

# MG Wood Works

May/June 2023



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Wood Works Staff  
Kathy Goodman, Editor  
Jenna Nelson, Proofreader

## Barb Williams: President's Letter

Howdy y'all and welcome to wildflower season! I love walking around our property this time of year and soaking in the sight of all the wildflowers!

Whilst the red from crimson clover (*Trifolium incarnatum*), the purple from Texas toadflax (*Nuttallanthus texanus*), the yellow from a veritable plethora of flowers, the blue from prairie spiderwort (*Tradescantia occidentalis*), and the pink from showy primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*) are stunning in their own right, my personal favorite remains the Texas paintbrush or Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja indivisa*). To me the blend of coral, white, and chartreuse is absolutely breath taking!

After at least five years of transplanting and throwing out seeds from the previous year, I now have a river of coral running through the "front yard" of the barn apartment. I had to be mindful when I moved them because they are semi-parasitic, which means they latch onto a nearby plant to receive their nutrients and water. They don't hurt the host plant, but it was hard to tell how big of a spot I needed to actually dig up and move. I love seeing the different shades and I just found a yellow version yesterday. Isn't it great when patience pays off?

April's foraging meeting was fun, the weather was beautiful, and we all learned a lot from our speaker Rebecca Staggs about the different wild

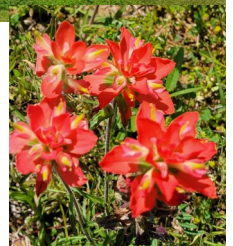
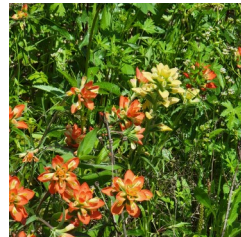
edibles available in our area!

I'm really looking forward to Courtney Taylor coming to my place on May 13th and teaching about the wild edibles available in May and her perspective on how to use them.

Our trainee class of 2023 has done an amazing job soaking up all the information thrust upon them and jumping in to volunteer at the projects and on the committees! I'm looking forward to honoring them at their graduation on May 18th and hope to see you there!!!

We'll be putting together a current/future project and committee leaders training session and pool party in the month of July. Please search your heart and think up ways you could help support or fill these super important roles in our organization. Many hands make light work and the more, the merrier!

Please feel free to reach out to me whenever you'd like. I respond quickest to text messages at (505)321-2817. Peace, Love and Joy!



## Upcoming Events

**May 13: Professional Forager Courtney Taylor:** At Barb Williams' home on May 13. **Reservations required by May 11.** The cost is \$40 which covers a 2.5 hour learning walk and Courtney's eBook *North Texas Edible Wild Plant Basics*.

**May 18: WCMGA Growing Our Membership Luncheon:** 2023 Master Gardener trainee class graduation luncheon

**May 25: Lunch and Learn: Good Bug, Bad Bug,** Extension Office in Quitman, from 12 to 1. Bring your lunch and drink. The public is welcome.

**June 15: WCMGA Meeting: Medicinal Herbs 101** by Holly Ross

**June 22: Lunch and Learn: Heat, Drought Tolerant Plants,** Extension Office in Quitman, from 12 to 1.

## 2023 WCMGA Officers



Barb Williams, President



Carolyn West, Vice President



May Sandison, Treasurer



Marty Da Silva, Secretary

### WCMGA Directors

Gayle Mullinax, Director

Keith Mullinax, Director

Debbie Latham, Alternate Director

Carolyn West, Alternate Director

**Note:** WCMGA members can find an individual's phone number and email address on the Member Roster under the General Information menu on the Wood County Master Gardener Volunteer Management System. <https://vms.texasmg.org>

### Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent, Wood County



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### WCMGA Project Chairs

Emory City Park and Sandy Creek Park, Lannette Beaver

Trainee Class, Emily Castillo

Hawkins City Park and Library, Ann Reynolds

Mineola Nature Preserve, Linda Timmons

Phenology-Nature Watch, Jessie Mellon

Quitman Public Library, Jan Whitlock

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, Martha Maurits

Winnsboro Library, Bob Bauerschmidt and Patt Bauerschmidt

Wood County Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, Lin Grado

### Support Positions

Emails, Keith Mullinax

WCMGA Facebook Private Group, Linda Timmons

Newsletter, Kathy Goodman

Sunshine, Elaine Porter

Volunteer Management System, Linda Timmons

Website, Keith Zimmerman

## March's WCMGA Program: Compost, Compost, Compost

By Jenna Nelson



Steve Aker  
Photo by Ann Reynolds

WCMGA Vice President Carolyn West searched for a speaker to talk about compost and found West Texas expert Steve Aker with the Back to Nature company. The company is the largest composter in the United States and the largest beef cattle manure composter in Texas.

