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## Peggy Rogers: Changes Can Bring Stress

I don't remember ever having aphids in my garden before this year. Aphids are on my large Confederate rose (*Hibiscus mutabilis*) and it's likely that I will not see a bloom this year.

Where do they just appear from? Perhaps weather conditions are just right for them this year. Forget water blasting! There are too many aphids and blasting the underside of leaves on a plant taller than you results in getting as much water on yourself as on the plant. However, water blasting is working on two smaller plants in another area.

A change in my garden in this area, is giving me stress and it is not the calming atmosphere that I usually have in my garden. For me, pulling weeds and grass is a calming garden chore while for others the continual growing of weeds is stressful!

Our gardens are always changing and creating different conditions and settings. Any change can be stressful, for example: adapting to daylight savings time, changing computer programs, updating your cell phone, using the new Volunteer Management System (VMS), and learning as gardeners that we are not Wood County Master Gardeners, but Texas Master Gardeners - Wood County, Texas A&M AgriLife system.

Do we accept the changes and try to learn the new ways or try to keep everything as it was? Most changes turn out to be for the better!

Since I'm as old as dirt, I've seen lots of changes in my life, from farming with horse drawn plows to using tractors; pulling cotton by hand to machinery doing the work; model A cars to today's fancy cars; kerosene lamps to electric lights; an outhouse to having an indoor bathroom; opening windows for cooling to enjoying central air conditioners; wood or coal burning stoves to central heat; wall telephones on party lines to cell phones with no cords; and listening to programs on battery operated radios to smart television sets.

Don't even mention the changes that the Covid pandemic has created in our lives. Lots of



*Aphids on the Confederate rose.*

other changes that I could mention but must close this article and get ready to battle the aphids again tomorrow.

However, first thing in the morning I'm going to go to my new purple garden and just sit and admire God's beautiful creations of purple blooming flowers, squirrels, caterpillars, butterflies, hummingbirds, plus a mosquito or two.

Happy Gardening!

## WCMGA Scheduled Speakers for 2021

| Meeting  | Speaker  |
|----------|--|
| 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     |

## 2021 Officers and Directors



*Peggy Rogers  
President*



*Susan Jarrell  
Vice President*



*Jan Whitlock  
Secretary*



*Jean Croucher  
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*Emily Husmann*

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Gardener, contact the AgriLife  
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## Project Chairs

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## 2021 Responsibilities

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# Kathy Goodman: Sandy Tibbs' Tips for Growing Succulents



*Sandy Tibbs entertained and educated WCMGA members with her talk about growing succulents.*

As with all plants, caring for succulents is a learning process and growing succulents can become an obsession. In the July WCMGA meeting, Sandy Tibbs shared what she has learned about growing succulents. Lucky for us, we can learn from Sandy's experience. She talked about when to water, the preferred soil, the best planters, light requirements, and how to propagate. She also brought many interesting small succulent plants for sale along with bags of her recommended potting soil.

This article gives you an idea of the basic requirements for growing succulents. You can find more specific information about a particular succulent by searching online. For example, the A-Z Index of Succulents website has specific information about all types of succulents: <https://desertsucculents.com/category/a-z-index-of-succulents/>

## When to Water

Don't bottom water your succulents. Use a watering pot with a long spout to keep the water off the plant. Rain water is the best for watering succulents. However, if you need to use tap water, let it set for 24 hours before using it.

Most succulents don't need much water. In the winter, a small plant can survive on as little as a tablespoon of water a month. Some succulents, such as string of dolphins like a little extra water. Research your specific plant to see what its requirements are. Also, don't pot various types of succulents in one pot if they don't have the same water requirements.

## Preferred Soil

Sandy recommends using the Bonsai Jack Succulent and Cactus Soil brand, which you can buy on Amazon.com. However, if you prefer, you can mix coarse sand 50/50 with a succulent mix. Just make sure the sand is a coarse texture. Adding a colorful

top dressing is not necessary for a potted plant and don't use a mulch on top because it retains water.

## Porous Planters

Plastic and glazed pots are not good for succulents because they don't allow evaporation. So, after you buy a succulent in a plastic or glazed pot, repot it into a porous pot such as one made of clay or cement with a drain hole. However, don't go from a small pot to a large pot, succulents don't like that. Increase the size of the pot in increments of 1.5 times the size of the original pot. Going to a larger pot in increments is a slow process, but your plants will do much better.

