

MG WOOD WORKS

Peggy Rogers: President's Message

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July/August 2021

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We are now on the downhill side of 2021!

Time to reflect on what we have accomplished and what we still need to do. 2021, the year of the snowmeggedon. Look at what we have learned about different plant survival. I still have some ugly in my gardens and I'm ready to stop waiting and to start trimming.

Goodbye to prolonged cool weather and extra rain that wreaked havoc in our gardens with more fungi, mildew, rot, and bugs! Hello summer, hot, humid, and watering!

Even though it is hot, our demonstration gardens still have to have to be tended, so please consider helping.

It is so good to have monthly meetings once again. Hopefully, we can soon say goodbye to Covid-19, but will it really ever go away? It has forever left its mark on us!

Seems like we are inundated with health problems of our close relatives, spouses, and our members. Condolences to those that have lost a loved one! Know you are loved and missed and I look forward to seeing you soon.

See you in the gardens!



Peggy has many creative arrangement of plants in her gardens.

WCMGA Scheduled Speakers for 2021

Meeting	Speaker
July 15	Sandy Tibbs: Succulents and Birds
Aug. 19	Michael Alford of Alford Family Farms: Overview of Spring 2022
Sept. 16	Asher Blair of Harvest Gardens (Wilhite): Edible Gardening
Oct. 21	WCMGA: Annual Plant Exchange
Nov. 18	WCMGA: Annual Business Meeting and Program Review
Dec. 16	WCMG Awards, Christmas Luncheon, and Intern Graduation

Upcoming Events

TX MG Wood County Free Educational Series

July 24, 2021, Saturday

Transitioning from Summer to Fall Gardening and Container Gardening

First United Methodist Church, Quitman

WCMGA Meetings

Third Thursday of Each Month

8:30 - 9 AM Visiting and Sign-in
9 AM Meeting

First Assembly of God Church
909 E Goode St., Quitman, Texas

2021 Officers and Directors



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Emily Husmann

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Hawkins City Park & Library	Ann Reynolds	903.769.2398.....	ann@etex.net
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2021 Responsibilities

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Website	Keith Zimmerman	979.299.8047	keithzim@yahoo.com

Ann Reynolds: Better Butterfly Gardening



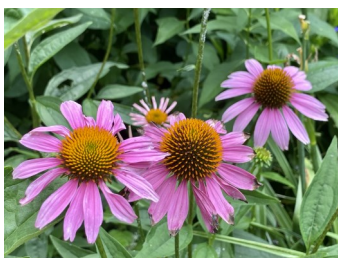
Gulf fritillary butterfly on purple phlox (*Phlox paniculata*).

The interesting thing about gardening is that, although we grow beautiful blooming plants or luscious vegetables and fruits, we also create a habitat for some of Mother Nature's wonderful creatures. We may not specifically set out to create such a habitat, but we do so by merely planting food sources, creating shelter, and a place for raising young

or laying eggs for creatures. And, by doing so, we sometimes make a difference in the health of our planet and its ecosystem.

One of Mother Nature's most beautiful garden visitors is the butterfly. As a gardener, we sometimes get lucky by planting a plant that draws a butterfly. But what if you could put specific plants into the garden that would draw specific butterflies? It can be done! Here are some suggestions for success:

- Get a good butterfly identification book for our area. *Stokes Butterfly Book: The Complete Guide to Butterfly Gardening, Identification, and Behavior*, *Peterson Guide to Butterflies and Moths*, and *70 Common Butterflies of the Southwest* are good resources. A good website is: <https://texasinsects.tamu.edu/lepidoptera/>
- Feed the butterflies. Add nectar-rich annuals such as zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*), lantana (*Lantana urticoides*), bee balm (*Monarda*) and butterfly bush (*Buddleia*) which bloom spring through fall.
- Plant in drifts. Butterflies floating overhead can easily spot large groups of flowers. And, they won't have to fly 20 feet away to feed on the next flower.
- Select singles. Include perennials and annuals that have large, single daisy-type flowers such as purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) or black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*).
- Go native. Add some plants that are native to Texas. Native plants support thousands of species of pollinators such as native bees, butterflies, moths, flies, wasps, and flower-visiting beetles.
- Grow host plants. For example, the spicebush swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*) caterpillar eats spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) and sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) and the butterfly feeds