Aker described how they clean the feed lot pens and spread the manure out in long rows which they turn weekly and water two times a week. After they have "cooked" the compost for four months, it is screened, bagged, and sent by large trucks to independent retailers. Aker called their beef cattle manure "yogurt for your

soil." He noted that their chicken manure is only from egg laying hens, so it has no arsenic and is a natural organic fertilizer.

When starting a new garden bed, Aker recommended putting out their cotton burr compost at Thanksgiving and tilling it in. Then repeat this process in the spring when you plant for the first time. He said to amend existing flower beds with cow manure compost.

When planting trees, he suggested using one-third compost and two-thirds of the soil removed from the hole when refilling it. Aker does not recommend aerating your soil with wood and added that their compost products are not for potted plants.

The Back to Nature compost products are available locally at Pott's Feed Store in Quitman, Gray's Nursery in Mineola, and Hooten's Hardware in Emory.



# Class of 2022 Completes Raised Bed Planter Project

By Martha Maurits

On Wednesday, March 22, 2023, members of the WCMGA class of 2022 and a family member constructed a pair of raised bed vegetable planters at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office in Wood County. Using raised bed gardens is an excellent way to grow food for ergonomic accessibility, because of limited space, or when in-ground gardening is not possible. For example, when clay soil causes poor garden drainage, when sandy soil drains too quickly, or rocky soil poses challenges for soil nutrition and root growth, raised beds can be a desirable alternative option and increase chances of gardening success.

Elevated beds can be constructed from materials such as lumber, straw bales, or steel frame kits. The beds can be filled with soil designed for raised beds and amendments to create a concentrated, loamy, nutrient-rich area ready for immediate vegetable gardening. Since the WCMG program and other educational classes are based out of the extension office, we thought that establishing tidy raised bed planters could work well as vegetable garden demonstration tools for future programs and community interest.

All of the plants and materials used for our project were donated by the participants. Working with Emily Castillo, Wood County extension agent, we mapped out a site near the compost pile on the west side of the property. This location receives at least 6 to 8 hours of daily sunlight and is near a water source via a hose line. Ample sunlight and a convenient water source are important criteria for determining a successful garden site.

We purchased two 3 x 4 foot galvanized steel planter kit frames, assembled both, and placed them on top of weed cloth to prohibit weed growth. To further prohibit weeds, we lined the bottoms with cardboard.

We filled them with organic raised bed garden soil, a layer of WCMG compost (made onsite), and half a bag of composted cow manure, resulting in a humus-rich planting medium loaded with organic matter.

Next, we spread wood chip mulch around the perimeter of the raised beds for both a uniform look and to prohibit weed growth.

We completed each bed by setting out companion vegetable plants. Companion planting is the close planting of different plant species to improve their health and productivity and to gain mutual benefits from each other. Using companion plants can increase crop yields, enhance plant nutrient uptake, repel pests, help prevent weeds, and also enrich the soil, depending on the plant combinations.

When designing future garden plantings, it's a good idea to check companion plant charts to make sure you are not



Class of 2022 members: Martha Maurits, Lynette Wallace, Nancy Kinder, and Michelle Mickle

planting vegetables near each other that will inhibit plant growth. Plant companion charts supply lists of the best and worst companion plants for most every herb and vegetable. I consult those charts regularly to increase vegetable growing success.

## Bed One

In bed one, we planted:

- Broccoli
- Cauliflower

These companions are both members of the cabbage family and prefer acidic, moist, and well-drained soil. These plants should be spaced at least 12 to 18 inches apart and fertilized every 4 to 6 weeks with a balanced fertilizer high in nitrogen (which helps grow

roots and foliage), phosphorus (which helps flower production), and potassium (which helps the plant absorb food and water).

## Bed Two

In bed two, we planted:

- Cherry tomatoes and a banana pepper plant, which are both members of the nightshade family and thrive in similar conditions.
- Yellow bush bean plants, which increase air circulation around tomatoes and attract bees for needed pollination.
- Pickling cucumber plants, which help prevent the germination of weed seeds around the tomatoes because they cover the ground.

