

# MG Wood Works

September/October 2023



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## Barb Williams: President's Letter

Happy fall y'all! (I'm hoping by the time this is published, it will feel more like fall!)

It's been way too hot to be outside for any length of time; so I'm getting up early and working until I can't take it anymore. Then I go inside and work on plans for when I can be outside again. Hydrating is key!

I started some shallots from seed in mid-August. I'll keep them under the grow lights until late September and then I'll plant them outside (after they harden off, of course). They need 105 days; so hopefully we won't get a hard freeze until December. I'll try again in the spring to see which season works out the best for growing them. I'm open to any tips, tricks or pointers you may have.

I'm also trying out planting cucumbers in the shade of the spent plants right now and starting fall tomatoes from the new growth on the spent tomato plants (sticking the limbs in a bucket of water to root). I'll replace the tomato plants near the end of September when I plant my radishes and lettuce. I think I'll try beets again, but this year I'll start them inside.

On the WCMGA side of things, it's time to get the budget committee and a nominating committee together. We need a treasurer and a president for 2024. Thanks so much to May Sandison for doing an excellent job keeping our monies together this past year

and a half! I've been honored to serve as your president and I look forward to helping out the next one chosen!

Our Lunch and Learn sessions have been on point with the time of year and well attended! The public really appreciates the information and hopefully we'll see some new recruits from them.

Speaking of new recruits, November 1 is when Emily will start taking applications for next year's trainee class. There will be an informational class at 10 a.m. that day in the AgriLife conference room. Be sure to tell all your friends about it!

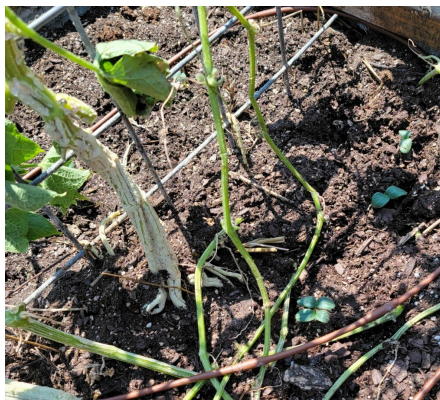
The Spring Conference 2024 committee is moving right along and I'm sure it will be a wonderful event! There's still room for more volunteers if you're interested!

The new project leader format is coming together. See the article on [page 9](#). Hopefully, everyone will be

encouraged to volunteer at their local WCMGA project (or at least the ones that appeal to them the most). We have lots of options for volunteer (VOL) hours and continuing education units (CEUs).

Please reach out to me if you'd like more information. I respond quickest to text messages at (505) 321-2817.

Peace, love and joy!



Cucumbers planted in the shade of spent plants.

## Upcoming Events

**September 21 WCMGA meeting: Designing Shade Gardens** by Tim Hooten, Hooten's Lawn & Tree Services

**September 28 Lunch and Learn: Growing and Caring for Moringa** at the AgriLife Extension Office in Quitman, from 12 to 1. Bring your lunch and drink. The public is welcome.

**October 19 WCMGA meeting: Annual Plant, Seed, and Gardening Stuff Swap**

**October 26 Lunch and Learn: Tree Care** at the AgriLife Extension Office in Quitman, from 12 to 1. Bring your lunch and drink. The public is welcome.

Wood Works Staff  
Kathy Goodman, Editor  
Jenna Nelson, Proofreader

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## 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, Meleena Byram and Betty Stark

Mineola Nature Preserve, Linda Timmons

Phenology-Nature Watch, Jessie Mellon

Quitman Public Library, Jan Whitlock

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, Dana Childs and Laura Palumbo

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, Ann Reynolds

## July WCMGA Program—Microgreens

By Kathy Goodman

Erin and Drew Mason presented a program about microgreens for the July WCMGA meeting. They own Mason Wholesale Greenhouses in Quitman and distribute their microgreens to area restaurants.

Their microgreens are high in nutrition and quite tasty. The microgreens they brought for the Master Gardeners to sample were a hit.

In September 2017, the Masons bought the farm that Drew Mason had worked at while in high school. Erin and Drew studied Sustainable Agriculture at Cal Poly University with Archi's Acres. In addition, they are both military veterans.

