garden and

**remember leaves of three (poison ivy) leave be!**

*For more information I find this website very helpful, sj:*

<https://www.poison-ivy.org/identify-poison-ivy-poison-oak>

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## VP Article Cont.

...and I'll write out how I'm growing it. I would also like to pass along to whoever gets the plants that medical studies have been done documenting it helps with improving brain activity (helping dementia) and arthritis. I also use it daily, adding it to my salads or just eating a few leaves as I pass by since its just outside my back door.

Obviously this is just a suggestion, not a requirement. Also, someone brought to my attention that some of us don't have plants or seeds to exchange and asked if they could bring some gardening books. I said definitely! There are all kinds of reasons we need to pare down our books, mine are accumulating too fast. Please come and join us for this fun event.

*Just a note:* There is a possibility that we might continue the meeting after our plant exchange if there is an interest in making landscaping pots. Please think about if you have an interest in doing this. Those interested might want to bring their lunch and we can stay after and make these planters, realizing it could be great fun but also a bit messy, that's why if we're going to do it, we'd like to do it outside at the Wildlife Preserve. Also, we are still gathering what the costs involved would be, but I feel confident that \$5-\$10 would cover these costs. Obviously, we won't pursue this if there is no interest, I'll have a sign-up for this at the September meeting. We will be giving you more information on this.

The **November** meeting is traditionally our Projects in Review meeting. I'm looking forward to seeing and hearing about a summation of all the projects that all of our Wood County Master Gardeners are involved in. I sometimes don't realize how much education goes on at these projects and that's what we're all about.....Education.

And of course, we all look forward to our **December** meeting because we get together and fellowship and eat, and eat and eat. You all are such good cooks! We also get to introduce our officers for next year and do a little surveying and planning for a successful 2019 year.

## Marty Da Silva: New County Extension Agent joins Wood County



**Shaniqua Davis**, County Extension Agent-Agriculture/Natural Resources joined Wood County AgriLife in Quitman May 1, 2018. She accepted this position after serving as the agriculture agent in Upshur County for three and a half years located in Gilmer, Texas. Davis replaced Clint Perkins who transferred to Smith County AgriLife Extension Office. Perkins was the County Extension agent in Quitman for 13 years.

Davis was born in Ada, Oklahoma and raised in Buffalo Valley Community in Oklahoma. She was raised in a rural area on a cattle ranch and very active in 4-H and FFA in school.

"I loved doing agricultural activities," Davis said. "I worked with my extension agent in Latimer County. She {Davis} showed sheep and pigs for six years at local and county fairs.

The Oklahoma native attended Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton with her Associates and Oklahoma State University graduating with a BS of Animal Science and Masters in Agriculture. She met her husband, Seth, at college and followed him to Texas in 2014 where he got a job as a Project Control Manager for Gregg Industrial Insulators in Longview. She then went to work for Upsure County. As "Ag" agent in Wood County, she reports to the County Commissioners and to District Extension Administrator, Shelia Harris in Overton, Texas.

Before reporting to Upshur County, Davis was mentored in Wood County under Perkins for her first 30 days. She took part in the hay show in Mineola to help farmers determine what quality of forage (hay) they had and what needed to be added as supplements. "They would drop off a sample to be tested for nutrient value," Davis said.

Davis feels that more people utilize the extension service in Wood County than Upsher. She said the counties are about the same in size but "Wood County has a lot more multi-county and multi-district programs than my last county. Plus, we have a Master Gardeners program here which we did not in Upshur," Davis remarked. Wood County hosted the one-day cattleman's conference held at the Carrol Green Civic Center. This is a multi-district/multi-county sponsored event. "We had about 99 people - ranchers and vendors attend the last one," the agent said.

Davis is hoping to start a new program in Wood County called the Women's Landowner Program. She implemented one in Gilmer and it was successful. Davis said women landowners play many roles in managing their land and families. "This program will allow them to gain the knowledge needed and provide a diverse network of support that will empower them to succeed," she said. "This program is open to everyone, but is specifically tailored to women," she added. Davis went on to explain that they will begin with a roundtable discussion to allow each participant to talk about their farm or ranch and tell their goals and dreams for their property.