You can make your own cement planters. YouTube has a plethora of videos describing how to make cement planters.

## Lighting Requirements

In the summer time, keep your succulents outdoors and place them on the edge of shade and light. If the plant looks stressed, moving it a few inches may be all that is necessary to make it happy.

Some succulents, such as sedum and hens and chicks are winter hardy and will only be happy if left outside. However, if a plant is not winter hardy and must be brought indoors, it will need full spectrum lighting. Some windows have a coating that blocks certain spectrums of light. In that case, the plants will need grow lights while indoors.

If a plant is stretching or growing too fast, it needs more light. Sandy recommends cutting it into pieces and propagating it.



*Some of the interesting plants Sandy offered for sale at the meeting.*

## Propagating Succulents

Sandy said not to worry if you accidentally knock a leaf off of a succulent when you are repotting it. That's just a new baby to propagate. One interesting note that Sandy made was to let the piece of succulent sit out for 3 to 5 days to let the plant end scar or heal over. Then, stick it in the potting soil. In 3 to 5 days, water the baby plant. As the roots grow down in the soil, the mother leaf dies. It may take months for that to happen.

If you notice that a succulent has mushy leaves, you may be able to save it. Take off the mushy leaves. Gently take the plant out of the pot. Carefully take off excess soil. Let the plant sit out for 3 to 5 days. Then, repot the plant. Water it lightly in 3 to 5 days. Don't fertilize the plant.



*String of pearls (Senecio Rowleyanus)*

For more information about succulents, contact Sandy Tibbs at: sandytibbs9@gmail.com and 903-574-1650

## Ann Reynolds: Interactions at Hawkins

The Hawkins City Park project is beginning to see a variety of creatures which proves that the Master Gardeners have created a healthy habitat for them. I hope you have seen the photos that were posted to the WCMGA Facebook page.

The Allen Memorial Library garden is full of blooms and by working there from 9 to 11 AM we get to interact and answer questions from library patrons. We will soon be delivering the "Sam Bradley" bluebonnet seeds to the library front desk.

The Pollinator garden at the pavilion is doing well despite the heat. Unfortunately, we have not seen the variety of

butterflies that we anticipated, but there is always next year (the mantra of an avid gardener).

The mint is gone from the Sensory garden!! We have planted Copper Canyon daisy (*Tagetes lemmonii*) and lambs ear (*Stachys byzantina*). The Bronze fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare* 'Purpureum') is going to seed. Fennel is the host plant of the black swallowtail butterfly and we have seen several caterpillars feeding on it. We are looking for ideas for this garden that the children can touch, smell, and see. This garden is located directly across from the playground and splashpad.

## Linda Timmons: Native White Sassafras Trees Through History

The North American native white sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) is a 35- to 50-foot-tall deciduous tree. In the spring, female trees produce bunches of yellow-green flower balls. Male trees flower sparsely. Dark-blue fruits on reddish stalks appear on female trees in late summer. The fruits, called drupes, are attractive to berry eating birds. All parts of the trees are fragrant. The greenish twigs and leafstalks have a pleasant, slightly citrus smell. Sassafras is unusual in having three distinct leaf shapes on the same tree: oval, bilobed (mitten-shaped), and trilobed (three-pronged). Its leaves have outstanding fall color.

Additionally, the tree is a larval host to Spicebush swallowtail (*Papilio troilus*), eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), Palamedes swallowtail (*Papilio palamedes*), and pale swallowtail (*Papilio eurymedon*) butterflies.

Sassafras was important both economically and medically in the history of Europe as well as North America. Because explorers and colonists thought the aromatic root bark was a cure-all for diseases, they shipped huge quantities to Europe. In fact, sassafras was such a desired commodity in England, that its importation was included in the Charter of the Colony of Virginia in 1610. For a short time in the early 1600s, sassafras was the second-largest export from the British colonies in North America behind tobacco.