These plants should be fertilized with a vegetable fertilizer and a calcium supplement which will benefit the growth of the tomatoes and pepper plants. We closely spaced all of the vegetables which will fill in both plots with maturing plant leaves, blocking out weeds and shading the soil, resulting in better soil moisture retention as our weather becomes warmer.

As a final addition, we included marigolds in among the vegetables. Marigolds are companion plants for broccoli, tomatoes, and bush beans. Marigold blooms attract pollinators and ladybugs and help repel root-knot nematodes, beetles, leaf hoppers, bean beetles, and horn worms. They also look pretty.

We look forward to monitoring the growth and success of both vegetable patches in our raised gardens. Those of us who live in town will coordinate the water maintenance for the project. In the future it may also be possible to use drip hose lines for watering the beds in conjunction with the compost pile watering mechanism.

The Class of 2022 hopes that the new garden beds will be positive and useful additions for future gardening demonstration programs offered at the Wood County AgriLife Extension Office.

# Grow Your Own Strawberries

By Betty Stark

Those ruby red gems are sweeter if we grow them ourselves rather than buy them in the supermarket and it's so easy. Pick the best plants you can find. To get the best plants, roots, and berries—patience is the name of the game. I bought my plants at Grays Nursery but Walmart also has them.

Most strawberry varieties are split into two categories: June-bearing and ever-bearing. June bearers, which include most varieties, produce their fruit over a 3 to 4 week period in the early summer. You'll get more berries per plant on average with June-bearers. Because ripening will be in a shorter time period it makes it convenient to use the berries for jams and other recipes. Popular June-bearing varieties include Douglas, Chandler, Sequoia, All-Star, Jewel, Mojave, and Seascape.

Ever-bearing strawberries produce a slightly smaller harvest over the entire summer. This makes the fruit ideal for those who want to snack all season long, but you must harvest fruit every few days. These berries tend to be smaller and slightly less juicy than June-bearing. But the plants are more compact and better for growing in planters or containers. Some of the best ever-bearing varieties are Albion, Alpine, Eversweet, Festival, and Ozark.

Strawberry plants require full sun and well-drained soil with a pH between 5.5 and 7.5. You should test your soil in advance and amend it as necessary. Because strawberries have shallow roots, they need rich soil that drains well. Plan to use approximately one 5 gallon bucket worth of compost per 10 plants. Keep plants well-watered and mulch with compost, dried pine needles, or dried grass clippings. The mulch helps with weeds and keeps the berries off the ground.

Each strawberry plant has a crown which is the growing point of the plant. Flowers and foliage grow from this spot so it's critical to plant it directly on the soil line. Planting the strawberry crowns should be done in early spring. Mound the soil up a few inches in rows but tapered down to shed excess water. Covering the crown with soil could cause it to rot. Place plants 12 inches apart and spread out the roots so they have plenty of space. Gently press the soil around the roots to secure them in place. Water immediately after planting. Give them about 1 inch of water per week, but its best to water when the soil seems dry as the roots are sensitive to drought.

Think about how big your planting area is as you may need to cover it with bird netting but not so large a space that you need to step into your bed for weeding.

This is where the PATIENCE comes in – within a few weeks the crowns should start to send out leaves and flowers. Now you have the biggest challenge of raising strawberries, which is pinching off the first flowers before they form fruit. You also need to snip off any runners that develop. Runners are shoots that the plants send out to propagate themselves. You need to let the plant's energy go into root production. Do this to get a healthier plant with even more fruit next year.



First year Chandler strawberry



First year ever-bearing strawberry unknown variety

In addition to the compost at planting, add 3-1-2 fertilizer just prior to spring growth. Pick your berries when they turn bright red and harvest them in the morning before the temperature heats up and refrigerate them immediately. They'll last longer if you store them dry and wash the fruit immediately before eating.

If you want to freeze your berries, clean them, lay them on a parchment lined cookie sheet, and place them in the freezer. After a couple of hours they should be solid enough to place in a freezer bag.

Plant a mix of both types. Then you can enjoy the best of both worlds.



## Cleavers Everywhere!

By Jessie Mellon

Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) is one of the first herbs to emerge in spring.