Davis along with Angie Monk, the Family & Community Health Agent in Wood County, will work together in the 4-H clubs to build leadership, help with special projects and assist them to learn and grow. 4-H clubs are for 3rd to 12th-grade students and meet at varies locations in the county once a month. "The horse groups meet once a week," Davis said.

Davis is married to Seth with one son, Sawyer, and lives in Gilmer.

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## Fall Vegetable Gardens

Right now your spring-planted garden is winding down or completely finished. The heat of summer is here and the soil is drying up.

This means it's the perfect time to prepare for your fall garden.

Clip art



We all know that vegetable gardening can be rewarding, relaxing and good exercise. But I think all too many of us overlook the fact that there are indeed two times to have a vegetable garden each year: spring *and* fall.

Establishing a fall garden is different as you have to work in the heat up-front. This will be to your advantage as warm soils help germinate vegetable plants much sooner than cooler spring soil temperatures.

Watering is also approached with a different mindset. Water will be crucial to establishing the summer growing vegetables. Germinated seeds in July and August will need uniform moisture and plenty of it. Mulching, a practice not often used for spring gardens will benefit your fall garden. Just a light layer of mulch will greatly aid in keeping moisture in the soil next to the developing roots.

Pest control for fall gardens will be less. Insect problems that are commonly experienced in the spring will be reduced. Disease issues that arise from cool, moist environments will also be diminished.

Harvested produce at this time of year in milder weather is reported to taste better. The time spent harvesting, choosing which tomato or what size cucumber to pick, is obviously more comfortably done.

Of great importance is your planning. Most vegetables traditionally grown in the spring/summer have a hard deadline. They must beat the frost. Now the average first frost for this area is mid- November. The key word is average. Sometimes it may be near Christmas, and other times it will be prior to Halloween.

So, when choosing what to plant, keep in mind how long it takes each vegetable to reach harvest stage. Southern peas (purple hulls, zipper creams, etc.) normally take about 60 days. Counting backward from a mid-October harvest puts the planting at mid-August. Pumpkins need about 90 days and radish is just over a month.

The bottom line is that here in East Texas our spring and fall gardening seasons are short, sandwiched between frosts and blistering hot summer conditions that cause many crops to stop production. Variety selection and proper planting time are critical to success.

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**Shaniqua Davis** is the County Extension Agent for agriculture and natural resources for Wood County, Texas. Her email address is [shaniqua.davis@aq.tamu.edu](mailto:shaniqua.davis@aq.tamu.edu)

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.



# Wild Bees

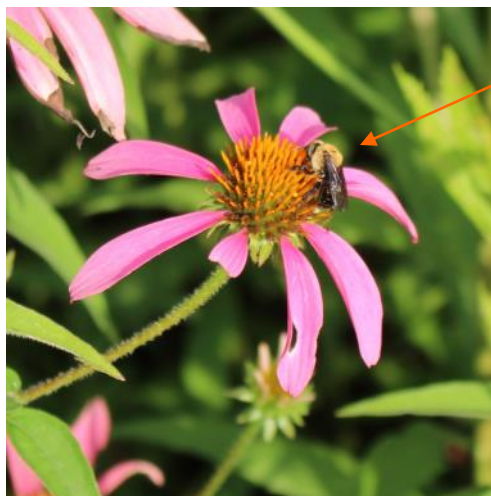
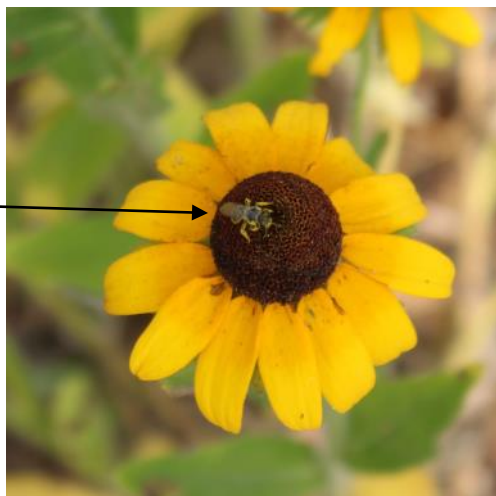
For science days this year I was asked to talk to the kids about pollinators. Of course, non-native honey bees were the first insect that came to mind but I found that there are hundreds of native bees essential to our native Texas plants. When I watch the insects at the Wildscape I see bumblebees and lots of small bees some that even look like flies.