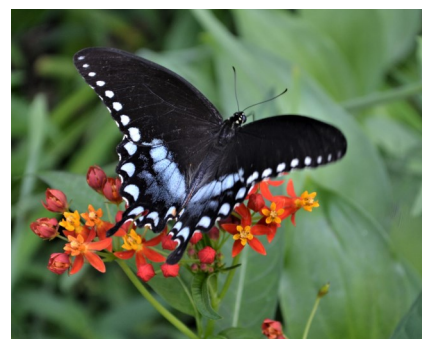


Purple coneflower

on many plants including zinnia, milkweed, lantana, and Queen Anne's lace. The Gulf fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) caterpillar prefers purple passion flowers (*Passiflora incarnata*) and nectar plants such as milkweed and zinnia.

- Be lazy. Hold off on the fall cleanup of your garden. Some butterfly chrysalises overwinter in the garden among the foliage.
- Give them a drink. Some species visit mud puddles and damp soil where they take in salts and nutrients not found in nectar. Place a shallow dish of wet sand where butterflies can sip water. You can also place overripe fruit on the puddler or add a pinch of salt to the water to attract the butterflies.
- Skip the pesticides. Many products are indiscriminate and will kill all kinds of caterpillars, whether they are destructive or not.

Get involved and learn. Join the North American Butterfly Association, www.naba.org. The closest butterfly organization to Wood County is the Dallas Lepidopterist Society. www.dallasbutterflies.com.



Spicebush swallowtail on milkweed.



Queen Anne's lace.



Purple passion flower



Sassafras tree.

Jacque Simmons: Salvia Beats the Heat and Showcases Summer Color

It may have been a soggy spring, but a familiar summer favorite is ready to shine in the hot Texas heat: salvia.

These hearty perennial sun-lovers, also described as sage, are solid choices among many gardeners for color and tenacity. Salvia comes in a kaleidoscope of colors and habits, providing options for both cool and warm color themed gardens.

This article describes a sampling of some varieties that pop up in Texas nurseries and garden centers.

Texas Superstar Henry Duelberg Salvia

Texas Superstar Henry Duelberg salvia, known by its botanical name as *Salvia farinacea* Henry Duelberg, is described on the Texas Superstar website as being a low maintenance, heat tolerant specimen that features showy blue flowers.

It is "more floriferous than other cultivars and is a Texas native plant, found by Greg Grant in a small central Texas cemetery," according to the website.

This old school specimen is said to feature darker flowers and foliage than modern cultivars.

It is not a favorite among deer and it can grow to a striking 3 feet tall and wide.

Texas Superstar Mystic Spires Blue Salvia

Another Texas Superstar option, Mystic Spires Blue salvia, creates an eye-catching display of sturdy blue-purple stalks, standing between 24 to 30 inches tall.

It is easy to grow and tends to be a pollinator magnet.

This beauty can grow in sun or part sun and can bloom from May through October, depending on weather conditions. It is described as deer resistant.



White Flame salvia features cool white blooms making it an attractive choice as an accent and a friend to pollinators. It stands up to the Texas heat and blooms through summer.

White Flame Salvia

Yet another variety, White Flame salvia (*Salvia longispicata* x *Farinacea*), is just what the name indicates. Cool white blooms make it an attractive choice as an accent and a friend to pollinators.

White Flame is heat and drought tolerant and a reliable bloomer from spring through summer, with spikes of blooms spanning 18 to 24 inches tall.

It is also listed as deer resistant, although as many people can attest, animals sometimes eat what is available.

Salvia Guarantica Black and Blue

Another striking option, the *Salvia guarantica* Black and Blue features dual-colored vegetation that adds an interesting component to the landscaping.

Much like its White Flame counterpart, Black and Blue salvia provides a lightly fragrant punch of color that provides food for both bees and hummingbirds, as well as a conversation starter for visiting green thumbs.

It grows about 30 inches tall and blooms from spring through summer.

Salvia Leucantha (Mexican Bush Sage)

Yet another variety, Mexican Bush sage, or simply *Salvia leucantha*, is beloved by gardeners for its showy flowers in purple and white. Bees love to visit this majestic bloomer, which grows from 4-6 feet tall.

Salvia leucantha typically blooms from July through October, making it a cool color choice for hot Texas days.



Black and Blue salvia features dual-colored vegetation and a light fragrance that provides food for both bees and hummingbirds. (Both pictured salvias, were featured during the spring plant sale at the Wood County Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.)