In North America, sassafras has been a key ingredient in foods such as traditional root beer, filé powder (used in Creole and Cajun dishes), and other Louisiana Creole cuisine. The roots and root bark supply oil of sassafras used to perfume soap and sassafras tea. Sassafras roots were banned for commercially mass-produced foods and drugs by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 1960. Laboratory animals given oral doses of sassafras tea or sassafras oil developed permanent liver damage or various types of cancer. As a result, root beer is now

flavored with oils found in wintergreen and black birch bark. However, it has been determined that sassafras leaves do not contain enough carcinogen to be a hazard to health so filé powder is safe for human consumption.

White sassafras trees are native to the eastern seaboard and south eastern U.S. extending into East Texas. They prefer rich, well-drained sandy loam with a pH of 6 to 7, but will grow in any loose, moist soil. Seedlings will tolerate shade, but saplings and older trees need full sun for the best growth. Root sprouts often result in sassafras thickets. A single tree, if allowed to spread, will soon be surrounded by a colony because its roots extend in every direction and send up multitudes of sprouts. If grown in a landscape, the sprouts need to be removed regularly. Sassafras is allelopathic, which means that it can discourage the growth of certain other plants within its root zone.



*The native white sassafras tree has three distinct leaf shapes.*

**Reference:** For information about

allelopathic plants, see: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/garden-how-to/info/allelopathic-plants.htm>

Sassafras is usually a fairly easy tree to grow and is not subject to many destructive insects or diseases. It is often seen growing in fence rows or along back roads. However, the sassafras tree is subject to laurel wilt, which is a highly destructive fungal disease spread by the non-native, invasive redbay ambrosia beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*). In East Texas forests, sassafras is just one of the native trees susceptible to laurel wilt. Over 220 trees and shrubs including southern magnolia, grape, sweetgum, pecan, dogwood, water oak, red maple, and redbud are also affected.

The native white sassafras tree may not be something you want to add to your landscape, but it is a plant that deserves respect for its place in a native habitat as well as in our history and culture.



## Ann Reynolds: Interesting Hummingbird Facts

Are you beginning to see a plethora of hummingbirds at your feeders now? What's the deal? It is the beginning of one of Texas' most amazing avian spectacles. What you are seeing is the beginning of the hummingbird migration. Beginning around the first week of September, multitudes of hummers begin showing up along the Texas Gulf Coast from points north and east. This historic staging area becomes the stopping place for the nation's largest concentration of ruby-throated hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) as they prepare for their southern migratory passage.



These little birds fly to the Rockport/Fulton area of Texas to fatten up on nectar and protein before departing for the tropics. They fly over or around the Gulf of Mexico to points south, which is mainly central and southern Mexico.

For several weeks, thousands congregate in the area and partake of a feeding frenzy on Turk's cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus*), various types of salvia, and other nectar-producing plants.

Migration is triggered by light and day length. This fact begs the question of how hummingbirds born in northern climes this summer know the way to the Gulf. This is a trip of 500-600 miles over open water. That migration is more amazing because hummingbirds do not travel in flocks but fly alone. Anyone care to guess?

For a hummer that has just hatched, there's no memory of past migrations, only an urge to put on a lot of weight and fly in a particular direction for a certain amount of time, then look for a good place to spend the winter. Once it learns such a route, a hummingbird may retrace it every year as long as it lives. Banding studies suggest that individual birds may follow a set route year after year, often arriving at the same feeder on the same day. The initial urge is triggered by the shortening length of sunlight as autumn approaches and has nothing to do with temperature or the availability of food. In fact, hummingbirds migrate south at the time of greatest food abundance. When the bird is fat enough, it migrates.

Here are some other interesting facts about these flying jewels:

- A hummingbird's tongue has grooves on the sides to help it catch insects.
- A hummingbird must drink almost twice its weight in nectar every day to survive.
- They have 40 to 60 taste buds. Humans possess about 10,000.
- Hummingbirds can't fly until their body temperature



reaches 86 degrees.