Bumble bees are the easiest to recognize. Like honey bees they are social insects with a queen and female worker bees. Unlike the honey bee, the bumble bee hive is often underground. Their hives are much smaller than the honey bee hive, usually less than 100 worker bees. There are 8 or 9 varieties of bumble bee in Texas. About half of those varieties have been sighted in Wood County. They are distinguished by the different yellow bands and spots on their thorax and abdomen.

We also have native carpenter bees. Carpenter bees have gotten a bad rap. They are excellent pollinators. They look very similar to a bumble bee but have a smooth upper abdomen. They do burrow into untreated wood but their nests are very limited in size so they don't do structural damage. Carpenter bees are solitary rather than social insects. Solitary bees are much less likely to sting than social insects.

In Texas 90% of the native bee species are solitary bees. They vary in size from less than .08 inch to the size of a bumble bee. They may be green, brown, shiny or furry. Solitary female bees construct and provision their own nest, lay their eggs and then leave them to fend for themselves as they hatch. Solitary bees are actually better pollinators than honey bees because they don't have the pollen pouches on their legs. They're messier and seem to spread pollen between flowers better than the honey bees. The native solitary bees are especially efficient at pollinating native plants including blueberries, pumpkin, squash and tomatoes. Many of the fruits, nuts and berries that feed the wildlife of Texas are pollinated exclusively by native solitary bees.

For more information on the native bees of Texas check out the Texas Parks and Wildlife native pollinator web site. There are also opportunities to participate in citizen scientist projects through the Xerces Society. If you just want to see bees on flowers come out to the Wildscape at the Mineola Nature Preserve.



The bee on the black-eyed Susan flower is an unidentified solitary bee. The bee on the cone flower is a carpenter bee. Both pictures were taken at the Wildscape.





## INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PICKET FENCE

### Summer

I would like to take a moment to digress from flowers, shrubs, gardens and restoring period homes. I would like to, instead, mention the passing of Pam Riley. She created the concept of an Arboretum that would be built on the grounds of a former state park at the back of Hogg Park in Quitman, Texas.

The work began. Clearing brush, raising money to buy plants, and the constant maintenance of the property became the focus of this group (Friends of the Arboretum). I am proud to be able to say that this focus and determination still exists today. Those who support Pam's idea of a public garden, and the restoration of a historic house, continue to clear brush, raise money, buy plants, and maintain the property.

Our volunteers come in all age groups. With them comes a selfless willingness to work for the good of the community. The first of these volunteers, Pam Riley, passed away last night. She will be remembered for her determination to keep this project moving forward and maintaining the integrity of the property and the house. For this, we thank her.

If you have ever been included in this volunteer group, may I take a moment to thank you for your time and efforts. You are appreciated.



Rising Sun Redbud™, dedication tree to Pam.  
A new flower bed is planned to surround the tree. It is a work in progress.

## Jan Whitlock: Sept-Oct



### INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PICKET FENCE

Photo: by Sylvia

I would like to begin by thanking all who came forward to support our efforts in preparing a Memorial Service for Pam Riley. She had been ill for quite some time, and her passing took many of us by surprise. We have all known people, during our lives, that are indomitable in their strength and ability. Pam was truly one of those.

