

MG WOOD WORKS



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Peggy Rogers

With no end in sight to the pandemic, I continue being confused:

- Wearing mask/face coverings or not
- Opening schools or using online learning
- Knowing when to self-quarantine
- Having only ten at meetings or 25% of room capacity allowed
- Using social distancing
- Learning how to use Zoom
- Using curbside pickup for grocery shopping
- Going to the doctor, dentist, or church
- Visiting neighbors, relatives, or friends
- Attending social gatherings or dining out
- Hearing that sunlight kills the Virus
- Figuring out what to do, who to believe? Trump, Biden, CDC, WHO, Fauci, or the news?

When will it end?

In this most trying of times, the trainee/interns are continuing their journey to become certified Texas Master Gardeners. Congratulations to Kathy Goodman and Michele Musser for completing the requirements to become a certified Texas Master Gardener. There are several trainees that only lack a few hours.

CEUs online are plentiful and easy to obtain with Gardening 101 and Texas AgriLife Water University on Facebook. Check WCMGA group on Facebook for opportunities. As we spend more time than usual at home, you can research plants and write articles, show off your garden with a video, and post on WCMGA. From your researching, build a PowerPoint that you can share. Take pictures and compose a file that you can share with the trainees to obtain your volunteer hours.

Jayla Fry stated in the Directors meeting that to renew your certification of Texas Master Gardener for 2021, you must have the minimum hours of 6 CEUs and 12 volunteer hours recorded this year. You can do all of your hours right in your home. For this year, you are allowed a home garden/yard improvement project (write a short presentation of your project with pictures) and receive 3 volunteer hours. And if you enjoy getting out in the sunshine, our demonstration gardens always need TLC, and even while using masks and social distancing the camaraderie is special.

We have a new Extension Office Manager, Tracie Jackson; and the office is open—face masks are required.

Welcome to our two newest members Jessamee Mellon (Hawkins) and Terri Baker (Mineola).

Happy gardening till we meet again!

Trainee Class News

Seventeen excited trainees started the 2020 class. Attending class and eagerly absorbing all the new knowledge being taught each week. Bam! The Covid-19 pandemic hit!

Under the most adverse conditions, these trainees have struggled to earn their CEUs and volunteer hours. We have two new Credited Texas Master Gardeners, Kathy Goodman and Michele Musser. Also, three more have almost finished their CEUs and volunteer hours. What a challenge this class has had to meet, but they have met the changes with determination and a smile. They will be great WCMGA members and fantastic Texas Master Gardeners - Wood County.

2020 WCMGA

2020 Officers and Directors

Peggy Rogers, President	214 794-2853	peggyrogersc21@gmail.com
Ann Fair-Irby, Vice President	903 571-5802	ladyfaira@aol.com
Jan Whitlock, Secretary	903 878-2795	j_whitlock@hotmail.com
Jean Croucher, Treasurer	214 738-7671	jean@crouchercool.com
Gayle Mullinax, Director	806 683-8647	gcmullinax@att.net
Peggy Rogers, Director	214 794-2853	peggyrogersc21@gmail.com
Keith Mullinax, Alt Director	903-613-0331	k_mullinax@att.net
Phil Young, Alt Director	903 456.0050	philyoung@peoplescom.net



Jean Croucher Jan Whitlock Ann Fair-Irby Peggy Rogers

Wood County Extension Agent

Position Open

Project Chairs

Extension Office Landscaping	Debbie Latham	817 925-3055	latham55@msn.com
Mineola Nature Preserve	Linda Timmons	903 569-3443	lindtmmns@aol.com
Hawkins City Park & Library	Ann Reynolds	903 769-2398	ann@etex.net
Phenology-Nature Watch	Melodee Eishen	903 571-2322	meishen@airmail.com

2020 Responsibilities

Emails	Peggy Rogers	214 794-2853	peggyrogersc21@gmail.com
Facebook	Robin Sanchez	717 645-8778	ranchez@hotmail.com
Intern Class	Linda Bradley	817 909-6919	lk_bradley58@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Bobbie McGee	402 926-8215	MGNewsletter@hotmail.com
Sunshine	Elaine Porter	361 319-7300	porterpettus@gmail.com
Volunteer Management System	Peggy Rogers	214 794-2853	peggyrogersc21@gmail.com
Website	Keith Zimmerman	979-299-8047	keithzim@yahoo.com

WCMGA Meeting

Third Thursday of Each Month

(Meetings are currently suspended because of the Covid Virus issue. Please watch your email/messages for updates.)