As children, my brothers and I collected cleavers to make hats and necklaces from its clinging bristly stems. Cleavers, sometimes called the “VELCRO plant,” are relished by livestock



January 15, 2023, young cleavers emerge.

and geese as well as children.

The seedlings germinate in late fall, overwinter, and begin growth in the spring. Young plants have rounded leaves which morph into long and slender whorls surrounding a square grooved stem. Young tender plants, before they develop irritating hairy stems, may be eaten raw.

Older plants may be used

as a boiled pot herb or dried for use as a vitamin C rich mild tasting tea or infusion. We never tasted it, but the flavor is reportedly somewhat bitter and astringent.

Bristles on the stems allow the vines to scramble atop and cling to other vegetation. Vines can grow in a thick mat which can reach 6 feet long. Flowers are tiny and white, arising from the stems just above the leaf whorl. Seeds are rounded and covered with bristles. They easily cling to clothing or fur.

Roasted seeds have been used as a coffee substitute, minus caffeine. Cleavers, because of their sticky nature, have also been used to make a crude sieve to filter milk, rinse pasta, or wash berries. Interestingly, the fine roots will dye natural fibers



April 7, 2023, mature cleavers form a heavy mat over other vegetation in the garden.

red, and birds consuming cleavers will have red tinged bones.

The American Cancer Society lists cleavers as an “immunomodulator.” This classification of herbal compounds targets the immune system’s response to aberrant cell growth (in vitro) by causing some proteins to be expressed and others to be suppressed. Of course, much more research is needed to answer the myriad of questions surrounding its applications.

But for us kids, even us older kids, it’s just fun to play with.

### References

verywell Health <https://www.verywellhealth.com/cleavers-health-benefits-5084341>

Foraging Texas <https://www.foragingtexas.com/2008/08/cleaver.html>

*A Modern Herbal*, by Mrs. M. Grieve, volume 1, page 206, 207

## Striking Native Red Buckeye

By Ann Reynolds

One of the most striking plants in the spring garden is the native red buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*). You may think this plant or tree is named after “the Buckeyes,” but it’s not, that’s the Ohio State football team!

The red buckeye is native to much of the Eastern US yet few folks know what it is.

Its 10-inch spikes of bright red blooms are the very first nectar plants for the scout hummingbirds passing through our area. While a wonderful understory shrub, it can grow into a tree reaching 15 feet tall.

Although it can take sun, it prefers light shade and moist well-drained soil. It will drop its leaves in August as a defense against drought.





# The Amazing Dandelion

By Kimberly Mason

Dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*) are the masters of survival. They can take root in places that defy logic. As a result, they are incredibly hard to get rid of. Why? They are fast growers.

*Change the way you think about the dandelion.  
It isn't a weed. It is a survivor.*

The flower goes from bud to seed in a matter of days and they have a long lifespan. A new plant can grow from as little as 1 inch of root. Dandelions have the longest growing season of any plant.

The seeds are carried away by a gust of wind and can travel up to 5 miles. In addition, dandelion flowers do not need to be pollinated to form seeds.

*Change the way you think about the dandelion.  
It isn't a weed. It fertilizes.*

Dandelions are good for your lawn. The wide spreading roots of dandelions loosen hard packed soil, aerate, and help reduce erosion. Incredibly, the taproot can be as long as 15 feet. The deep taproot brings nutrients from deep in the soil up to other plants.

*Change the way you think about the dandelion.  
It isn't a weed. It is a healer.*

Dandelions are a green and growing first aid kit. People have been using dandelions as a medicinal tonic for thousands of years. They are more nutritious than most of the vegetables in your garden. Furthermore, dandelions have been given credit for helping with baldness, dandruff, toothache, sores, fevers, weakness, and depression.

Dandelion's magic powers come from the fact that it has more vitamin A than spinach, more vitamin C than tomatoes, and is a powerhouse of iron, calcium, and potassium.

## Other Interesting Facts

Other interesting facts about the dandelion flower:

- The dandelion opens in the morning and closes in the evening.
- Up until the 1800s, people would pull grass out of their lawns to make room for dandelion, chickweed (*Stellaria media*), common mallow (*Malva sylvestris*), and chamomile (*Matricaria chamomilla*).
- Every part of the dandelion is useful: roots, leaves, and the flower are used in food, medicine, and dye.
- Dandelion uses are well documented by ancient Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans and are still used in traditional Chinese medicine.
- Dandelions are used to treat liver disorders and dandelion tea is a diuretic.
- Dandelions can be used in producing tea, wine, and as a caffeine-free substitute for coffee.