Several memorial plantings have been added to the Arboretum landscape during the past few months. A Red Maple, in honor of Kelly Lindsey, has been planted just north of the Butterfly Bed. Kelly had been an active supporter of the Quitman Arboretum, and she assisted us in many ways through her association with The Elizabeth Denton Chapter of the Daughter's of the American Revolution (DAR). A Trident Maple, to honor and remember Bart Bartlett, has also been recently added. Bart and his wife Eileen were Wood County Master Gardeners. Eileen will be missed by friends and neighbors as she settles down in her new life as a resident of Connecticut. Two interesting species of Redbud, Rising Sun and Ruby Falls, were planted in memory of Pam Riley.

The antique bricks from the house on the corner of Lane Street in Quitman are being incorporated into some of the new beds. If you know where we can access more brick of this type, the pickups are ready to "pick-up". A dual bed for Hardy Hibiscus and Heirloom Roses is in the planning stages. We hope to have a seating area in the middle of this space for those who want to come and admire nature's beauty.

Another project that is moving forward is the addition of signage to help visitors identify plants and trees as they move about the property. This has been on the "back burner" for quite some time and we hope to see it become a reality.

Before I end, may I add a quick reminder about our Fall Yard Sale. Donations are now being accepted on Wednesdays (no shoes or clothes please). This event takes place on Saturday, September 29th. The annual Fall Plant sale follows on Saturday, October 13th. We hope you will join us for these events that help keep the mowers sharpened, the fresh paint flowing, the additions to the gardens and, not but least, the money flowing for new growth.

Sylvia, am I allowed a P.S.? If you have not been to the Stinson House, please come by and admire the new coat of paint. It is clean, and it is beautiful! Look up when you are on the porches. The color you see is "haint" blue. A southern tradition. Thank you Deanna Caldwell.



Photo by Sylvia: Past Yard Sale at House

*Next issue will include information on the new signs and brochures for the Arboretum and House. Hopefully we will also have some plants signs in place by then. sj*



Photo by: Charlotte Kettlewell

# Lin Grado: Texture in your East Texas Garden

Last Thanksgiving I participated in a Facebook challenge to post black and white photos of my life. I noticed that some photos of my garden looked as good in black and white as in color; the best ones were of contrasting leaf shapes and sizes. These leaves provide visual texture in my garden. Garden textures are determined by the size, shape, and form of plant parts, and can be described as fine, medium, or bold. Most plants have a medium texture, so by adding fine or bold plants to your garden, you can add interest.

Plants of fine texture have small or narrow leaves, and can provide an airy look – some may seem almost ‘fluffy’. This includes shrubs like azalea, abelia, and spirea; trees like cedar, crape myrtle, Japanese maple, and desert willow; and perennials/annuals like ferns, euphorbia, marigold, and fennel. Bold-textured plants have large leaves and usually evoke a sense of the dramatic – to me it’s a tropical feel. They are the attention-getters of the garden. Some of my favorite bold-textured plants include shrubs like hydrangea (both oak leaf and mop head/big leaf), cashmere bouquet, and Japanese aralia; trees like fig, saucer magnolia and catalpa; and perennials/annuals like caladium, hosta, banana, cast iron plant, and canna.

Gardeners can use texture in a garden to create moods or interest. Using the same texture can be unifying, especially if they are different colors or heights. It can also be boring or monotonous. Adding in a different texture interrupts the eye and provides interest, especially when the plants are no longer in bloom or at times when the colors aren’t as vivid, such as at dusk. Also, as we age and our vision deteriorates, contrasting texture becomes more important. However, if you overuse texture changes, your garden may seem hectic. To evaluate the different texture in your beds, take some photos then look at them in black and white; without the color, you can focus on the form. This will help you decide if you need a texture change, or if your garden is too busy.

I have a confession: I garden with reckless abandon. Many of my personal gardens have an almost chaotic feel to them, with big, bold textures and lots of textural contrast. Since my garden is large, the scale seems right to me – almost a ‘Jurassic Park’ garden - and the large plants provide an intimate feel to the area. It may not be a classic garden style, but it appeals to me. And garden texture is a personal choice.