8:30—9 AM Visitation and Sign-in

9 AM Meeting

618 S. Main Street

Quitman, TX 75783-0968

903-763-2924

Melissa Deakins: What is a Learning Board?

The Wood County Master Gardener volunteers at the Mineola Nature Preserve have created a learning board for young children. This is just one more opportunity to demonstrate the importance of leaving some wild areas and letting nature take its course.

The board is located in the shelter area of the Wild Scape Gardens that our MG volunteers tend each Tuesday. The Learning Board is designed to be interactive with a turning tree trunk wheel that displays a “Living Circle” that explains the cycle of seed to plant returning to seed. There are ten laminated pages that offer suggestions for activities young children might participate in, such as *Do plants have feelings?*, earthworms and composting, bees and other heroes of the bug world, trouble bugs, and creating your own wild scape. A reference chart with pictures of butterflies that might be seen in the garden is also on the board.

We knew the learning board was being noticed when children created their own activity by adding their names on the paper images of trees, suns, flowers, bees, and worms that were on the board.



The learning board at the Mineola Nature Preserve encourages interaction by young children.

Melodee Eischen: 2021 Officer Nominations

It's that time of year again, time to think about officers for Texas Master Gardeners of Wood County.

On Tuesday, August 11 the Executive Committee named the Nominating Committee which are; Melodee Eischen, Barb Williams and Keith Zimmerman. Current officers Peggy Rogers, President, Jan Whitlock, Secretary, and Jean Croucher, Treasurer have agreed to serve another year.

That leaves us with filling the position of Vice-President for 2021. The VP is in charge of programming for our meetings, among other duties. As you know, things have definitely been 'different' these last few months. Who knows when we will resume 'normal' meetings. You can refer to our by-laws, or talk to current or past officers to understand what's involved in this position.

The Nominating Committee is looking for someone to fill this position.

To hold an office, you must be a member in good standing and have a current, signed volunteer form and a current, signed background form. If you are interested in serving in this capacity or would like to nominate someone for the position, please contact anyone on the Nominating Committee no later than September 30, 2020. Before nominating someone, please check with them before submitting their name. We appreciate your input.

I really appreciate how Wood County Master Gardeners pull together and support each other. If you volunteer (or are drafted) for this position, you won't be alone. We're all here to support and help each other.

Welcome Tracie Jackson!

Tracie Jackson joined the Texas AgriLife Extension Service on July 8, 2020 as the office manager. Tracie is a graduate of Southern Arkansas University where she received her bachelor's degree in Education. She taught at Forest Grove Elementary School in Garvin, Oklahoma from 1987-1992, and completed her master's degree at Southeastern Oklahoma State University during that time.

She and her husband, Jerry, moved to Sulphur Springs in 1992 when Jerry started working for the Hopkins County Extension Service as an Assistant Agent in Agriculture. Tracie taught at Como-Pickton schools until 1995 when she started teaching at Quitman ISD. She also served as the Wood County 4-H Agent from 2007-2010.

Tracie and Jerry have three children. Jake is finishing the first part of seminary school at West Institute and lives in Lubbock; Jhett recently graduated from Tarleton State University and lives in Decatur; and Jentri will be a freshman at Texas Tech University in the fall.

Tracie is excited about being back at the Extension Office and is looking forward to helping out with whatever is needed.



Carolyn West: My Covid Spring Garden

Vegetable and flower gardening have been a favorite pastime for a large part of my adult life. However, a career stood in the way of any wide-scale expanses of either kind of gardening. As a retiree able to join a Master Gardener Trainee class, I realized that there was so much to be learned and practiced. Therefore, when Covid quarantining began, I felt a real urge to use what I had learned and began a project like none I had ever done.

