

MG WOOD WORKS





May 2019

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Online with WCMGA

Melodee Eishen

So some of you might ask, what does *Sustainable* look like to me, Melodee Eishen. To answer that I need to give you a little background. I grew up on a farm in Illinois. We had cows, chickens, baled hay, grew open pollinated corn, wheat, soybeans, a large pond, pastures, lots of woods and huge gardens.

Growing up as the middle child of five girls, we all worked hard, helped our extended family, and were very involved in our church. I grew up as a 4 -H kid, learning sewing, cooking, baking, floral design and all kinds of arts and crafts. Each year we had a gigantic garden, which supplied our day to day food during the growing season and plenty to can for the winter needs.

I grew up with grandparents who had gone through the depression and always were very careful with money. They knew how to live a good life with practically no money, doing for themselves. When you think of the values that were passed along during those times, it is no wonder I absorbed some of those same values. Back then if you wanted new clothes you made them. Thankfully they didn't have to shear the sheep, card the wool and dye it, or make

up their own pattern and sew it all by hand. However, I did grow up learning to sew on a treadle sewing machine. If I wanted a new dress growing up, my mother would say, "There's the fabric dresser, pick something out and make it."

The same sort of can-do attitude applied to everything growing up in my household. Whether we're talking about machinery, buildings, farming practices, cooking, preserving, entertaining, etc., if we thought it, we would figure out how to make it work. My parents didn't have much money, but we never wanted for anything we truly needed.

I find I bring a lot of these same values to my life now. I view this as a Sustainable life. Our ancestors couldn't just run to the store or get on line and order what they wanted. They put up food stuffs when their gardens were producing for the times when the gardens were out of season. During some of that time our ancestors foraged gathering nuts, greens and digging roots, knowing how to use these to increase their health, nutritional intake, and enjoyment.

We exist because our ancestors had knowledge and gained skills on how to sustain themselves particularly in the areas of food, water, and health. These are skills I continue to learn and practice in my own life, because it is a way to honor my ancestors, and because it gives me a sense of security. I'm not one to run to the store each day or even go shopping very much. I wish I had a few greatgrandparents around to ask some questions, but in lieu of that I've found several books and blogs that give a lot of oldtime knowledge and skills information.

It is very fortunate that my husband and I both enjoy learning and practicing some of these old skills, like fermenting food, grinding grain and making our own bread, keeping animals for pleasure and food, and gaining knowledge and practice in foraging and gardening for healthy food.

I really enjoy being a Wood County MG, wanting to know how to grow the best vegetable garden is very import to me. Growing conditions are very different in Illinois than in Texas, so taking the MG Intern class has been a tremendous help.

2019 Wood County MGs



Melodee Eishen Phil Young Wanda Mischefsky Joyce Tullis

Photo by Elizabeth Neuens

Officers - Directors

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2019 Responsibilities

2019 Spring Conference			
Emails			
Facebook			
Intern Class			
Newsletter			
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Sunshine			
Volunteer Management System			
Website			

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CHOR to return to midea

MG Conference: Plant & Grow & Eat

Melodee Eishen

The Wood County MGs Spring Conference, *Plant*Grow*Eat*, has come and gone. From all accounts that I've received it was a huge success. We had 224 registered in attendance, some didn't register, so we might have had close to 250 overall. Our largest WCMG Spring Conference ever. Yeah!

I would like to thank all of you who helped in the planning, implementation and follow-through to put on this production. I would like to mention a few whom I know put in so much effort, such as Melissa Deakins for suggesting our wonderful guest speaker, Daniel Cunningham, and then hosting he and his wife.

There's Keith Zimmerman and all his mighty crew who planted and grew all the plants. We were all nourished by our refreshment team, led by Gloria Jeane Rosewall, who did a fabulous job with cookies and drinks. It was really lovely.

Then there's Ann Reynolds and her hard-working team getting sponsors and vendors. To see the Vendors Room the day of the conference was just a bustle of activity. A job well done ladies.

We can't forget Linda Long and her team for organizing and putting together all the raffle items and door prizes. Everyone was talking about the beautiful displays.

And Linda Timmons gladly made seed balls with kids and the young at heart. Our MG speakers, Deena Taylor and Gayle Mullinax with technical assistance from husband, Keith Mullinax, all did outstanding jobs inspiring everyone to go home and garden.