- The average hummingbird nest is about 2 inches in diameter.
- It would take 150 average sized male hummingbirds to equal 1 pound.
- Hummingbirds have about 1,500 feathers. I wonder who counted them?
- Even at rest, a hummingbird's heart rate is eight times faster than that of a human.
- The oldest hummingbird recorded was 14 years old.
- Hummingbirds were named for the sound their wings make while they fly.
- Hummingbirds show they are "on guard" by ruffling their crown feathers.
- Their wings move in a figure-eight pattern. This allows the birds to hover and fly in all directions – even upside down!
- They have weak feet and legs. They use them only for perching and preening.
- Their eggs are about the size of a jelly bean.
- Male hummers do not help raise their young. Figures. . .
- They beat their wings about 50 times a second, so their wings appear as a blur.
- While at rest, a hummer takes 250 breaths per minute.
- The Cuban bee hummingbird is the smallest warm-blooded animal in the world. The male weighs less than a dime.
- About 25 percent of their weight is flight muscles.

Garden on!



## Melodee Eishen: Invitation to Join the Nature Watch

It's hard to believe that at the middle of August we had fairly moderate temperatures and above normal rainfall, and the forecast was for more of the same. I think a bit of extra rain was very helpful for all of our lawns, gardens, and pastures.

To give you an update on our Nature Watch team, there are eight of us getting our official observation certifications for the USA Phenology Network, Nature's Notebook. We are all entering data once a week. This network combines our data with all national data gathered. This is our way of getting used to this system and how it works. By October I will enter all of our Nature Watch team members as a group, and then I can begin collecting data from our local team.

It is estimated that we will do observations for about 10 minutes once a week, and then enter data. This is a minimum amount of time. If a master gardener wants to do a longer walking observational method, the time devoted to gathering

data would be much greater, it is really up to the individual. Overall, each Nature Watch team member will get at least one volunteer hour per month. To become a certified observation data collector, you will also get several hours of training.

Each team member is encouraged to observe at least one plant and consider one animal. I'm observing my hummingbirds, elderberries, and some very young burr oaks I planted last year. I will increase my observation to include Turk's caps, grapes, tulip poplars, chives, and perhaps others. I enjoy the option of being able to stay home and do my observations and still gain master gardener volunteer hours. If anyone is interested in joining this team, please contact me. We'd love you to join us.

I hope to order a weather station this month to officially have temperature, humidity, growing degree days, and rainfall recorded.

## Kathy Goodman: Growing Secrets From the Alford Farm

At the September WCMGA meeting, Michael Alford from the Alford Family Farm shared some of his growing secrets.

### Irises

The farm has more than 2,000 iris plants. The iris plants will be ready to dig the first part of September. He showed us photos of some beautiful specimens. One thing he does to discourage weeds around the iris is to put Preen around them.

Michael mentioned that they have a novelty iris called "space age" iris, which has nine petals. The space age iris has horns, spoons, or flounces. They also have Louisiana iris, which like lots of water and can be planted by ponds.

### Strawberries

Michael said he digs up the strawberry plants every year and replants new plants. The reason is to get rid of potential pests and disease. Each year he solarizes the whole field by covering the ground with clear plastic for a month. In October, he lays down black corn starch plastic and plants new plants 12 inches apart to give room for plenty of air flow. The black corn starch plastic is biodegradable, so it breaks down and doesn't have to be taken up.

### Blueberries and Blackberries

The blueberries and blackberries produce from May to July. Check out their website to learn about "U Pick" opportunities. <https://www.alfordfamilyfarm.com/u-pick>

Michael prefers to grow varieties of rabbiteye blueberries. In addition, he mentioned that blueberries prefer a specific PH



*Michael Alford talking about his tomato harvest.*

and won't grow in clay soil.

He uses a wire trellis to support the blackberries upright. After they bear fruit, he cuts out the old canes, but he does not put the canes in the mulch pile. Blackberries have a 7-year life span. At this time, Michael is in the process of digging up the blackberries and planting them where the strawberries were planted and vice versa. That helps prevent disease problems for both.

They use natural pest control on the farm, for example: in the early spring they release lady bugs and in the summer they regularly release green lace wing (*Chrysopidae*) insect predators that eat aphids.

### Tomatoes

The Alford Family farm grows both determinate and indeterminate varieties of tomatoes. When planting, he uses an organic chicken manure fertilizer. Then, he sprays the plants with a mixture of molasses, fish hydrolysate (cold processed) with Chilean nitrate, and sea weed extract. Michael sprays this foul-smelling concoction on the tomato leaves at night for the best absorption.

Michael uses the Florida weave method to support the tomato plants. And because the heirloom tomatoes grow up to 8 feet tall, he tops them off at 5 feet.