## Health Benefits of Dandelions

Some health benefits of dandelions are:

- Removes toxins from the body
- Highly nutritious
- Full of antioxidants
- Boosts immune system
- May promote liver function and is a liver cleanser
- May help control blood sugar and type 2 diabetes
- May be used as a diuretic
- May lower blood pressure
- May reduce cholesterol
- May help one lose weight



*If you mow  
dandelions they  
will grow on  
shortened stalks  
to spite you.*

*Grow native  
plants, not lawns.*

See Dandelion Recipes on page 7.

## Dandelion Recipes

By Kimberly Mason

You may enjoy the following interesting dandelion recipes. Also, you can find many more recipes using an online search.

### Dandelion Flower Infused Oil

Dandelion flower infused oil is often used in recipes designed to soothe and heal chapped or cracked skin. It is also helpful for sore muscles and other aches and pains. The shelf life of strained dandelion oil is one year.

To make infused oil:

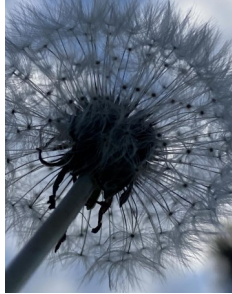
1. Fill a canning jar halfway with dried flowers.
2. Fill the jar with your favorite carrier oil. Suggested oils include sunflower, olive, sweet almond, avocado, or jojoba.
3. Cap the jar and tuck it away in a cabinet for 4 to 6 weeks.
4. Shake the jar occasionally.
5. Strain after 6 weeks.

### Dandelion Vinegar

Dandelions are full of minerals such as calcium, potassium, magnesium, and iron. One of the best ways to extract those minerals is in vinegar. For this recipe use fresh dandelion flowers mixed with leaves and stems.

To make dandelion vinegar:

1. Gather fresh dandelion blossoms and leaves.
2. Rinse them well.
3. Fill a jar 3/4 full of blossoms and leaves. Do not pack tightly in the jar.
4. Pour apple cider vinegar over the fresh plant material until



the jar is filled.

5. Cover the top of the jar with wax paper and then a lid. The added layer keeps the acidity of the vinegar from eating away the metal lid.
6. Place the covered jar in a dark cabinet and store for it 4 to 6 weeks. Shake occasionally.
7. Strain and it is ready to use.

### Uses for Dandelion Vinegar

There are many ways to use dandelion vinegar, such as:

- Dilute with equal parts water and use it as a hair rinse.
- Make an oxymel or a sweet and sour herbal syrup. An oxymel is a type of "herbal elixir."
- Dilute with water and dab on itchy bug bites.
- Pour 1 cup of vinegar and 1 cup of Epsom salt in a bath for achy tired muscles.

### Dandelion Vinaigrette

To make a homemade vinaigrette:

1. In a jar, combine:
  - 3 tbsp oil
  - 2 tbsp dandelion vinegar
  - 1 tbsp crumbled bacon
  - 1/2 tbsp chopped onion
  - 1 tsp maple syrup
  - Salt and pepper to taste.
2. Shake together and let stand for 30 minutes.
3. Shake again before adding to your salad.

### Dandelion Tea

To make dandelion tea:

1. Place 1/2 cup dandelion petals in a cup.
2. Pour boiling water over petals.
3. Let steep for 5 to 10 minutes.
4. Strain.
5. Sweeten if desired and sip slowly.

## April Phenology

By Jessie Mellon

According to the USGS rain gage in Winnsboro, as of April 15, we received 2.6 inches of precipitation in the previous 30 days. That was sufficient precipitation and drought conditions did not exist in those 30 days.

### Phenology Observations

American pokeweed, (*Phytolacca americana*) is growing well. Plants with existing tubers are about 3 feet tall and last year's seedlings have germinated and have two leaves.

Black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) shows bright green leaves which are increasing in size. However, it has not bloomed yet.

Purple passion vine (*Passiflora incarnata*) is growing well, climbing up a trellis, putting on new leaves, and getting small

flower buds. I haven't seen any evidence of Gulf fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) activity yet.

Common hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), red mulberry (*Morus rubra*), Mexican plum (*Prunus mexicana*), and pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) are all growing well and putting on new leaves which increase in size every week.