The property had been a successful flower nursery business. After the owner passed away, the property was unattended for a couple years. With time, effort, and much hard work, the Masons are working to bring the property back to life.



Drew Mason answering questions while Master Gardeners taste samples of microgreens.



## Spring Flowers Start in the Fall

By Linda Timmons

Texas is known for its beautiful spring wildflower show. Bluebonnets, paintbrushes, and evening primrose turn roadsides and fields into colorful swatches of blue, orange, and pink in spring and early summer. Many of the flowers that make up the spring show can be grown by the home gardener from inexpensive seeds.

### Start in the Fall

The native spring blooming flowers require cool temperatures (below 70 degrees) to germinate and develop a strong root system. In East Texas the fall rains and the cooler temperatures of September and October are perfect for sowing spring flower seeds.

### Pick Your Spot

Wildflowers are tough plants but they still need sun, soil, and the right amount of water. Most need about 6 hours of sunlight a day.

Spring wildflowers also have trouble competing with grasses and weeds. They don't need tilled soil, just some lightly raked bare soil. Tilling or digging can bring dormant seeds to the surface resulting in lots of weeds.

Spring wildflowers need well-drained soil. Too dry soil results in sparse germination and too much water results in rot and diseases. Keep in mind that an area that is bone dry in the summer may be soggy during the winter rains and so would not be appropriate for growing seeds.



Spring at the Wildscape Garden in Mineola

The seeds will only need watering if we have a dry winter. Rain every week or two is sufficient in the cooler weather.

### Choose Your Seeds

Texas has thousands of native blooming plants. Choosing what to grow can be daunting. Native American Seed in Junction, Texas and Wildseed Farms in Fredericksburg, Texas are both excellent sources for seed and resources for information on planting and growing appropriate wildflowers for our part of East Texas.

At the Wildscape Garden in the Mineola Nature Preserve our spring blooming flowers are predominantly bluebonnets (*Lupinus texensis*), showy or pink evening primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*), Mexican hat (*Ratibida columnifera*) and black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia hirta*). Of these four only the bluebonnets are annual. The rest are perennials that bloom the first year from seed.

Other annuals grown at the Wildscape are gaillardia, coreopsis, trailing verbena, Drummond phlox, and sunflowers.

You don't need a big area to start your wildflower garden. One to three plants in a large pot or a few plants in an existing garden bed could be an easy start to your native Texas wildflower growing experience.

*Your reward will be  
a burst of spring color and  
the native insects will thank you.*



Bluebonnets and phlox

## My Gardening Solution for Ant Bites

By Connie Holliday

While living in the city for 50 years, I only had a few ant hills. Then, two years ago, I moved to a home with 10 acres that is two miles east of downtown Quitman where ants quickly became my gardening nemeses.

The scars from ant bites on my feet and ankles are too numerous to count, not to mention the bites marks on my hands.

After scrambling to find something to relieve the pain, I found Sarna, an anti-itch lotion. Sarna works quickly to stop the pain and is readily available at most pharmacies. In addition, it also calms restless feet at night and relieves sunburn pain.

Now my gardening tool bucket includes a small pill bottle filled

with Sarna. That way I have quick access to relief when needed.

My fellow Master Gardeners have also shared options for reducing the number of ants using methods such as:

- An orange oil, water, and Dawn solution
- A baking soda and powdered sugar combination

Ants have not become my friends, but they are no longer my nemeses.



Sarna is part of my tool bucket.

## In Defense of Ditch Lilies

By Meleena Byram

*Hemerocallis fulva* is the perennial orange daylily grown as a naturalizing plant that is given many names, but I've always heard it referred to as a ditch lily.

While it isn't native, and native purists condemn their planting, I love them. The argument against them is that they take up space where native plants could grow, displace natives, spread too easily, and overwhelm areas.

In my personal experience this has not been the case. I've used them for years on the edges of the woods. While they do multiply, I've never experienced them overtaking any area where I've planted them.

They are tough, drought and heat tolerant, don't mind poor soil, and are beautiful (in my humble opinion). That makes them perfect for our hot, dry Texas summers.