You can visit the Alford Farm at 199 Private Road 6181, Emory, TX 75440

For more information, see the following online resources:

Website: <https://www.alfordfamilyfarm.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AlfordFamilyFarm/>



# Barbara Williams: Mound Style (Hügelkultur) Gardening Options in East Texas

If you have never heard the word “Hügelkultur,” it is a horticultural technique in which a mound constructed from decaying wood debris

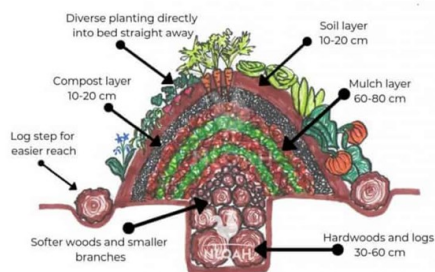
and other compostable biomass plant materials is later planted as a raised bed. Hügelkultur literally translates from German as “hill culture.” In short, it refers to mound style garden beds that are higher than regular raised beds.

If you're starting a new bed or choosing raised beds (or deep containers) and you don't want to spend a lot of money on filler... hügelkultur may be the perfect solution for you!

I have used the hügelkultur method mostly as a filler for container gardens. When I first began my journey as a gardener, I started by simply using pine cones and sweetgum balls to fill up the bottom half of grow bags, then covering that filler with pine needles and mulch from beside the pond. I progressed to using straw-bale gardening techniques in the raised beds that my husband built for me. At the end of each season, I used the decomposing straw bales to mulch the other containers. My latest attempt is using the hügelkultur method to plant in a cattle mineral tub.



*Hügelkultur method works when planting in pots and raised beds.*



*This diagram illustrates an in-ground Hügelkultur design and is from an online article written by Rebekah Pierce titled “How to Build Hügelkultur Beds and Why You Need Them” at the New Life On a Homestead website: <https://www.newlifeonahomestead.com/hugelkultur/>*

- Chicken manure is hot, so make sure it is in the layer at least a foot below. Or, let it compost for at least three months before using.
- If you are planning a spring or summer garden, setting up a hügelkultur bed in the fall is ideal! The weather is much nicer, and you have all winter for it to create its eco system.

The bottom line is to be creative and have fun! Enjoy your garden!

## Adapting Hügelkultur to Planting in a Cattle Mineral Tub

Here are the steps that I use to plant in a cattle mineral tub:

1. Drill holes around the bottom of the cattle mineral tub, about 3 inches up the side, and about 6 inches apart. This allows most of the water to drain out after a rain and keeps your planter from flooding. I use a 1/2-inch drill bit.
2. Fill half way with small tree branches, twigs, sweet gum balls, pinecones, and dead leaves. These do not need to be packed tightly; however, try not to have too much space for settling. Rock the container back and forth to make it settle and arrange the bigger items so there's less space.
3. Place about an inch-thick layer of wet cardboard on top. Make sure all tape or shiny stuff has been pulled off the cardboard because these won't decompose
4. Add compost, leaving at least 6 inches of room at the top for good potting soil.
5. Use one of the following methods to plant:

For transplants:

- Fill about 4 inches with good potting soil for containers.
- Place your plants (use the square garden method for space requirements) and fill in around the plants with more good potting soil.
- Water in the transplants.
- Mulch around the plants.

If starting from seed:

- Fill about 6 inches with good potting soil for containers and leave about an inch of room from the top.
- Water well.
- Plant seeds according to depth on seed packet.
- When the plants are up, thinned out, and looking strong, mulch around the plants.



*Example of the Hügelkultur layering method.*



## Jacque Simmons: Adding Whimsy, Personality to Plantings

If two heads are considered more intelligent than one, then Ann Fair-Irby could possibly fit in the genius category. The avid plant nurturer and Wood County Master Gardener enjoys incorporating a variety of collected objects into her lavish garden, including sculpted planters shaped to resemble human heads.

"I have 25 heads," she said with a grin. "I just think they are cool."

The backdrop for her silent garden friends encompasses most of the yard of her Holly Lake Ranch home that the Colorado native shares with her green-thumb husband, Bob.

It has taken close to a decade and plenty of blood, sweat, and insect bites to carve out their wooded paradise, but the result is a lavish display of planting beds and unusual features, such as a mosaic and rock walkway created with friends.