American holly (*Ilex opaca*) and Yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) are dropping last year's leaves, putting on new leaves, and blooming. The honeybees are busy collecting pollen and the trees literally "buzz."

I don't expect to see cedar waxwing birds (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) until next January or February.

Hallelujah! Spring is here at last!



## Hawkins Blooms, Quiz Boards, and a Festival

By Ann Reynolds

I know I have said this before... but I will say it again. It seems every year, that flowers will not bloom at the project and then poof! Everything starts blooming at once.

The only plants we lost to the weird weather were two lantanas.

Bluebonnets (*Lupinus texensis*) are thick this year. So thick that park personnel mowed the blooming plants outside the flowerbeds.



Texas bluebonnet



Queen Anne's Lace

I hope many of you went down and dug some up. The Queen Anne's Lace (*Daucus carota*) always reseeds where we do not want it but it is beautiful, nonetheless. Standing winecup (*Callirhoe digitata*) and Drummond phlox (*Phlox drummondii*) are new to the garden this year and probably came up from the seed bank. The coreopsis and pink ladies (*Oenothera speciosa*) are blooming well too.

The Hawkins ISD shop class made three quiz boards for the WCMGs. These boards are to be used for educational outreach and will be located at the extension office for our use. All you have to do is provide the questions and answers!

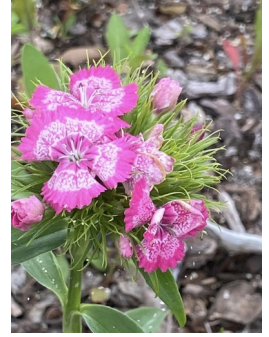
The Hawkins Pancake Festival was held on April 15. The festival honors Lillian Richard who was born in Hawkins and went on to be Aunt Jemima for Quaker Oats in 1925. Her career lasted 23 years.

It was fun to see her descendants at the festival. We

distributed gardening handouts and gave away plants that project volunteers brought from their home gardens. We met three people who want a garden consultation.

I thank Anna Wilkins, Kelly Holden, Lorraine Pedretti, and Meleena Byram for their help for the festival.

Sadly, we were too busy talking to festival goers to partake in the pancakes.



Drummond phlox



Pink ladies

## April's WCMGA Program: Foraging for Wild Edibles

By Kathy Goodman

April's WCMGA program was hosted by President Barbara Williams at her homestead. The weather was perfect for a foraging walk on Barbara's property. Before the walk, Rebecca Staggs talked about the basics of foraging: respect the law, respect the land, respect the plant, and respect yourself. She recommended certain tools to take along on foraging treks.

Rebecca handed out a foraging cheat sheet that shows how to identify a plant by leaf shape, margin, venation, and attachment to the stem. It also shows flower identification by the complete flower head of a plant including stems, stalks, bracts, and flowers. In addition, it included examples of the structure and pattern made up by a flower's petals. The handout also compared woody and herbaceous plants.

The common edibles in your yard include:

- Henbit
- Dead nettle
- Wood sorrel
- Plantain
- Dandelion ([See Kim's article about dandelions on page 6.](#))
- Cleavers ([See Jessie's article about cleavers on page 5.](#))
- Pine
- Greenbrier



After Rebecca's presentation many of the Master Gardeners followed her on a trek through Barbara's land. The weather was quite pleasant for the walk and Rebecca's knowledge was excellent. The number of edible plants she pointed out was amazing. Another excellent educational WCMGA program.