Planting them with daffodil bulbs is a great way to disguise the dying daffodil foliage that you need to leave to ensure that nutrients get stored in the daffodil bulb for the next bloom season. The daylily foliage camouflages the decaying daffodil foliage.



The orange daylily is named for its large, 5 inch diameter, orange flowers. The flower scapes rise up to 6 feet tall from the sword-like bright green leaves. It grows in large clumps, naturalizing along roads and in old gardens, often in very poor soil.

Its popularity among commercial growers has decreased due to a large number of available *Hemerocallis* hybrids.

The orange daylily spreads rapidly by rhizomes into woods and fields and along roadsides when dumped. This plant may multiply to form dense patches that displace native plants and is often mistaken for a native species.

Genus *Hemerocallis* comes from the Greek words *hemera* meaning day and *kallos* meaning beauty as each beautiful flower is open for only a day. The specific epithet means tawny-orange.

P.S. I love all daylilies, not just the much maligned "ditch" lily.



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## A Friendly Reminder That We Share Our Garden Space

By Jessie Mellon

We own our garden space. Ah, hubris! We **share** our space with a host of other beings. Three beings come to my mind: insects, arachnids, and reptiles.

I know, it's tempting to start weeding or pruning on the spur of the moment. After all, what could happen? These insects, arachnids, and reptiles will scurry away from our probing hands, right? Maybe not. These little guys will defend themselves with bites and stings.

Recently, a spider reminded me that gardening is a shared endeavor and should be approached with respect and humility.

My advice is to take your time working in your garden or flower beds and watch out for these little guys. You may not see them so it's a good idea to "gear up" before starting to work. A good pair of gloves can blunt the scorpion's sting. Long sleeves or a gardening gauntlet can help protect your arms.

An internet search for gardening personal protection equipment (PPE) resulted in at least 14 sources for gardening gauntlets, overalls, hats, gloves, and sleeves.

The gauntlet in the photo is from Farmers Defense. It is excellent to wear when picking tomatoes and okra and to

protect your arms and upper hand from fire ants. A lightweight glove can be worn under the gauntlet for light work and a heavier glove can be slipped over your hand for tougher jobs. Happy gardening all!

Reference: <https://farmersdefense.com/>



Gardening gauntlet from Farmers Defense.



# Purslane Thrives and Blooms in the Heat

By Jessie Mellon

August in Texas often brings insufferable heat. Bermuda grass goes dormant, and heat stressed trees drop their leaves. Most plants are sweltering in the heat, but purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) thrives and blooms! Where did this tough little plant come from? It grows in gravel in the bed designed as a fire break (my "hell spot").

Purslane thrives in triple-digit weather and grows worldwide in disturbed soils. It is considered a valuable potherb in Europe and Asia but hasn't caught on in the United States. A potherb is an herb whose leaves or stems are boiled for use as greens and is also used to season food.

Purslane is considered a weed in garden plots, fields, and orchards. We routinely rip it out.

## Identification

The herb grows prostrate with stems radiating from a single taproot. Stems are cylindrical, smooth, and can reach roughly 12 inches in length, store water, and may be green or red. The leaves are alternate or subopposite and are flat and egg shaped being wider at the apex and tapering down to the stem. Leaves are smooth and have a waxy coating on the top to help conserve water.

Purslane blooms from May to September. Single flowers or clusters of up to five blooms form at the tip of the stems. They are minute having five petals of a range of colors and are open from mid-morning to early afternoon on hot days.

Pollination results in the formation of a round to oval seed capsule. Once the seeds have matured, the top of the capsule falls away exposing a bowl filled with numerous rounded brown or black seeds.

Seed development continues even if the mother plant is pulled up. Any disturbance spills the seeds onto the ground. Seeds germinate sporadically and may remain dormant for three or four decades.

## Nutritional Value

Purslane is rich in vitamins A and C and has 44 percent and 35 percent (per 100 grams) of the recommended daily allowance (RDA), respectively, according to USDA National Nutrient data.