Nestled amid the beauty is Ann's ever-growing, double-take collection of "pot heads," each featuring a different plant that seems perfectly suited for its host, from sturdy succulents to delicate ferns.

"They are all over my garden," Ann said. "Where you are going to put it depends on the head."

One sleepy-looking fellow is topped with a tasseled fern, a more contemplative one features a more sculpted specimen.

In addition to the heads, Ann enjoys collecting common objects to transform into uncommon planters, such as old tea pots and carved out tree stumps.

Her husband, a man of few words, seems to take it all in stride. "I think it's great," he said.

In many respects, the yard could be described as a living, breathing canvas filled with color and imagination.



*Uncommon planters add personality to the garden. Photo by Ann Fair-Irby*

"When you collect things," Ann said, "one is nice, two is pretty, and three is a collection." She isn't shy about scavenging yard



*A vintage tractor-turned-fountain in the Irby garden pays tribute to her late father. Photo by Ann Fair-Irby*

sales and snagging curbside castoffs to add to her collection, which includes part of a vintage tractor transformed into a fountain as a tribute to her late father.

Ann recommends that when contemplating using any container, adequate drainage is always paramount.

Some of Ann's growing creations appeared in the July 24 Texas Master Gardeners Wood County Garden Education Series, which highlighted creative ways to transition from summer to fall gardening

and gardening in containers.

A rusty old toolbox Ann filled with plants and old mechanical gadgets seemed a particular hit among conference attendees, including Susan Swinney, a Van Zandt County Master Gardener.

"This just gives me so many ideas," Swinney said. "I just love what she's done. I'm going to go home and try to make some things myself."



*Ann shares a few tips on how to design creative planters with attendees and Master Gardeners Elaine Hall and Susan Swinney.*



*Ann displayed her creative talents by filling a rusty toolbox with plants and gadgets.*



*Interesting grouping with a pot head and other decorative objects. Photo by Ann Fair-Irby.*



# Carolyn West: Conquering Gardening Challenges to Beautify

The AgriLife Extension Office presents a challenge to our team, but what fun we have had working with this challenge!

The following list represents a status of the issues:

1. In some areas, the public walked through the flower beds crushing some flowers.

**Solution:** We placed a small fence behind the bed, added rocks on the edges, and planted sturdier plants.

2. Water washed from the rent-house yard behind the building.

**Solution:** We placed rocks to divert the water and added a new level for planting.

3. The parking lots grew assorted weeds making it difficult to define the boundaries of the lots.

**Solution:** We are making a concerted effort to rid the weeds and define the parking lots by edging and grooming.

4. The area behind the building needed TLC on a grand scale. This activity is currently in-progress and promises a real upgrade to the appearance of the building.

## Planned activities:

- Remove trees that are a threat to the building and overhang onto the property. This task is partially complete. We are working with the County and Wood County Electric for assistance.
- Cut vines, unwanted weeds, and bushes back to the property line. This task is partially complete. We are also working with the County for assistance.
- Place compost behind the newly cleaned wall to build a bed. We plan this task for the fall and will plant self-maintaining ferns along the wall

5. There is no watering system. The building has one exterior faucet and one hose to water the entire property.

Planning phase: A plan is being drawn up to work with the County Precinct Commissioner to install a misting system for the beds on the east side of the



*Planting brightens the area around the AgriLife sign.*



*The interesting leaves on the castor bean plants bring attention to the side flowerbed.*

building. If an automatic watering system could be installed, watering labor time could be reduced to a minimum, and water could be conserved. Currently, two MG members manually water twice a week. Angie Monk, AgriLife County Coordinator, County Extension Agent for Family and Community Health, has arranged for us to meet with the County Commissioner to review the feasibility and cost of the proposed project.

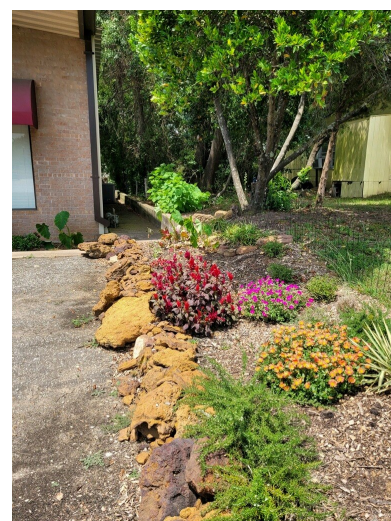
Our hardworking team has accomplished so much using the ideas of the whole group and the hard work of all of us. Three beds are maintained by our members. In addition, four troughs are planted; two are in custom-built stands and are the highlight of the front of the AgriLife office. The pictures show both work-in-progress and completed maintainable beds.