Using my charts for planting times, advice on what varieties grow in Texas, soil sample results, mulching, and fertilizing instructions and so many other newfound skills, we tilled, plowed, and planted about 75% of an acre. My husband and I used both seeds and purchased plants and filled the garden with a lot of favorites: butter beans, pinkeye purple hulls, brown and black crowdies, corn, cucumbers, okra, blackberries, melons, squash, zucchini, peppers and tomatoes.

As each plant began to grow, I did as one of our instructors said, "go to your garden every day and observe." So, watching the garden and waiting for the first productive fruit of our labor was a daily event for me. There is no way to measure the amount of weeds I relentlessly pulled to keep the garden pristine.

Insects were not as much of an issue as we have had in the past. Water availability was also not a problem. Spring gave us many showers and then we installed a misting system supplied by a small pond on the land where we gardened.

Corn, okra, squash, cucumbers, and peas have been prolific and enough to fill our freezers. The tomatoes and peppers have been less productive but certainly plentiful enough to meet our needs and those of our neighbors and friends.

The melons, well that is another story. Ken and I are originally from watermelon country in Mississippi. So why can



Covid quarantining inspired a large gardening project with positive results.

we not pick a ripe melon? I am too ashamed to say how many we picked that were not ripe. I watched the tendril and spoon, as I learned on one of the online classes, but still could not get it right. I counted days from planting and that was not helpful either. We let one sit in the garden because we both wanted to be sure it was ripe. When we did decide to pick it, we cut into it and POP, it exploded. Hmmm, a bit overripe!!

The overall experience has been super. A lot of time and hard work ended with the fun of processing the bounty. I credit most of the success to the decision I made to become a Master Gardener Trainee. The newfound techniques and helpful literature have been amazing.

Peggy Rogers: August 3, 2020 Directors Meeting Report

Peggy Rogers, Gayle Mullinax, Directors; Keith Mullinex, Alternate Director

1. No state conference is planned for Spring 2021.
2. Jayla Fry: 2020 CEUs and state required volunteer hours of 6 and 12 are the minimum for recertification of Texas Master Gardener. [Virtual training](#) is online with Gardening 101 and modules by Water University.
3. The Awards Ceremony was held via Zoom on August 20. Congratulations to!
 - WCMGA: 1st place, Education *Plant, Grow, Eat* program
 - Melodee Eishen: 2nd place Outstanding Individual Master Gardener
 - WCMGA: 3rd place, AgriLife Extension Office Demonstration Garden
 - MG Wood Works Newsletter: 3rd place, Written Education
4. The nominating committee announced that current officers are nominated for 2021 except for Treasurer, who has served two terms. David McDonald from Lubbock was nominated as Treasurer. No nominations from the floor. Nominations closed.
5. Nicky Maddams reported that changes to the website are continuing.
6. *Return to Service* guidelines are in the TMGA newsletter and on the website.
7. The Saturday, December 5, 2020 Directors Meeting will also be a Zoom meeting.

Kathy Goodman: Hawkins City Park and Library

I confess that in the beginning of my Wood County Master Gardener trainee experience, I was not excited thinking about working at the Hawkins garden projects. I imagined that I would just be pulling weeds, which is not my favorite task, and I have plenty of weeds to pull at home.

What I didn't realize is that I would find two small garden oases off the beaten path on the side streets of Hawkins. While I do spend a little time pulling weeds and dead-heading plants when I volunteer a couple of hours on Friday mornings, I find that I get rewarded in many tangible ways.



*Long-Tailed Skipper
(Urbanus proteus)*
Photo by Ann Reynolds

ing.