A great big THANK YOU to all of our talented artists who donated for our raffle; Karen Musgraves for her beautiful painting of the Sunflower Leopold Bench, Kacey Musgraves for her wonderful donation of her music paraphernalia, and to Ann Fair-Irby for her colorful barn square.

I know I've left out many who helped and supported, prayed and worked. As you know there are many duties to be fulfilled when you put on a conference like this. Shaniqua Davis is a great leader and helped with so many little (and big) details. As did so many of you stepping up and helping out where needed, when needed.

I'm really proud of all we accomplished, and I think we learned a few things along the way.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Melodee Eishen, continued from page 1

I realize that not many people today have my outlook on life. To each their own, as they say. For me, becoming more independent and self sustaining is important for many reasons. With all of this said, I think that it gives me a sense of peace that I can look to the future, regardless of whatever happens because I have a Sustainable type of lifestyle.

Part of this "Sustainability" is passing on what we know, sharing ideas, methods, resources, seeds, plants, recipes, and vision with each other. I am so proud of the Wood County MGs because you share your knowledge and you care for others, especially when we talk about horticulture.

Keep up the good work!



Elaine Porter Spreads the Sunshine!

My name is Elaine Porter and I have taken on the Sunshine Project. The sunshine person sends cards to members who need a get well, sympathy, encouragement, thank you, or any other need for a card. If a card is needed let me know.

Ever thought why we send cards? I personally feel it is a special way to show compassion. Compassion is easily understood to be sympathy and sorrow one individual has for the misfortune and

suffering of someone else. It could be summed up as feeling another's hurt in your own heart. A card is more authentic, more personal as (you are in our thoughts & prayers), more emotional.

Nothing like an actual greeting card to make someone feel consoled, cheered, reassured or just appreciated. The greeting card represents a real connection between people that transcends the digital world.

Linda Bradley: Graduation! 2019 MGs

Our class of 2019 took center stage on April 30 at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Mineola. Of the 16 graduates, seven have completed their 50 hours of volunteer service, and the rest are well on their way. Following the tradition of the Wood County MGs, members of the class have both bonded with one another and made wonderful friendships with both classmates and other MGs.

Special thanks to Shaniqua for her leadership, for all the coordinators, and our fellow MGs who taught classes. Highlights of the class included a fantastic field trip to the <u>Alford Family Farm</u>. We are grateful for Bobbie Harris and Bev Ray for inviting us to their homes for lunch and dessert. All our graduates are a welcome asset to Wood County MGs!

Certificates were awarded by Shanique Davis and Melodee Eishen.

Photographs by Ann Reynolds. Thank You, Ann!



Nancy Boles



Sandy Hayden



Beverly Ray



Judy Tubbs



Jean Croucher



Janet Judkins



Victoria Settle



Suzanne Whitsell



Elaine Hall



Steve Judkin



Jacque Simmons



Mike Whisenant



Bobbie Harris



Debbie Latham



Angela Thompson



Mary Williams

Joyce Tullis: Future Programs

Spring has arrived, and we are looking ahead to the outdoor projects we hope to tackle before that Texas heat sets in (if it hasn't already). Planning vegetable gardens, adding a new flower bed, or gathering ideas for new landscape projects are perhaps among the items on that list.

We are fortunate to have a wealth of well-trained people in our group, and in the community, willing to help us increase our knowledge of these projects.

Please let me know if there are any topics you would like to see in a future program, or if you are interested in doing a program. There are still few openings as shown in the following schedule. Please send your program ideas/comments to: joyce.tullis@gmail.com.

Following are the future programs planned, or being considered:

May 16 Tour of East Texas Aquaponics Farm

According to their website, Aquaponics is defined as a system for farming fish and plants together in a symbiotic, regenerative cycle. Sharon and Richard have set up their organic vegetable farming operation using this process to grow nutrient dense vegetables for chefs, grocery stores, farmers markets and consumers from Dallas to Tyler. More information about time & location, carpooling info, etc., for our private tour will be sent out soon.

June TBD

July TBD

August Virtual Tour by Linda Timmons of a special

garden she visited.

September Native Plants (tentative)
October Member's Plant Swap

November Project Reviews

December Christmas Party (location TBD)

January Succulents workshop 2020 (tentatively scheduled)



Ann Reynolds: Hawkins City Park

Wood County MGs have been working hard on the project in the Hawkins city park. We converted a weed-infested flowerbed into a 10' circle sensory garden. This garden is located under the oil derrick (yes, that is correct) and adjacent to the playground. Members provided plants and Ann Irby made a sign. All of this just in time for Easter in the park!