You can experiment with texture changes on a small scale. Select a seating area or a meandering path in your garden, and create a small pocket of textures. By one bench in the shade, I combine the soft lacy foliage of Southern wood ferns with hosta so that the leaves of both intertwine. Planted along a path leading to the bench is another favorite combination – mophead hydrangea and autumn fern. Along another section of the path, Southern wood ferns grow around the shiny, spiky leaves of a ‘Tropical Giant’ white spider lily, providing interest even when the spider lily isn’t in bloom. Repeating the use of the fine texture of ferns in my planting combinations helps lead the eye – and the garden visitor - from one pairing to another.

In these hot summer days, when only a fool or a gardener ventures outside, sit down with a glass of sweet tea and your garden photos, and look for opportunities to improve the textures in your east Texas garden.



Hosta leaves add a bold texture to the



Mophead hydrangea contrasts with Southern wood fern



The bold texture of hidden ginger's wide leaves with a medium-textured toad lily

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## Lin Grado: Yard Sale — Plant Sale

**Yard Sale**  
**September 29**  
**8:00 am to 1:00 pm**

We are accepting donations for the annual yard sale (no clothes or shoes). You can bring your donations to the Arboretum any Wednesday morning between 9am and noon.

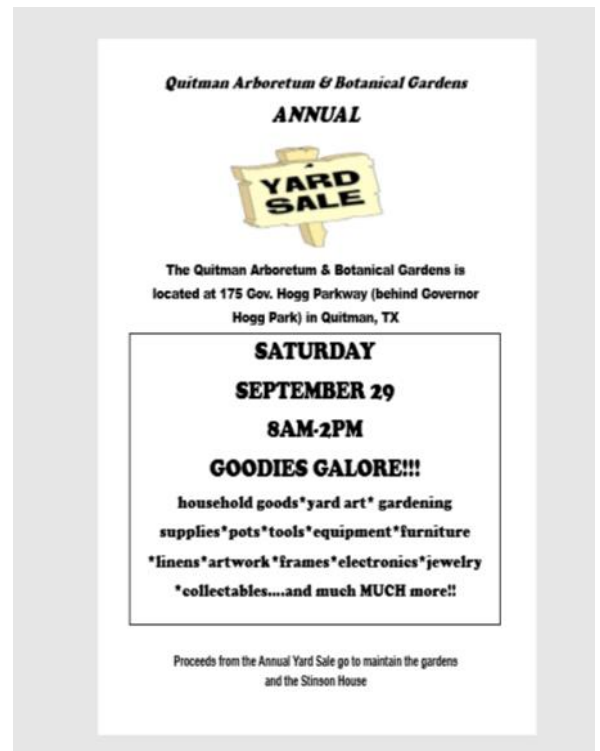
**Fall Plant Sale: October 13th**  
**8:00 A.M. — 2:00 P.M.**

Call 430-235-5461

or

Email: [quitmanbotanicalgarden@gmail.com](mailto:quitmanbotanicalgarden@gmail.com) to make other arrangements.

All proceeds go towards maintaining the Stinson House and the gardens. We can provide a tax receipt if you need one.



Poster by Lin



## **Build a Rain Barrel Presentation**

**Presented by: Wood County Master  
Gardeners**



**When: September 22, 2018 @ 8:30 am**

**Where: Mineola Nature Center Pavilion**

**Demonstration: How to plumb a barrel.** *Also included in the fee: instructions, handouts and ideas to make your barrel a garden focal point.*

**Speaker:** *Informational presentation of* **Rain Water Harvesting.**

**Cost per unit: \$30.00** *Includes the barrel, plumbing and instructions. You will leave with a completed barrel ready to install on your property.*

**Payment on site: Cash or Check only!**

**Deadline to Register: September 15th, 2018.** *Please pre-register for this event so we may have adequate number of barrels on hand. Send your Pre-register E-mail to: [reggieaskins@peoplescom.net](mailto:reggieaskins@peoplescom.net)*



TEXAS A&M  
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# Gloria Jeane Rosewall: Mullein



*Verbascum thapsus*, the great mullein or common mullein, is a species of mullein native to Europe, northern Africa, and Asia, and introduced in the Americas and Australia.