Another tangible reward, I am learning about flowers that I do not have in my gardens, and I'm starting to recognize and remember the names of flowers. A big bonus, I usually come home with a flower to transplant or seeds from a plant that I have been admiring. I am also learning that some types of



*Obscure Bird Grasshopper
(Schistocerca obscura)*
Photo by Ann Reynolds

flowers will quickly fill up a small flower bed. For one, I get to spend time outside with some genuinely nice people. If you miss seeing and talking to people, it is easy to social distance while working in the flower beds. It's also good to get a dose of sunshine. During this hot time of the year, we are starting at 8 a.m. and can accomplish much in a couple of hours, especially if there are two or three volunteers. I would love to have you join us. Contact Ann Reynolds if you want to learn more about volunteer-

I find it interesting to see butterflies, skippers, caterpillars, grasshoppers, and other creeping bugs in the gardens. If you look closely at various insects, their coloring and marks are fascinating. Mainly though, I like to look at them and not have them on me. I like to photograph insects up close so I can see their markings in detail.

God's handiwork is amazing in so many ways, whether through flowers or insects. It's such a blessing to be among the flowers, to touch them, smell their various scents, enjoy their color, and see their intricate patterns.

There is great satisfaction in being in the company of other volunteers who enjoy flowers and insects as much as I do and who are so generous to share their knowledge. Having two or three volunteers on a Friday makes quick work of cleaning up the gardens. In addition, getting to know other gardeners makes the work go quicker. In these days when we're so restricted, it is good to interact with people while maintaining a safe distance.



Painted Lady (Vanessa cardui)
Photo by Ann Reynolds

Volunteering at the Hawkins gardens is not all work, Ann Reynolds, the project leader asks for input and ideas from the volunteers. So, I can start imagining how the garden might look in the next season.

If you're in Hawkins, drive a block either way on Blackburn Street off North Beulah Street just north of East US Highway 80 and you will find some lovingly cared for gardens.

One garden enhances the entrance to the Allen Memorial Public Library. Two other gardens add cheer and color to the Hawkins City Park. At the park, one flower bed is in front of a large metal pavilion, which had been the scene of many fun activities before the current Covid 19 outbreak.

The Sensory Garden encourages touching, smelling, hearing, and seeing; and includes both host and nectar plants to attract butterflies.

Overall, the park is well kept and has a nice walking path and playground.

Check it out.



Ann Reynolds deadheading plants in the Sensory Garden
Photo by Kathy Goodman

Linda Timmons: 2019 Directors Awards for Wood County Master Gardeners

Congratulations to our Wood County Master Gardeners Association. WCMG competes with other counties for awards in the medium large size category.

Because of social distancing requirements, the state association announced the awards for 2019 during a Zoom meeting on August 19. Wood County Master Gardeners garnered their share of recognition with four awards.

Plant, Grow, Eat Spring Conference Awarded First Place

The top award in the Educational project category was awarded to our Plant, Grow, Eat Spring conference.



Guest speaker Daniel Cunningham presenting at the Plant, Grow, Eat Spring conference. Photo by David Eishen

Forty WCMGs and interns contributed 391.5 volunteer hours in planning and producing this community educational program. Six sponsors and 12 vendors assisted in funding the conference. Hats off to each of you.

Melodee Eishen Recognized as Outstanding Individual Master Gardener

Melodee Eishen was recognized as Outstanding Individual Master Gardener for her many contributions to our association and to the Texas Master Gardeners with a second place award. Melodee was our 2019 association president. She has served as an officer every year since she completed her internship in 2016.

Always ready to share her experiences and lend a helping hand, Melodee led our association to a successful year of hosting a spectacular spring conference, participating in ongoing educational projects, initiating a garden project at the Extension office, offering “Lunch and Learn” sessions, and spearheading a phenology study. She works wonder-



Melodee Eishen recognized for her many contributions. Photo by David Eishen

fully with focus, direction, and a gentle spirit to achieve success for WCMGA. The judges commended Melodee’s dedication and motivation.

Extension Office Demonstration Project Takes Third Place

A third-place award was given for the AgriLife Extension office demonstration garden.



Wood County Extension Office Demonstration Garden

Several 2019 interns were instrumental in designing and installing this garden. The group designed the beds with assistance from WCMGs with advanced landscape training. With a raised trough garden in the design, a WCMG used the bed prep as a training class on preparing soil for a raised bed using lasagna gardening techniques. Planting in areas along a brick building and beside a parking lot required careful selection of appropriate plants. The group obviously put their training to good use.