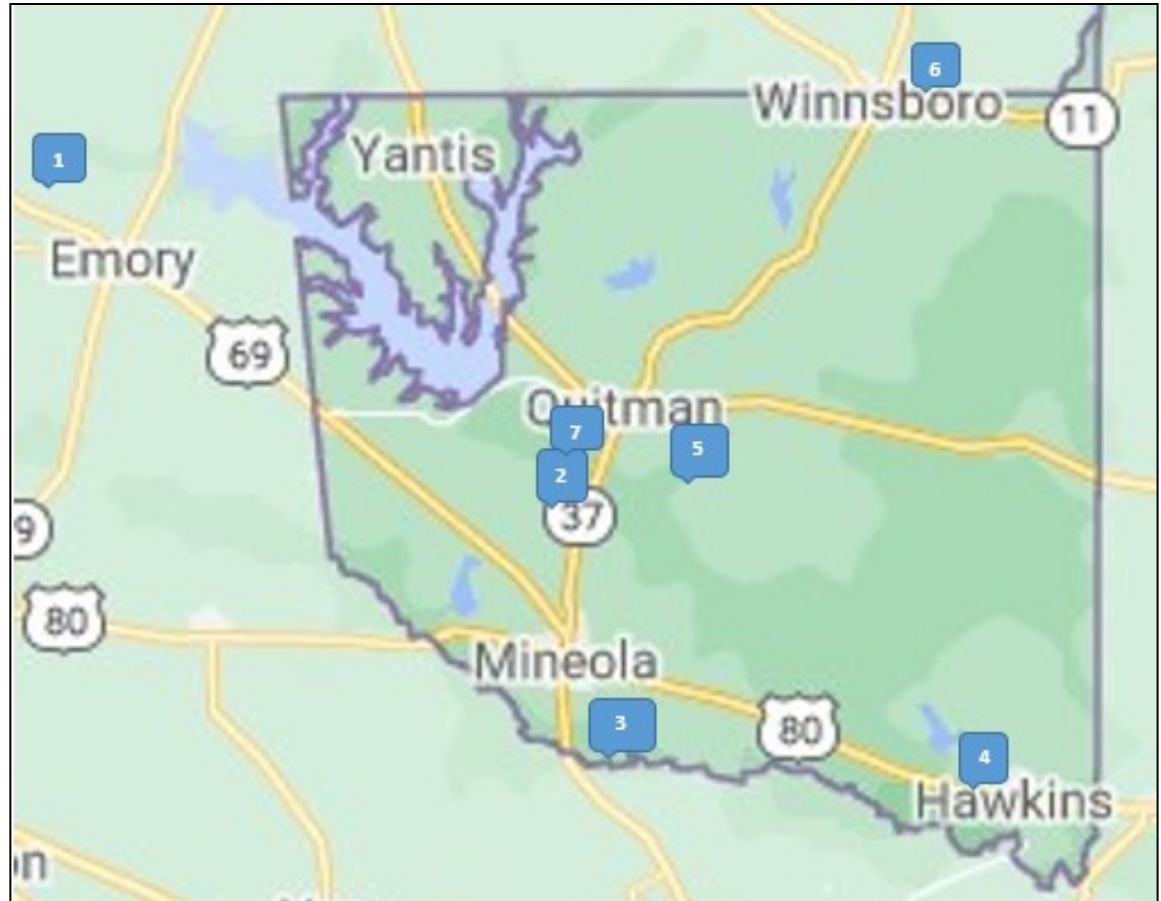


# WCMGA Projects Map

by Barb Williams

*This map shows the location of each of the WCMGA projects.*

*See the list below for the project names, project chairs, and work days relating to the numbers on the map.*



## WCMGA Projects

1. Emory Park (Emory)  
Project Chair: Lannette Beaver  
Workday: Varies
2. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office (EOG)  
Project Chair: Martha Maurits  
Workday: Thursday @ 9 am
3. Mineola Nature Preserve (MNP)  
Project Chair: Linda Timmons  
Workday: Tuesday @ 9 am
4. Hawkins City Park and Library (HCP)  
Project Chair: Ann Reynolds  
Workday: Friday @ 9 am
5. Quitman Public Library (QPL)  
Project Chair: Jan Whitlock  
Workday: Monday @ 9 am
6. Winnsboro Library (WINNS)  
Project Chair: Bob and Patt Bauerschmidt  
Workday: Monday @ 10 am
7. Wood County Arboretum & Botanical Gardens (WCABG)  
Project Chair: Lin Grado  
Workday: Wednesday @ 9 am

Please sign up on the Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Management System (VMS) for each of the projects you would like an email from so you can receive up-to-date information about a particular project and their work schedule for the week.

## For Texas Master Gardeners in Wood County

To Sign Up for a Project:

1. Sign in to Texas Master Gardener VMS at [https://vms.texasmg.org/sec\\_Login/](https://vms.texasmg.org/sec_Login/)
2. Select **GENERAL INFORMATION > PROJECTS**.
3. Click an **ID** for a project. For example:



The **PROJECTS** tab opens.

4. Scroll to the bottom. Add **Notes** to indicate that you want to offer a particular skill, and then click **Volunteer for this Project**. You will receive an email verifying your sign up.