As mentioned at the July WCMGA meeting, the improvements to the landscape have brought attention from the public. What better reward can be given than to please the folks working at AgriLife and additionally create a site that contributes to the beautification of the city! Prior MG classes gave us a significant start. We accepted the responsibility and expanded the gardens.

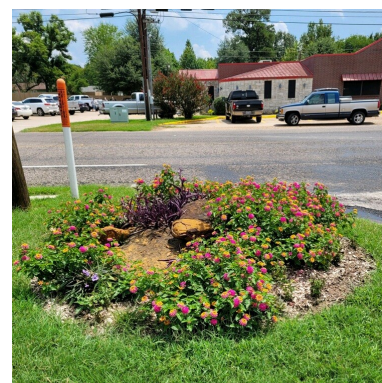
The next step is to brainstorm a fall planting design to replace the summer scheme. The team will meet to review our successes, challenges, and lessons learned to date. Then we will lay out a plan for fall and winter plantings.

My personal reward is working with energetic volunteers such as Michelle Musser, Kathy Goodman, Nancy McDonald, Steve and Janet Judkins, Peggy Rogers, MJ Lamborn, Bob Bauerschmidt, Emily Husmann, Tracie Jackson, Angie Monk, Bobbie McGee, and other Master Gardeners. This team is bringing amazing results!

The Class of 2020 supports the Texas AgriLife Extension Office landscaping project in Quitman. The team works on Thursday mornings from 8 AM – 10 AM. Anyone who wants to join us is welcome.



*Flower bed enhances the edge of the Extension Office property.*



*Lantana plants bring color to the street-side flowerbed.*

## Ann McKelroy: Food Pantries for Vegetable Donations

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

All the pantries that we contacted are pleased to accept donations of fresh vegetables. There may be other programs that are not widely published. So, 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

## 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

## Area Food Pantries

### Bread of Life Ministries (Pantry)

1001 E. McDonald, Mineola

First and third Tuesday 8:30 AM - 4 PM

(903) 405-0064

Service Area: Wood County

### First United Methodist Church (Senior Box)

406 E Lane St, Quitman

Second Friday Participating Clients: 9 AM - 10 AM

Waiting Clients: 10 AM - 11 AM

(903) 597-3663

Service Area: All counties

Note: Enter on N. Goldman St.

### Alba-Golden Food Pantry

245 E. Holley Street, Alba

Friday 9 AM - 11 AM

(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 PM - 3 PM

(903) 473-9523

Service Area: All counties

### Hawkins Helping Hands (Pantry)

320 W. Front St., Hawkins

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9 AM - 12 PM

(903) 769-4357

Service Area: Hawkins ISD

### Kindness Kottage (Pantry)

316 E. Broad St, Mineola

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 3 PM

(903) 569-9197

Service Area: Mineola ISD

### Rose Hill Food Pantry

1420 CR 2460, Mineola

Second and fourth Wednesday 10 AM - 12 PM

903-312-3256

Service Area: Wood County

### Mercy Mall (Pantry)

104 Bermuda, Quitman

Every Saturday 10 AM - 12 PM

(903) 497-0684

Service Area: All

### Winnsboro CRC (Pantry)

115 W. Broadway, Winnsboro

Tuesday & Thursday 10 AM - 2 PM

(903) 342-3287

Service Area: Winnsboro ISD

## 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





As you read our WCMGA newsletter, you can 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

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Please send newsletter articles, suggestions, and interesting information to newsletter editor Kathy Goodman at [kmgoodman0807@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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## Online with WCMGA

### **MG Wood Works Newsletter Photos**

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

### **Texas Master Gardener, Wood County 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](mailto: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 Management System**

At this time, the VMS program is not phone friendly, so use a computer, iPad, or tablet to access it. It has 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](mailto: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.*