The large flowerbed is slowly being converted into a Monarch Way Station. Right now, the roses are in bloom, as are a few tulips. Tropical milkweed, black-eye Susans, and blue mist flower have been planted. We are still in need of butterfly weed and Antelope Horn milkweed along with other butterfly nectar plants. Pinecones painted to look like Easter eggs were hung in the crape myrtle for the Easter egg hunt.

We were recently visited by the new chief of police, Manfred Gilow – not because we were doing anything wrong! He just wanted to know who was beautifying the park. The new chief is making a concerted effort to clean up the city and crack down on speeders. He was very complimentary of our work. Woo, hoo! We aim to stay on his good side.

We work every Friday morning at 9:00 am. Sometimes we go to Bizzie Lizzie's for coffee or to the Red Rooster Icehouse after. Come join us!



Photos by Ann Irby

Shoppers Brave the Elements to Attend Arboretum Sale Jacque Hilburn-Simmons

Fast-moving April storms failed to dampen the enthusiasm of some area green thumbs, who slogged through water to scoop up deals at the annual spring plant sale at the Wood County Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. The April 13 sale, organized by Friends of the Arboretum featured a bounty of blooms, hand-selected from area sources by gardening gurus with an eye for quality.



Green thumbs braved the weather Saturday to participate in the annual spring sale.

"It was one of our most successful plant sales – not just in sales, but in the support demonstrated by our volunteers, our members and the community at large," said garden manager Lin Grado. "The threat of horrible weather didn't deter the gardeners.



Garden manager Lin Grado, center with umbrella, assists shoppers as they shop in the rain



Avery Corley, 6, of Alba, buys a strawberry plant after shopping with her mom, Stephanie Corley.

They all just came early." Shoppers attending the popular event found familiar favorites and a few surprises, such as colorful Monarch caterpillars found munching on tropical milkweed.

The sale featured some fun new selections, such as a lilac for Texas and Candy Corn Spirea, offered by J Berry Nursery in Grand Saline, Grado said. Other colorful options came from Bruce Miller Nursery in Edgewood; H&H Farms, Emory; and Harris Nursery, Tyler. "Our growers really came through," Grado said. "Bruce Miller surprised us with a lot of Texas native plants as well as other tough perennials. H&H and Harris had color galore that will add a splash to local gardens."

Grado said special efforts were made to reward members, who received discounts and the opportunity to both pre-order and shop early. Special praise was extended to volunteers – 16 on Friday, 21 on Saturday – who toiled in both rain and shine to help pull off the venture.

Plant enthusiasts who showed up, despite the sprinkles, seemed pleased with the pickings. "It's a lot of fun,"

said busy mom Stephanie Corley, of Alba, who helped daughter, Avery, 6, select a strawberry plant from the herb table. "We like it."



Judy Tubbs, an intern with the Wood County MGs, relied on a convertible to haul her bounty.

The 23-acre arboretum, located at 175 Governor Hogg Parkway in Quitman, is a recent recipient of a \$400 grant to establish a Monarch butterfly garden, one of 16 sites selected to assist in conservation of the species. When completed, the unique garden is expected to feature a host of native plants and serve as a place for the creatures to feed and provide host plants for the caterpillars..



Volunteers rescue a collapsing tent after Saturdays' heavy rainfall moved into Quitman.

Shaniqua Davis: Flower Bed Checklist for April and May

- Prune spring-flowering shrubs soon after flowering.
 Keep the natural shape of the plant in mind as you prune, and avoid excessive cutting except where necessary to control size.
- Roses have high fertilizer requirements. For most soils, use a complete fertilizer for the first application just as new growth starts, then use ammonium sulfate, or other high nitrogen source, every 4 to 6 weeks, usually just as the new growth cycle starts following a flowering cycle. Continue to spray rose varieties susceptible to black spot, using an appropriate fungicidal spray such as Funginex. Use every 7 to 10 days, or as recommended. Climbing hybrid tea roses may be pruned as soon as they complete flowering.
- Removing spent flowers, trimming back excessive growth, and applying fertilizer to an established bed can do wonders towards rejuvenating and extending the life of the plants.
- As soon as azaleas have finished flowering, apply an acid type fertilizer at the rate recommended. Don't over fertilize, as azalea roots are near the surface and damage can occur. Be sure to water thoroughly after fertilizing.
- Seeds of amaranthus, celosia, cosmos, marigold, portulaca, zinnia, and other warm-season annuals can be sown directly in the beds where they are to grow.
 Keep seeded areas moist until seeds germinate. Thin out as soon as they are large enough to transplant.
 Surplus plants can be transplanted to other areas.