MG Woodworks Newsletter Awarded Third Place Award

Our MG Woodworks newsletter was recognized again this year with a third-place award in the Written Education category.



The main audience for MG Wood Works is WCMGA members. It is also available to the general public, our secondary audience, on our website, and the TMGA website; we email each issue to 200+ subscribers in three states. We distribute to attendees of our gardening education programs and conferences and at local AgriLife events and farmer’s markets.

The judges commented on the large number of Master Gardeners who participated over the year. This was editor Bobbie McGee’s first year with the newsletter. Congratulations to Bobbie and to all Master Gardener contributors.

2020 is a Challenge—Keep Up the Great Work

With the current circumstances, 2020 is a true challenge to each of us and to our association.

We have what it takes to continue our award-winning contributions to our community through the Master Gardener program.

Keep up the great work and many thanks to each of you for everything you do!

Kathy Goodman: 2020 Trainee Experience

When I found out how the Master Gardener trainees were to complete their volunteer hours; I was wary. It seemed a big task and not what I had expected. I had heard from other Master Gardeners that previous classes had worked together on a project that they designed and created. One project seemed to be a good way of building camaraderie amongst the trainee class members. I was picturing pulling weeds, and I get a lot of that task at home.

Well, not to be deterred, I and some of my fellow trainees set out to get as many hours as possible before it turned too hot. I have learned that the Texas heat turns me into a red-faced, sweat-dripping, shaky mess. So, I try to limit that sensation.

I was enjoying each class and learning experience. Then, Covid-19 hit. Not only did it mess up the fun outings that Victoria Settle had planned for us, the social distancing stifled meeting as groups for any education or volunteer activities.

After the Covid-19 mess started, Peggy Rogers came up with many ways for the trainees to complete their education requirements online and to get volunteer hours. In addition, she extended the deadline to get those hours. With all the AgriLife online classes and the presentations from Deena Taylor and Ellen Atkins, it was easy to complete my education hours.

Since my background is in writing and editing, I earned some volunteer hours by helping with the MG Wood Works newsletter. In the beginning, I had trouble thinking about what I could write about to an audience of gardeners who know so much more than I do. That lack of ideas was taken care of by a sudden onslaught of slugs eating my Angel Trumpet leaves. I thought that since I had to research solutions and test treatments, I could write an article about the various treatments and how effective they were. That all counted as a few more volunteer hours.

Even though I had a lot of hours, I still did not have my required volunteer hours in the specified areas. So, I rededicated my efforts to complete the hours in Hawkins and the Mineola Wildscape project. I was not sure how to get the hours at the Extension office in Quitman, but I thought someone would let us know when they needed help.

When I had 67 hours, Peggy let me know that it was decided that the trainees would not be held to volunteering a certain number of hours in each designated location. So, she said that I had completed my volunteer hour requirements and I was now a certified Master Gardener. I know that some other trainees are close to their 50 hours, so see Peggy's article for ways to complete your volunteer hours.

I found that I enjoyed volunteering more than I thought I would. There are many side benefits including enjoying the company of other trainees and Master Gardeners. (Social distancing is easy outside.) One side benefit was that it helped me better identify flowers and weeds. Another perk