It is a hairy biennial plant that can grow to 2 m tall or more. Its small, yellow flowers are densely grouped on a tall stem, which grows from a large rosette of leaves. It grows in a wide variety of habitats, but prefers well-lit, disturbed soils, where it can appear soon after the ground receives light, from long-lived seeds that persist in the soil seed bank. It is a common weedy plant that spreads by prolifically producing seeds, but it rarely becomes aggressively invasive, since its seeds require open ground to germinate. It is a very minor problem for most agricultural crops, since it is not a very competitive species, being intolerant of shade from other plants and unable to survive tilling. It also hosts many insects, some of which can be harmful to other plants. Although individuals are easy to remove by hand, populations are difficult to eliminate permanently.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verbascum\\_thapsus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Verbascum_thapsus)

The common mullein, usually found throughout the US, is a woolly-leaved biennial plant. During its first year of growth, the large leaves form a low-lying basal rosette. In the spring of the second year, the plant develops a tall stem that can grow to more than 1.22 m in height. The top portion of the stem develops yellow flowers that have a faint, honey-like odor. This, along with the stamens, constitutes the active ingredient.

For first hand information on growing this plant contact the article's author.

Website info by sj

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## Lin Grado: Blooms for east Texas summers

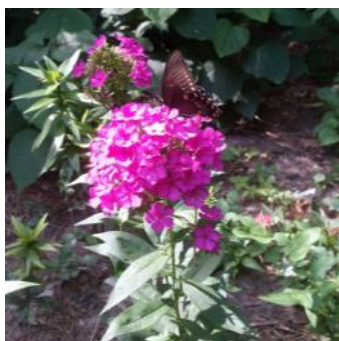
**With** more than a week of temperatures hovering at or above 100 degrees, many east Texas gardens are looking a bit ragged. But some gardens still boast plenty of blooms.

**So** how do you find those heat-loving plants? It's not as simple as getting a list of plants from the desert southwest, as many of these cannot tolerate our high humidity. Similarly, you can't just pick from a list of Texas native plants – plants that thrive in alkaline caliche soils may not adapt to the acid soils we have. The best way to find blooms for summer is to visit public gardens or landscapes local to you, and see what looks nice now. (Be sure to check the irrigation and soil to ensure you can mimic these growing conditions).

**One** place to visit is the Quitman Arboretum and Botanical Gardens – there's a lot in bloom right now, including most of the plants listed below. While many of the beds are irrigated, the Arboretum also offers a waterwise garden (the bed that is between the Arboretum and Civic Center parking lots) that does not have an irrigation system; plants are only watered regularly till they're established.

**Among** the plants that will bloom in our hot, dry yet humid summers are some Texas natives. You can't go wrong if you plant mealy sage with its flower spikes of blue or white. This long-blooming perennial is a favorite of bees – the flowers nod in the mornings with the weight of bumblebees searching for nectar – but said to be deer resistant. 'Henry Duelberg' is an exceptional deep blue selection that is available in many nurseries.

**Another** sage that should find its way into your garden is autumn sage. Autumn sage forms a nice mound in your garden, with soft fragrant foliage on its woody stems. My favorites are the deep reds and the hot pink, but you can find almost any color that fits your garden. Other native plants that bloom in summer include red yucca, Turk's cap, and flame acanthus, all of which you can see at the Arboretum.



Summer phlox with swallowtail butterfly

**But** your summer-blooming garden need not be limited to native plants. There are plenty of adapted perennials in bloom throughout the summer, though most need supplemental watering. I don't think any garden is complete without at least one summer phlox, a tall, upright, long-blooming perennial. Their showy flower clusters literally dance with butterflies. The best varieties for east Texas are 'Robert Poore' with violet-pink flowers, and 'John Fanick', a soft pink with lavender center.