Other constituents of the plant include:

- Riboflavin which yields 8.5 percent per 100 grams of the RDA.
- Folate, niacin, pantothenic acid pyridoxine, thiamin levels all of which are below 6 percent per 100 grams of the RDA.
- Minerals including calcium, copper, manganese, phosphorus, selenium, and zinc.
- 100 grams of purslane provides 25 percent RDA of iron and 17 percent RDA for magnesium.
- Electrolytes in 100 grams of purslane are sodium at 3 percent RDA and potassium at 10.5 percent RDA.

- There is no cholesterol in purslane and less than 4 percent RDA for protein and carbohydrates in 100 grams.

Considering antioxidants, wild purslane has seven times more vitamin E (alpha-tocopherol) compared to spinach and a roughly equal amount of vitamin C (ascorbic acid). Spinach, however, has slightly more vitamin A (beta-carotene) than purslane.

Although purslane is a rich source of omega-3 fatty acids, there is a caveat. When we refer to omega-3 fatty acids we include many different forms of fatty acids, each affecting a different stage of development or homeostasis. The main form in purslane is alpha-linolenic acid (ALA) which is not efficiently converted by humans to more effective and useful forms. Most of the ALA is stored as fat. The most effective forms of omega-3 fatty acids are found in seafood, some animal foods, and algae.

Purslane is a nutritious herb with many culinary uses, limited only by imagination. It may be eaten raw, used as a mixed green in salads, pickled, steamed, or in stir fry recipes. It is best



Pollinators such as this sweat bee (*Halictidae* sp.) visit the tiny flowers.

used as soon as possible after picking as it does not store or transport well.

Try growing some in your disturbed garden areas. I think it's quite tasty and besides, my chickens love it.



Purslane grows in gravel in a fire break.

# August Phenology Report

By Jessie Mellon

The USGS Rain Gauge in Winnsboro recorded 1.4 inches of precipitation in the last 30 days. Surprisingly, according to the US Drought Monitor, Wood County was not in drought conditions in mid-August. Our neighboring counties to the west and south; however, are classified as abnormally dry.

As of August 15, 2023, a burn ban had not been issued. There are signs of heat stress in the vegetation. Bermuda grass will be dormant soon and trees are dropping leaves to conserve moisture. In many areas the soil has become hydrophobic, which means tending to repel or fail to mix with water.

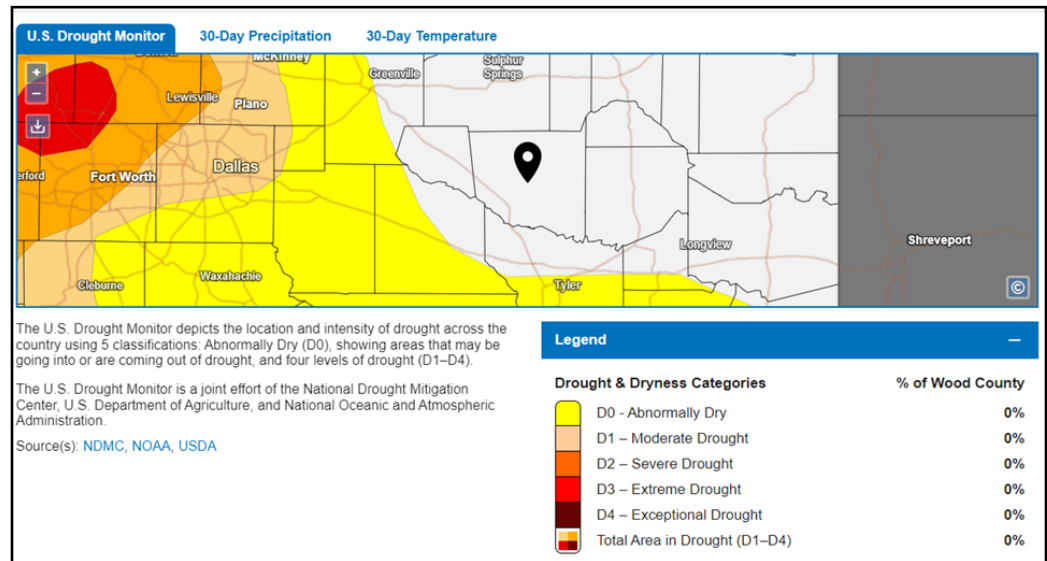
## My Observation Area

What's going on in my observation area?

American pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*) is surviving in shade. No new leaves are evident, but the plant still bears fruit in varying stages of ripeness. Hungry caterpillars devour the foliage.

Yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) and American holly (*Ilex opaca*) are unphased by triple-digit temperatures. They provide deep shade for birds and insects.

Common hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), red mulberry (*Morus rubra*), and pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) show signs of heat stress by yellowing and falling leaves.



Surprisingly, Wood County was not in drought conditions at the middle of August.

Black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) shows a few red leaves but fares well in the shade of a large hickory.

Mexican plum (*Prunus mexicana*) has dropped more than 50 percent of its leaves. The twigs remain pliable and will likely survive the summer.

Purple passion vine (*Passiflora incarnata*) has been stripped of at least 50 percent of its foliage by hungry Gulf fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) caterpillars who hide from the hot sun during the day and emerge in the evening to gorge themselves on the remaining leaves and stems.

Adult butterflies sip nectar from their favorite flame acanthus bushes and chase each other in a mating dance. The butterflies seem to be unaffected by the heat.

As for me, I'm waiting for October!

## Scabiosa—Wild, Wiry, and Unorganized

By Betty Stark

Scabiosa is also known as the pincushion plant. Its genus is in the honeysuckle family of flowering plants.

Scabiosa is a perennial and the flowers attract many butterflies and moths because of their abundance of nectar.

Its basal leaves (the lowest leaves on the plant) are lance-shaped, with a whitish surface covering. Stem leaves are lobed and divided into narrow sections. Slender, wiry stems bear flat flowers up to 3 inches across. The stamens that stand out like pins from the flower give the plant its name.

It blossoms from summer to early fall, and even later if faded flowers are removed. In addition to the light blue of the basic species, mauve, lavender, violet, and white varieties are available.

These plants do best in full sun with partial shade in hot summer areas with sandy to average well-drained soil.

As the flower heads die back, clip them off and save them to dry. When the flower heads have dried, the seeds pop right off for next years' planting.

If you like wild, wiry, and unorganized stems with pin cushion heads and delicately colored flowers, then scabiosa is for you.





# Project Leadership Redefined for 2024

By Barbara Williams

At the July WCMGA meeting I explained the new 2024 format for project leadership, which will be comprised of:

- Master Gardener Coordinator
- Project Director
- Project Coordinators (preferably two per project)
- Workday Volunteers

## Master Gardener Coordinator

The Master Gardener Coordinator is the Wood County Extension Agent who is currently Emily Husmann Castillo. She will communicate with the Project Director about the current projects' needs and concerns as well as entertain any ideas for new projects that will promote the Master Gardener objectives.

The coordinator will keep a copy of the contact list and year-at-a-glance information for each project at the AgriLife Extension Office in Quitman.

## Project Director

I will be the Project Director and will communicate with the Project Coordinators about the needs of the projects and will be available for help and direction. As director I will facilitate the projects working together, help fill the positions as needed, and host an annual training/networking event.

As the director I also will keep a copy of the contact list and year-at-a-glance information for each project in a notebook. Other director's duties will include buying common supplies in bulk and setting up accounts at local nurseries, so the treasurer can be billed directly instead of Project Coordinators needing to pay out of pocket and be reimbursed.

Other goals include helping to design uniform plant identification stakes, updating the WCMGA website with current photos and information, helping to create pamphlets about different plants at each project location, and setting up a seed library for the various projects.

## Project Coordinators

We would prefer two Project Coordinators for each project. However, only one can be listed in VMS, so that person will be responsible for sending out the messages via VMS regarding the day and time of the workday as well as the goal for that workday.

Either coordinator may present the update at the monthly WCMGA meeting. Both coordinators will work together monitoring the beds and determining what needs to be done. They will each have the list of who to contact and the year-at-a-glance information for their project.

In addition, they will order plants and supplies as needed, being mindful of the budget. Hopefully, at least one coordinator will live close enough to check on the project after a major weather event.

The vision for a project can change. Coordinators don't have to mimic what the previous coordinator has done. Workdays can be more fluid and it's okay not to have one every week if not needed. If either coordinator isn't available for a workday, they will ask a trusted Master Gardener to take the lead that day and mention it in the VMS email.