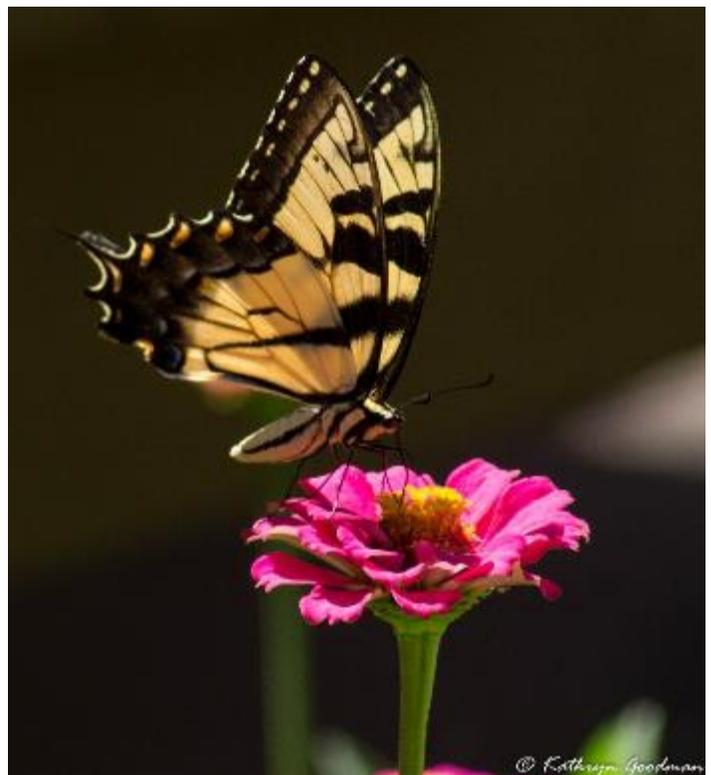
was getting starts and free flower seeds. Yay! One day I took home a lot of Zinnias that we had thinned out at the Hawkins City Park. I transplanted them to my front flower bed. They are doing wonderfully and are growing like crazy. However, I had to put out some Irish Spring bars to discourage the deer from eating the flowers and it seems to be working. *Funny thing though—some of the Irish Spring bars have several bite marks. I would not be surprised if the deer develop a taste for Irish Spring now. Those darn deer.*

Another benefit of volunteering was getting to know other gardeners and learning from them. I have missed spending time with some of the other trainees. Hopefully, we will get to meet in person by the next Master Gardener class.

Having learned much helpful gardening information and putting some of it to use, I can see that this is just the beginning of a lifetime obsession.

I hope to see more Class of 2020 trainees complete their education and volunteer hours. Remember that you can count the time it takes to drive to the location you where you are volunteering.

Thank you to Peggy Rogers, Ann Reynolds, Linda Timmons, Deena Taylor, Ellen Atkins, Bobbie McGee, Melodee Eishen, and all other Master Gardeners who are helping the WCMG class of 2020 get through this difficult time!



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (Pterourus glaucus) on one of the transplanted Zinnias.

Melodee Eishen: Growing Moringa in East Texas

I have been growing *Moringa Oleifera* for five years. My husband and I first heard of it when we dug our Hugelkultur garden bed. In a YouTube video about digging and making a Hugelkultur, the person mentioned growing the "Tree of Life". We had never heard of it, so of course, we had to look it up. They were talking about the Moringa tree.

History: Moringa are native to the foothills of the Himalayan mountains in northern India, and grow throughout tropical and subtropical areas especially in the Asian countries. Moringa is called by many different names depending upon what part of the globe you are from such as, Drumstick tree, Horseradish tree, the Sacred tree, and Tree of Longevity. This tree is still new to Americans; however, if you are from the Philippines or India, your country has used this tree for food for millennia.

Planting: I plant nutritious Moringa every year for food, just like I plant my tomatoes, peppers, and green beans. I have used several different methods of growing Moringa. Usually I start late March to early April and I put my Amazon-purchased Moringa seeds in a damp paper towel in a Ziplock bag. It takes a week to ten days to sprout and another few days to get roots long enough to plant.

I plant my Moringa sprouts in small pots and put under grow lights until the first week of May. Moringa likes 70° soil for germinating and growing. So as long as the soil is warm enough I also plant seeds from the package, because sometimes Moringa do not like to be transplanted. I find the germination rate for Moringa seeds is about 85%. Like everything else in the garden, you have to keep the soil damp until it's established. Mature trees are fairly drought tolerant.

Growing: Moringa likes to be crowded and grows best in hot weather and full sun. I've grown Moringa individually in half barrels and crowded them in the ground. This year I've started a new Moringa bed between the house and driveway and planted many Moringa quite close. The trees in this new bed are of various heights since I had plantings several



*An American Bumble Bee (*Bombus pennsylvanicus*) visits the ivory blooms of the Moringa tree.*

weeks apart, most are between 6-10 feet tall reaching between 18-20 feet by fall. This tree is one of the fastest growing trees known, very high in Zeatin. In our area the growing season is only about six months and in that time it grows almost 20 feet. If we have a very mild winter Moringa will come back from the roots; this has happened three of the last five years. I don't mind planting it each year as an annual because it gives so much back. Hummingbirds and bees love it. You can also plant vegetables under it that will take dappled sun.