Cigar plant

**A** different clump-forming perennial is the cigar plant (*Cuphea ignea*), with orange and yellow tubular flowers up and down its tall stems. Also blooming in shades of red, orange, or yellow are Uruguayan firecracker plant, tropical milkweed, and firebush. Firebush performs better once the summer heats up; it is late to come back after a cold winter, so it's best to treat this as an annual or container plant.



Tropical milkweed is a monarch butterfly host





Purple Amistad salvia provides a deep color in the garden

For perennial summer color in blues and purples, plant black and blue salvia with cobalt-blue flowers; Amistad salvia with deep purple blooms; tall verbena (also called 'verbena on a stick') with purple blooms on insanely tall, thin stems; or Russian sage, with silvery lacy leaves and light blue-violet spires of blooms. For all of these perennials, a light sheering as one flower cycle fades will encourage repeat blooms.

To see big splashes of color in your summer garden, consider planting some flowering shrubs or trees. For years, the favorite blooming tree in the south has been the crape myrtle, which is also available in shrub forms. Some crape myrtles also have attractive dark foliage, or pretty exfoliating bark. Other trees with summer flowers include the chaste tree and desert willow. You can see examples of these in the waterwise bed at the Arboretum. You can see examples of these in the waterwise bed at the Arboretum.

**Summer-flowering** shrubs for Texas summers include Texas sage, with its soft silver-gray or green leaves and pink-purple flowers; Brazilian rock rose, with its hundreds of hibiscus-like blooms of white flowers with deep red centers; glossy abelia, with its shiny leaves and clusters of pink-blushed white bells; and butterfly bush, with trusses of pink, blue, or purple. My favorite butterfly bush for ease of care and versatility is the weeping butterfly bush that we grow at the Arboretum. This small semi-evergreen shrub will bloom in full sun to full shade, from March until the first freeze. It does not need to be cut back after the winter, and its blooms get longer as the summer progresses.

So grab your camera and your note pad, and come out to a local public garden to see what's flowering. You'll find something that will bloom in summer, in your east Texas garden.



Salvia



Phlox with butterfly

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## Gayle Mullinax: Texas Gardener Magazine

Remember to turn your Texas Gardener magazine subscriptions in to Gayle Mullinax. I will be available at the Extension Office during the monthly WCMGA meeting. If you have problems or questions, please contact me.

Thanks!



<http://www.texasgardener.com>

# Pamela Jean McGee Riley



Pam Riley was a certified Texas Master Gardener of Wood County, Texas and was a very active member from January 2007 until her death on July 15, 2018.

During her years of service, she provided over 1,000 hours of volunteer service each year. She always exceeded the required hours of education and volunteer service yearly. Pam was the trainee coordinator for the 2008 Master Gardener Trainee Class and served on many committees. She had Specialist training in the Earth-Kind® method and in Rainwater Harvesting.

Right out of class, Pam's passion became creating an Arboretum in Quitman on 21 deserted acres that had belonged to the state but had been deeded to the city of Quitman. She was able to acquire a 99 year lease and later acquired, with a lease, the historical Stinson house sitting on the same property. Pam created the Friends of the Arboretum in order to fund, restore and create the Arboretum.

In recognition of her service, Pam was voted by membership as "Wood County Master Gardener of the Year for 2008". She also received 1st Place in State, in medium size association, "Individual Master Gardener Award from Texas Master Gardeners in 2008".

Pam was an exemplary Master Gardener giving selflessly of her time and sharing her knowledge.

## Garden Sanctuary

You who walk,  
Maybe with troubled thoughts,  
Come, enter here and rest;  
And may the sweet serenity of growing things,  
And the heavenly peace  
Be mirrored in the soul.