No matter which specimen makes it into your shopping cart, with proper care these Texas tough plants are sure to play an enjoyable role in Lone Star landscapes.

Betty Stark: Garden Tips

Here are a few gardening tips to try in your garden. Some of these tips are interesting, practical, and useful for gardeners. Some tips seem silly and conjured up by mad scientists, but I challenge you to try some of them while gardening. At times I think my garden is just one big science experiment, but I wouldn't trade it for anything. Good luck with your garden!

Transplanting Seedlings

Professional gardeners use this secret to ensure growing success. Never transplant a seedling until it has at least four leaves. The second set of leaves, called the "true leaves," are needed to help the plant withstand the shock of being transplanted.

Improving Peppers

Another secret professional pepper growers have known for years: peppers love slightly acidic soils, so bury a book of matches under each plant when you set them out. The sulfur in the matches increases the acidity, which will boost the pepper plants. Also, to get the hottest peppers in town you need a flood. Flooding pepper plants with water shortly before harvest stresses the plant roots, which then sends out a signal to "turn up the heat!" Your peppers will definitely be hotter!

Helping Roses

Place one or two garlic cloves among your roses to keep aphids and other pests away. On the subject of roses, you can energize your tired old roses by feeding them rotten bananas. Just work the banana, including the skin, into the soil around the base of the bushes. The potassium in the fruit and skin gives your roses a power-packed boost.

Making Bulbs Bloom Earlier

If you want your bulbs to bloom a bit earlier than intended, plant your spring flowering bulbs in a warm sunny spot, such as against a wall. The result will be beautiful blooms a week or two earlier than usual.

Making Pest Spray

Keep a mixture of 1/2 cup of rubbing alcohol and 1 quart of water on hand in a spray bottle. It's a quick and easy way to get rid of all sorts of pests like mealybugs, spider mites, aphids, whiteflies, and gnats. Lightly mist spray any infected plants.

Making Deer Buster Tonic

Here is another "Deer Buster" tonic. Put all these ingredients in a blender and puree:

- 2 eggs
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 2 Tbsp of Tabasco
- 2 Tbsp of cayenne pepper
- 2 cups of water

Allow the mixture to sit for two days, then pour or spray it all over and around the plants you want to protect.

Adding Wood Ashes on the Garden

Spread wood ashes around your vegetable garden, where they will do double duty. First, they lighten the soil and second, they

make a good slug and snail roadblock. Slugs cannot glide over the ashes without injuring their skin, so they don't dare cross over the ashes.

Watering Annuals

Annuals have shallower root systems than bulbs and perennials, so mulch and water them lightly, but do so more often than with bulbs and perennials.

Giving Gophers Chewing Gum

If you see evidence of gophers or moles digging up your lawn or garden, gum is your answer. Split sticks of Juicy Fruit gum (this is the only brand that works) lengthwise and put it in the gopher or mole runs. The critters eat the gum but cannot digest it. They will die within a few weeks.

Watering House Plants

Stop using "fluoridated" tap water to water your plants. Fluoride causes the tips of house plants to turn yellow, while other chemicals in your drinking water make the potting soil crust over, which slows plant growth. So only use filtered water for all your plants.

Creating a Container Plant Tonic

Container plant tonic recipe:

- 2 Tbsp of whiskey
- 1 Tbsp all-purpose 15-30-15 fertilizer
- 1/4 Tsp unflavored gelatin
- 1/2 Tsp liquid dish soap
- 1/4 Tsp instant tea mix

Put all the ingredients in a clean one-gallon milk jug, fill it with water, and mix. Then label it "Container Plant Tonic." Add a half cup of this fortified concoction to every gallon of water you use to water your outdoor container plants.

Adding Fishy Water to Plants

When you change the water in your fish bowl or aquarium, save the old water and feed it to your potted plants. The fish have already added the best natural fertilizer money can buy.

Giving Plants a Boozy Treat

Add a can of beer, shot of bourbon, scotch, vodka, or gin to a gallon of room temperature water. Add one ounce of liquid dish soap. Let it sit for a half a day or so. Then add your favorite plant food and water your potted plants with this boozy treat. The yeast in the alcohol seems to regenerate the old soil.