You don't need to fertilize Moringa, and it is very resistant to pests and diseases. The Moringa tree has beautiful double compound leaves and lovely ivory blooms that develop into long green bean type pods, which as they mature become three sided and filled with 15-20 triangle winged seeds.

Uses: The leaves, blooms, beans, seeds and roots are all edible, delicious and highly nutritious. I use Moringa almost daily, putting it into omelets, quiche, soups, salads, casseroles, stroganoff, meatloaf, etc. I use it fresh like spinach, during the summer.

Preserving: When the weatherman says we're going to have our first frost, we cut all the Moringa trees about a foot off the ground, and hang them upside down, or I strip the leaves off (very easy to do) and dry them on a tablecloth. Usually drying Moringa takes just one day and the leaves dry a bright green, retaining an abundance of nutrients. I pack the leaves in canning jars or powder the leaves in my blender, and then I vacuum pack them for long term storage and winter use. We put the tree trunks and leaf stems back on the Moringa beds to break down and use as mulch/fertilizer.

I encourage you to do some research on the Moringa tree and look at its many benefits, such as improving the nutrition of mothers and babies in third world countries, helping farmers improve milk production, using the oil from the seeds for Swiss clocks, and cooking with this oil (it has an extremely long shelf life). Medical research studies have been done in many areas of health and it's used in third world countries to purify water. You will find, *Moringa oleifera* has many uses.



Moringa likes to be crowded and grows best in hot weather and full sun. This is a new Moringa bed near the house.



As you read our WCMGA newsletter you learn about:

- Educational seminars and classes
- Garden projects
- Advanced training speakers at educational forums
- Classroom instruction for County ISDs
- Newspaper educational articles written Master Gardeners
- Community outreach events
- Resources such as our website and Facebook pages

Please send newsletter articles, suggestions, and interesting information to B.J. McGee at mgnnewsletter@hotmail.com or bmcgee@froco.com. Remember, the time you spend writing articles qualifies as volunteer hours. Before you submit your article, please check the spelling, especially for proper names, botanical names, etc.. It's appreciated if you can include the botanical names for all plants you mention. Articles may be edited.

Online with WCMGA

MG Wood Works Newsletter

Unless otherwise noted, all photos in this publication were taken by the author of the article in which they appear.

Website

<http://txmg.org/woodcounty> up-to-the-minute news and scheduled events, back issues of the newsletter and seasonal videos.

Send new content for the website 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/>

Educational Opportunities / Advanced Training

Visit the **Texas Master Gardener** website (<https://mastergardener.tamu.edu/>) for information about advanced training topics and opportunities. The *Master Gardener Online Training* programs offer modules about various subjects, such as Landscape Water Conservation, Low-Volume Irrigation, Safe Use and Handling of Pesticides, Safe Use and Handling of Fertilizers, Reducing Landscape Waste - Composting, Designing an Earth-Kind Landscape, Creating Native Habitat, Earth-Kind Roses, Integrated Pest Management, and Rainwater Harvesting.

Texas A&M AgriLife (<https://agriflifetoday.tamu.edu>)

Sunshine

Know of a member who needs a get well, warm thought, or sympathy card? Contact Elaine Porter at 361-319-7300 or porterpettus@gmail.com.

Volunteer Hours

<http://texas.volunteersystem.org> Click the link and the sign in page for the Volunteer System opens. Before logging in, right-click on the page and save it to favorites, bookmark it, or create a shortcut to your desktop. Please enter your hours. If you need help contact Peggy Rogers.

Associate Roster

You can find all email addresses and contact information for other Master Gardeners in the Volunteer System.

Please update your profile in the Roster! Check your listing to be sure your contact information is up-to-date. Have you uploaded your photo?