*-Doxis M. Palmer*

## Sylvia Johnson: What is a Texas Master Gardener? Part II



<https://mastergardener.tamu.edu>

Unless you have been through the training program, recertification classes, specialty classes, observed the Associates at work or know a current Texas Master Gardener, you may not appreciate the extensive and in-depth knowledge and work ethics that are combined in our program. These are our Association's guidelines.

### Recertification of Master Gardeners

In order to retain the Texas Master Gardener title, individuals are required each year to participate in a minimum of 6 hours of recertification training and provide an additional 12 hours of volunteer service through the local Extension office. Again documentation requirements and validation of training and volunteer service hours for recertification are under the purview of the County Extension Agent or individual designated by the agent.

The title of Texas Master Gardener is valid only when the volunteer is participating in a Master Gardener program being conducted by Texas AgriLife Extension Service. When an individual ceases active participation in the Master Gardener program and/or does not meet recertification requirements, the individual's certification as a Texas Master Gardener becomes void. The County Extension Agents, serving as Master Gardener Coordinators, are charged to maintain this guideline.

### Volunteer Service Hours Defined

County Extension Agents/Master Gardener Coordinators employed by Texas AgriLife Extension Service make the final determination on what volunteer service hours are accepted to meet requirements for Master Gardener certification and recertification.

To assist in this determination, the following guidelines are provided. Volunteer service hours should be performed during activities that are:

- \* Educational in nature, as opposed to service or maintenance-type work.
- \* Supportive of Texas AgriLife Extension Service's mission, objectives, and issues.
- \* Identified as sponsored (or co-sponsored) by Texas AgriLife Extension Service
- \* Master Gardeners should wear Master Gardener name badges and/or shirts/apparel.
- \* Collaborations with other organizations are important, but Extension does not supply other organizations with volunteers to do their work.
- \* A Master Gardener's volunteer hours may be claimed for credits with the Master Gardener program or another organization, but not both.
- \* Approved in advance for volunteer hours by the County Extension Agent/Master Gardener Coordinator.

As you read our newsletter and learn of all the educational seminars and classes we hold, garden projects we plan and execute, "specialist speakers" we share with the public in educational forums, the class room instruction we provide in County ISDs, the newspaper educational articles written by our Associates and the community outreach events we hold, as well as our web-site and Facebook pages, we hope you get an understanding of how great an asset you have available to you especially here in Wood County, Texas.

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Photo by: Elizabeth Neuens

## 2018 WCMG Officers

President – Reggie Askins

Vice-President – Melodee Eishen

Secretary – Phil Young

Treasurer – Tracey Snow Murphy

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## Online with WCMGA

—**“MG Wood Works” Newsletter:** [mgnewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:mgnewsletter@hotmail.com) You are all invited to submit your thoughts, lessons, new suggestions or perceptions to this newsletter. You are permitted to count time writing articles as volunteer hours. *Unless otherwise annotated, all photos in this publication were taken by the author of the article in which they appear.*

If you have questions please contact the editor: **Sylvia Johnson**

—**Website** at <http://txmg.org/woodcounty> 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**, <https://www.facebook.com/Wood-County-Master-Gardeners-Inc-205733709448425/?fref=ts>

**Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1534107646899295/>

—**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.

—**Sunshine:** Know of a member who needs a get well, warm thought or sympathy card? Contact **Joyce Tullis**. She will insure one is sent from the Association.

—**Reporter:** To ensure an Associate gets praise/a pat on the back from the community or our Association, send a message to **Lynn Arron-Speer**. The official media contact reporter.

—**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**.

—**Contact info for Associates**, you can find all E-mail address and/or contact information on the **Membership Roster** sent to you by WCMG E-mail or on the **Member Roster** on the **Volunteer Hours Website** site above.

### Interested in becoming a Master Gardener and contributing to your county?

If so, call the Wood County AgriLife Extension office for more information.

AgriLife Extension Service 618 South Main Street Quitman,

Wood County TX 75783-0968

Phone: 903-763-2924

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