- It will soon be time for bagworms to attack junipers and other narrow-leafed evergreens. Light infestations may be controlled by hand picking and burning. Control measures such as Sevin dust or spray should be applied while the insects and the bags are about one-half inch in length.
- For instant color in your beds, purchase started annual plants. Select short, compact plants. Any flowers or flower buds should be pinched (a form of pruning) to give plants an opportunity to become established.
- Check new tender growth for aphids. A few can be tolerated, but large numbers should be controlled. Always follow label instructions on approved pesticides for control.
- Many flower or vegetable seeds left over after planting the garden can be saved for the next season by closing the packets with tape or paper clips and storing in a sealed glass jar in your refrigerator.
- Start weeding early in the flower garden. Early competition with small plants can delay flowering.
- Mulch is a great way to reduce weeds. It will discourage weed growth and make those that do come through easier to pull.
- Soil purchased for use in beds, low areas, and containers should be examined closely. Often, nut grass and other weeds, nematodes, and soilborne disease are brought into the yard through contaminated soil sources. You always want to be aware of where this soil came from and what could possible by growing in it.

Shaniqua Davis is the County Extension Agent for agriculture and natural resources for Wood County. Her email address is Shaniqua.davis@ag.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.



Lin Grado: Consider the Lilies of the Field In East Texas Gardens

I've written about early spring bulbs, and summer bulbs, but not about some of my favorite bulbs of late spring: lilies. Who doesn't love Easter lilies, with their pure-white, sweetly-scented blooms? As you shop in big-box stores in the spring, you'll see shelves full of bags with colorful pictures of trumpet-shaped blooms; which ones are right for east Texas?

Remember that each lily bulb contains a plant that will bloom the year it's planted, no matter what type. But some of these bulbs will come back year after year in your gardens, creating a beautiful cluster of rich-green foliage topped with dozens of blooms, while others will peter out after a year or so. The lilies that tend to be more short-lived include a class called the Oriental lily - just remember that OrienTAL is not your PAL. If you find one with colors you love, you can use it to provide a blast of color for your garden – after all, each bulb is no more expensive than a four -inch annual. I like to work once and enjoy for a long time, so I've become a little more selective.

So here are a few of the lilies you should look for in the stores:

Trumpet lilies (Lilium *longiflorum*). You can plant the pots that you used for Easter decorations and enjoy them for years. The blooms are outward-facing trumpets held on strong stems two to three feet tall. We're most familiar with the white ones, but you can find varieties with rosy-pink tones or even creamy yellow.

Asiatic lilies (Lilium *asiatica*). Asiatic lilies will also become perennials in your gardens. These non-fragrant lilies also grow about two to three feet tall, but can be found in many different colors including oranges and bi-color. Some newer varieties are bred to be even shorter for the front of your border.

LA Hybrids. If you've read my columns here, you may wonder why I included the scientific name of the lilies, above; it's not something I generally do. However, the class of lilies that I love



A mixed planting of LA Hybrid lilies



Royal Sunset, one of the most striking of garden lilies

the most are called 'LA Hybrids', which are Longiflorum-asiatica crosses. In my part-sun garden these can tower at least three to four feet, sometimes reaching almost five feet, so I generally put a tomato cage or some other support around the clump of bulbs. One of my most favorite LA hybrid is called 'Royal Sunset', where each flower truly looks like a sunset. LA hybrids bulbs are available mostly through online sources such as Brent and Becky's Bulbs, but I've found some in big box stores by Googling the lily name listed on the bags.

While I'm a lover of lilies, I will never, ever plant a bed with just lilies in it. Yes, I'd have a spectacular show of blooms from late April through May, but then not much of anything. Plant lilies in among other bulbs like canna, crinum, and ginger, and include perennials such as salvia and phlox to provide textural contrast and to ensure color in your gardens throughout the summer.

Lilies like some protection from afternoon sun, but other than that they perform well in normal garden conditions. If you pick lilies for a bouquet, be sure to cut off all leaves that would fall below the water line in the vase. While you have your clippers handy, also snip off the pollen-filled anthers inside the open blooms, or you'll have a messy stain on your furniture or tablecloth.