Sending Weeds to a Salty Grave

Pour salt on weeds growing between stones, in driveways, and through cracks in patios and walkways. Just be sure to do this on a dry day, when there is no rain in the forecast, or the salt will wash away. In a day or two, the weeds will curl up and die from dehydration and you can easily pull them out.

Using Peanut Shells to Control Weeds

Control weeds with a bag of peanuts. Just sprinkle a 4-inch layer of peanut shells as mulch around newly planted trees, shrubs, and evergreens, and you won't have to worry about weeds.

Kathy Goodman: Mineola Garden Tour of 2021

The Fannie Marchman Garden Club's First Annual Garden Tour in Mineola was a success despite the recent rains making some muddy places. After missing all the garden tours that were planned for 2020, it was wonderful to visit a variety of gardens. Ann Reynolds kindly invited me to join her on the tour and it was more enjoyable having the company of a someone who loves gardening so much.



At the start of the Garden Tour Mary Williams, Suzanne Whitsell, Ann Fair-Irby, and Kathy Goodman posed for a group photo.

The first stop was the Chicken Coop Homestead of Ladd and Angela Thompson on N Pacific in Mineola. It is quite an oasis in the city. Five and a half country acres contain horses, chickens, a garden, and a greenhouse. I liked Angela's creative garden.



This is the cutest greenhouse at the Chicken Coop Homestead.

She used large cow-feed buckets for growing tomatoes and other vegetables. Her vegetables were producing well. I need to get some of those buckets for next year.



The garden at the Chicken Coop Homestead uses various containers for vegetables. The vegetables are producing a good crop.

From there, we went to the Golden Homestead, the home of Tony and Cathy Pegues. The homestead is an interesting, restored historic 1912 building. It has an eclectic garden featuring many artistic areas created by Cathy who is an

accomplished artist. Cathy graciously allowed visitors to tour the inside of her home, which contains many repurposed items, creative artistic touches, and some of her amazing paintings.



The Golden Homestead is a restored 1912 building featuring eclectic, artistic garden designs. It is located in downtown Golden.



The Golden Homestead gardens feature artistic niches created by the talented artist, Cathy Pegues.



Cathy Pegues talks with visitors inside the Golden Homestead that has so many interesting, artistic decorations. Some of her paintings are displayed on the walls.
(Continued on page 7)

Mineola Garden Tour of 2021 continued from page 6

The next stop was the Ragsdale Farm, home of Sherry Ragsdale and her son, Cyruss Ragsdale. Their home has an amazing number of plants of all types and various farm animals. Their cottage-style gardens were delightful to walk through. Multiple lovely, covered areas provide a shady place to relax and view their gardens.



Master Gardener, Nancy McDonald, visiting the beautifully decorated courtyard at the Ragsdale Farm.



The Ragsdale Farm features many relaxing seating areas with beautiful landscaping.



The Ragsdale Farm has whimsical landscaping elements and cottage style gardens.

Maybe we were inspired by the gardens, because at this point, we stopped at the Sanchez Nursery and, of course, bought some plants. They have good prices on their plants. Then, it was a time for lunch, so we stopped at the La Waffalata Deli & Dessert restaurant and met up with Mitzi Pearce and Carol Holland. It was great fun to visit with these two fellow Master Gardeners.

It was getting close to time for the tour to end, so we moved on to the home of Linda Vandagriff and Kathy Pace. The homes in that area have beautifully large, landscaped lots. This flower garden had a huge variety of well-established shrubs and plants. I was amazed at the size of their plants compared to my not-so-established plants.

At the Vandagriff/Pace home, Ann I each bought a rose campion (*Lychnis coronaria*) plant. Rose campion prefers poor, dry soil over rich soil, and

tolerates alkaline or calcareous soil. Dry soil is best, but the



*Large rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus* or *Althaea syriaca*) at the Vandagriff/Pace home.*



*Oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) at the Vandagriff/Pace home.*

trees. At the ranch, I bought a variegated oregano (*Origanum vulgare*) plant. I love the leaves. The whole day was a refreshing change from last year. I look forward to more fun gardening and learning activities with other Master Gardeners in the future.



Lovely leaves on this variegated oregano.

Ann McKelroy: Food Pantries for Vegetable Donations

Thank you for helping feed the hungry! Please keep up with number of pounds that you donate for the year.

There may be other programs that are not widely published. All that we contacted were willing to accept donations of fresh vegetables. If you discover a program that is not on this list, please let me know so that I can update the list.