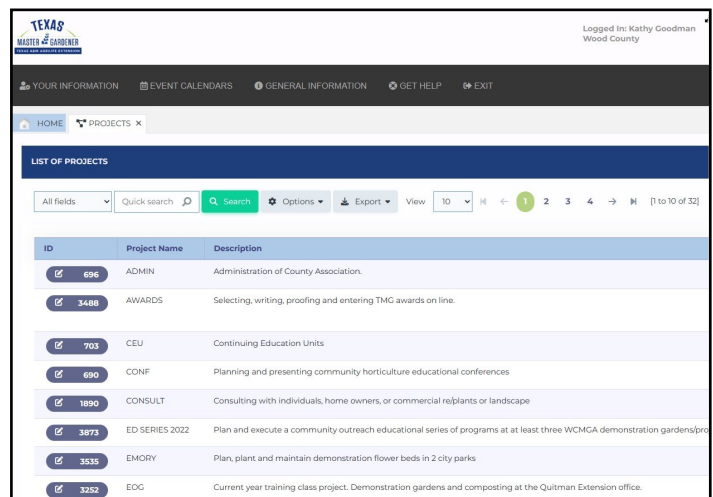
## Workday Volunteers

Workday volunteers will sign up under the project or projects of choice on VMS to ensure that they receive project emails.

Volunteers should show up at the project with either a name badge or wearing AgriLife apparel, so the community knows that they are Master Gardeners, trainees, or interns.

Volunteers will bring their tools and water. In addition, they need to log their hours in VMS in a timely manner.

If you have any questions or concerns about the new format, please let me know.



The screenshot shows the Texas Master Gardener VMS interface. At the top, it says "Texas MASTER GARDENER" and "Logged In: Kathy Goodman Wood County". Below the navigation bar, there's a "LIST OF PROJECTS" section with a search bar and a table of projects.

ID	Project Name	Description
696	ADMIN	Administration of County Association.
3488	AWARDS	Selecting, writing, proofing and entering TMG awards on line.
703	CEU	Continuing Education Units
690	CONF	Planning and presenting community horticulture educational conferences
1890	CONSULT	Consulting with individuals, home owners, or commercial replants or landscape
3873	ED SERIES 2022	Plan and execute a community outreach educational series of programs at at least three WCMGA demonstration gardens/projects
3535	EMORY	Plan, plant and maintain demonstration flower beds in 2 city parks
3282	EOG	Current year training class project. Demonstration gardens and composting at the Quitman Extension office.

Sign up for projects in the VMS system to receive emails about the project.

## Birdhouse Donated by Steve Judkins

At the August WCMGA meeting, Sondra Lafferty won a lovely birdhouse made by Steve Judkins.

Carolyn West, WCMGA vice president, provides many wonderful door prizes at the monthly WCMGA meetings.



# Becoming Aware of How You Impact Wildlife Survival

By Kathy Goodman

Several years in a row I have had multiple black swallowtail caterpillars on my fennel plants. One year I got to see the full cycle of life from caterpillar to butterfly. It was wonderful to experience the changes each day.

The next two years the caterpillars disappeared before they matured. Perhaps they became part of a critical food source for birds. For context, the Native Plant Finder website says a pair of Carolina chickadees requires between 6,000 and 9,000 caterpillars to successfully raise just one brood of young. So growing native plants is extremely important to sustain caterpillars that are necessary to feed wildlife.

On August 23, I viewed a Zoom webinar by Dr. Doug Tallamy titled *Homegrown National Parks (HNP)*. Dr. Tallamy is the T.A. Baker Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. A renowned expert in the science of plant-insect interactions, he is passionate about helping people create wildlife habitat in their own backyards and gardens.