## Area 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 notify Kathy Goodman so she can update the list.

### 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 Wood County Extension Agent Emily (Husmann) Castillo's reports for the year, she needs 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, please total each amount and give that information to Wood County Extension Agent Emily (Husmann) Castillo.

emily.husmann@ag.tamu.edu

Extension Office: 903.763.2924, FAX: 903.763.2092

### Texas AgriLife Extension Service Mission Statement

*Working hand-in-hand with its Texas A&M System partners, the state legislature, and the communities it serves, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service mission to serve Texans through community-based education has remained unchanged for almost a century. With a vast network of 250 county Extension offices, 616 Extension agents, and 343 subject-matter specialists, the expertise provided by AgriLife Extension is available to every resident in every Texas county.*

Reference: <https://txmg.org/contacts/agrilife-extension>

*To learn about how to become a Master Gardener, contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office for Wood County 903.763.2924*

### Area Food Pantries

The following food pantries accept donations of fresh vegetables.

#### Alba

##### Alba-Golden Food Pantry

245 E. Holley Street, Alba (903) 765-2471

Friday 9 AM - 11 AM

Service Area: Alba-Golden School District

##### Lake Fork Baptist Church Feed My Sheep (Pantry)

9483 W FM 515, Alba (903) 473-9523

Second Tuesday 1 PM - 3 PM

Service Area: All counties

#### Hawkins

##### Hawkins Helping Hands (Pantry)

320 W. Front St., Hawkins (903) 769-4357

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9 AM - 12 PM

Service Area: Hawkins ISD

#### Mineola

##### Bread of Life Ministries (Pantry)

1001 E. McDonald, Mineola (903) 405-0064

First and third Tuesday 8:30 AM - 4 PM

Service Area: Wood County

##### Kindness Kottage (Pantry)

316 E. Broad St, Mineola (903) 569-9197

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 3 PM

Service Area: Mineola ISD

##### Rose Hill Food Pantry

1420 CR 2460, Mineola (903) 312-3256

Second and fourth Wednesday 10 AM - 12 PM

Service Area: Wood County

#### Quitman

##### First United Methodist Church (Senior Box)

406 E Lane St, Quitman (903) 597-3663

Second Friday Participating Clients: 9 AM - 10 AM

Waiting Clients: 10 AM - 11 AM

Service Area: All counties

Note: Enter on N. Goldman St.

##### Mercy Mall (Pantry)

104 Bermuda, Quitman (903) 497-0684

Every Saturday 10 AM - 12 PM

Service Area: All

#### Winnsboro

##### Winnsboro CRC (Pantry)

115 W. Broadway, Winnsboro (903) 342-3287

Tuesday & Thursday 10 AM - 2 PM

Service Area: Winnsboro ISD





The WCMGA newsletter contains information about:

- Educational seminars and classes
- Garden projects
- Educational articles written by Master Gardeners
- Community outreach events

Please send newsletter articles, suggestions, and interesting information to newsletter editor Kathy Goodman (kmgoodman0807gmail.com).

**Note:** For writing articles, Master Gardeners can count up to 3 hours as Project: NL volunteer hours in VMS. Put the number of hours for research under Project: Research in VMS. Please understand that all articles will be edited to fit the newsletter style or for spacing needs.

## WCMGA Information and Educational Opportunities

### 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> This website contains 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.

### WCMGA Private Facebook Group

This private Facebook group is for the Wood County Master Gardeners Association members. To join, contact Linda Timmons.

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

### Wood County Master Gardeners Public Facebook Group

This public Facebook group contains information about upcoming events at the Wood County Master Gardener Association projects, Master Gardener programs, and other useful horticulture information.

<https://www.facebook.com/WoodCountyMasterGardeners>

### Volunteer Management System

VMS is most user-friendly when using a computer, iPad, or tablet. The system 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.

**Associate Roster:** WCMGA members can find email addresses and contact information for Master Gardeners in VMS. Please update your profile and add your photo in the Roster. Check your listing to be sure your contact information is up-to-date. If you have problems entering your hours or updating your information, please contact Linda Timmons.

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

### Advanced Training

Visit the **Texas Master Gardener Advanced Training** website for information about advanced training topics and opportunities.

<https://mastergardener.tamu.edu/master-gardener-specialist/>

### Sunshine

Know of a member who needs a get well, warm thought, or sympathy card? Contact Elaine Porter.

*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.*