There are other lilies for your garden, but we'll save those for another day and another article. The varieties listed here are a good addition to your east Texas garden.

About the author: Lin is the garden manager for the Wood County Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, and is available to answer your gardening questions there each Wednesday from 9 till noon. Her email is txgardengal@gmail.com – write her a note for her list of favorite online bulb sources.

MG Wood Works May 2019

Upcoming Events

Date	Time	Event	Location	More Info
5/11/2019	9am - 4pm	Denton County Garden Tour	Denton	https://txmg.org/events/denton-county-garden- tour
5/14/2019	Multi-Day Event	Plants for Healthy Houses	Leon County Annex 3rd Floor 155 North Cass; Center- ville	https://txmg.org/events/leon-county-plants-for- healthy-houses
5/17/2019	11:30 am - 1:00 pm	Home Landscaping: Right Plant, Right Place	Tyler Public Library 201 S. College Avenue	Free & Open to Public
5/18/2019	8:30 am Sign In Class 9am - 11 am	Nature U: Insect Friends & Foes	175 Governor Hogg Parkway Quitman	www.woodcountyarbo.org/events
5/20/2019	Multi-Day Event	Earth-Kind (Advanced MG Training)	Hart-Morris Convention Center Athens	https://txmg.org/events/advanced-training-earth-kind-2
5/20/2019	Multi-Day Event	First Detector (Advanced MG Training)	A&M AgriLife Extension Georgetown	https://txmg.org/events/advanced-training-first-detector-2
5/23/2019	Multi-Day Event	Turfgrass (Advanced MG Training)	A&M AgriLife Extension Conroe	https://txmg.org/events/advanced-training- turfgrass
6/12/2019	Multi-Day Event	Tree Care (Advanced MG Training)	Hill Country Youth Events Center Kerrville	https://txmg.org/events/advanced-training-tree- care-3
6/22/2019	Sign in: 8:30 Class 9am - 11am	Creative U Customizing Terracotta Pots	175 Governor Hogg Parkway Quitman	www.woodcountyarbo.org/events
7/20/2019		Miss Ima Birthday Celebration 5K Run Stinson House Tours Garden Tours More	175 Governor Hogg Parkway Quitman	https://www.quitmanarboretum.com/events
8/13/2019	Multi-Day Event	Vegetables (Advanced MG Training)	Bexar A & M Extension San Antonio	https://txmg.org/events/advanced-training-vegetables
10/14/2019	Multi-Day Event	Greenhouse Management	Water Works Learning Center Ft. Worth	https://txmg.org/events/advanced-training-greenhouse-management Click to return to index

Upcoming Events, continued

Lunch & Learn 4th Wednesday of Each Month

Wood County Extension Office 618 S Main; Quitman

May 22nd- Worm Composting

June 26th-Growing and Caring for Moringa

July 24th-Pollinator Bed

August 28th-TBD

September 25th-TBD

October 23rd- Homemade Suet & Birdfeeders

As you read our WCMG newsletter and learn of all the educational seminars and classes we hold, garden projects we plan and execute, advanced training speakers we share with the public in educational forums, the class room instruction we provide to 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.

Online with WCMGA

MG Wood Works Newsletter:

- You are invited to submit thoughts, lessons, suggestions, or perceptions; if you are planning or know of an upcoming event of interest to MGs, please be sure to send that information to me. You are permitted to count time writing articles as volunteer hours. Articles may be edited.
- 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: B.J. McGee: MGNewsletter@hotmail.com

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**: keithzim@yahoo.com

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Wood-County-Master-Gardeners-Inc-205733709448425/?fref=ts

Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1534107646899295/

MG Advanced Training through Texas A & M AgriLife Extension

Sunshine: Know of a member who needs a get well, warm thought, or sympathy card? Contact Elaine Porter (361 319-7300; porter-pettus@gmail.com). She will ensure one is sent from the Association.

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.

Associate Roster: You can find all e-mail addresses and contact information for other Master Gardeners Available after logging into the Volunteer System.

Update your profile in the Roster! Is your phone number up to date? Have you changed your email address? Did you move? Have you uploaded a photo? Please check your listing to be sure your contact information is up to date

Become a MG!

Contact the Wood County Extension Office: Phone: 903-763-2924