Ann's email: damckelroy@gmail.com.

Note from Kathy Goodman: Please also copy me on updates to this list of donation sites. For convenience, I plan to post this list as a regular part of the newsletter.

Kathy's email: kmgoodman0807@gmail.com

Food Pantry List

Bread of Life Ministries (Pantry)

1001 E. McDonald, Mineola
First and third Tuesday 8:30am - 4:00pm
(903) 405-0064
Service Area: Wood County

First United Methodist Church (Senior Box)

406 E Lane St, Quitman
Second Friday Participating Clients: 9:00am - 10:00am
Waiting Clients: 10:00am - 11:00am
(903) 597-3663
Service Area: All counties
Note: Enter on N. Goldman St.

Alba-Golden Food Pantry

245 E. Holley Street, Alba
Friday 9:00am - 11:00am
(903) 765-2471
Service Area: Alba-Golden School District

Lake Fork Baptist Church Feed My Sheep (Pantry)

9483 W FM 515, Alba
Second Tuesday 1:00pm - 3:00pm
(903) 473-9523
Service Area: All counties

Hawkins Helping Hands (Pantry)

320 W. Front St., Hawkins
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:00am - 12:00pm
(903) 769-4357
Service Area: Hawkins ISD

Kindness Kottage (Pantry)

316 E. Broad St, Mineola
Monday - Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm
(903) 569-9197
Service Area: Mineola ISD

Rose Hill Food Pantry

1420 CR 2460, Mineola
Second and fourth Wednesday 10:00am - 12:00pm
903-312-3256
Service Area: Wood County

Mercy Mall (Pantry)

104 Bermuda, Quitman
Every Saturday 10:00am - 12:00pm
(903) 497-0684
Service Area: All

Winnsboro CRC (Pantry)

115 W. Broadway, Winnsboro
Tuesday & Thursday 10:00am - 2:00pm
(903) 342-3287
Service Area: Winnsboro ISD

Tracking Vegetable Donations

Please include the following information when you donate vegetables to a program:

Your name

Texas Master Gardener-Wood County

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension System

Also, please create a vegetable donation record by tracking how many pounds of fruits and vegetables you are producing per square foot or acre of your garden and track every time you harvest or donate. For Emily Husmann's reports for the year, she needs to know the total pounds of produce grown by Wood County Master Gardeners as well as the total pounds of produce donated.

So, each time you donate, please record:

- Estimated pounds harvested during that donation period
- Estimated pounds donated

Then, at the end of the season, total each amount and give that information to Emily Husmann.

emily.husmann@ag.tamu.edu

Extension Office: 903.763.2924, FAX: 903.763.2092

Gardening is more than a hobby. It is a way of life for those willing to accept the often-strenuous work, the disappointments, and the impermanence of its beauty as part of the gift.

—AARON IRVING, GRACE IN THE GARDEN



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 by Master Gardeners
- Community outreach events
- Resources such as our website and Facebook pages

Please send newsletter articles, suggestions, and interesting information to newsletter editor Kathy Goodman at kmgoodman0807@gmail.com.

Note: You can count time spent writing articles as volunteer hours. Please understand that all articles will be edited to fit the newsletter style or for spacing needs.

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

Wood County Master Gardeners Inc. Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Wood-County-Master-Gardeners-Inc-205733709448425/>

WCMGA Private Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1534107646899295/>

Volunteer Hours

The Volunteer system is up and running. Peggy Rogers sent an email the middle of June with instructions for signing on the first time. This program is not phone friendly so use a computer, iPad, or tablet to access it. I used the system to add my hours and it does have some nice features, such as copying a previous entry and changing the date and hours.

Please add your photo, volunteer hours, mileage, and CEUs. <https://vms.texasmg.org/>

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? <https://vms.texasmg.org/>

Advanced Training

Visit the **Texas Master Gardener Advanced Training** website (<https://mastergardener.tamu.edu/master-gardener-specialist/>) for information about advanced training topics and opportunities. The *Master Gardener Advanced Training* programs offer modules about various subjects, such as Compost Advanced Training, Earth-Kind® Advanced Training, First Detector Advanced Training, Greenhouse Advanced Training, Irrigation Efficiency Advanced Training, Rainwater Harvesting Advanced Training, Texas Superstar™ Advanced Training, and Tree Care Advanced Training.

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.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. 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.