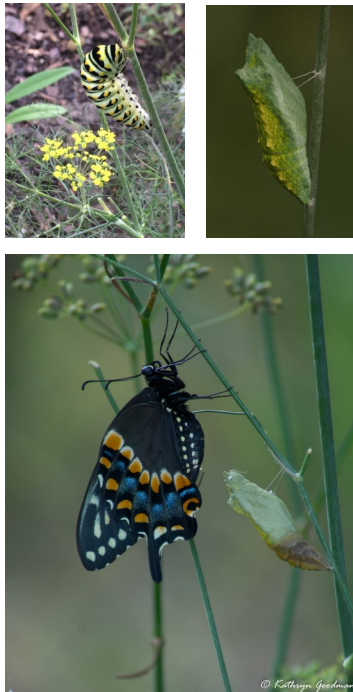
*"In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water."*

**Doug Tallamy, Co-founder HNP**

In addition to his many scientific publications, Dr. Tallamy has written *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* and co-authored *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden*. These books help anyone with a small patch of soil find the best native plants for supporting an entire ecosystem of moths, butterflies, and the many birds that eat caterpillars.

Dr. Tallamy explained that the shrinking amount of land that hosts native plants is not enough to keep wildlife from becoming extinct. We mow our yards and the sides of the roads. We grow crops and graze cattle that take over the land once covered in prairies. The amount of land preserved in national parks is not enough to provide for the native plants that host wildlife.

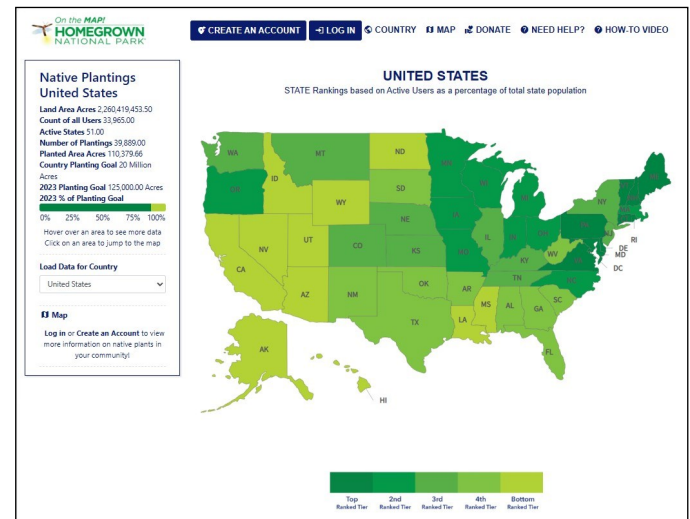
Dr. Tallamy says that we each can set aside some of our land



for native plants. For example, if people just stopped mowing half of their yard and planted that portion in native plants or planted strips of land as soil erosion control among crops, it could make a huge difference. Multiply that effort by people all over the country and we could form a huge "Homegrown National Park" that would make a crucial difference in the survival of native plants and wildlife.

You can add your piece of land to a website, no matter how small or large, so it becomes a part of the Homegrown National Park.

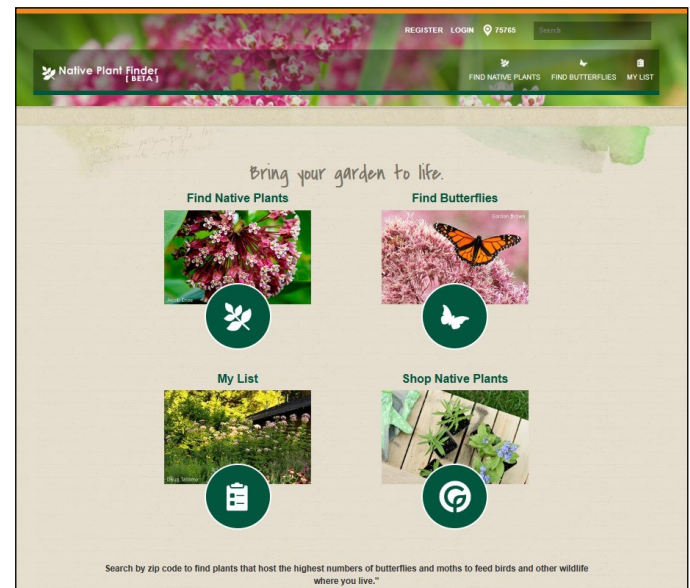
Reference: <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>



You can sign up on the map so your land becomes a part of the Homegrown National Park.

Find the plants that are native to your area by entering your ZIP code on the Native Plant Finder website.

Reference: <https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder/>



Find the native plants for your ZIP code on the Native Plant Finder website.

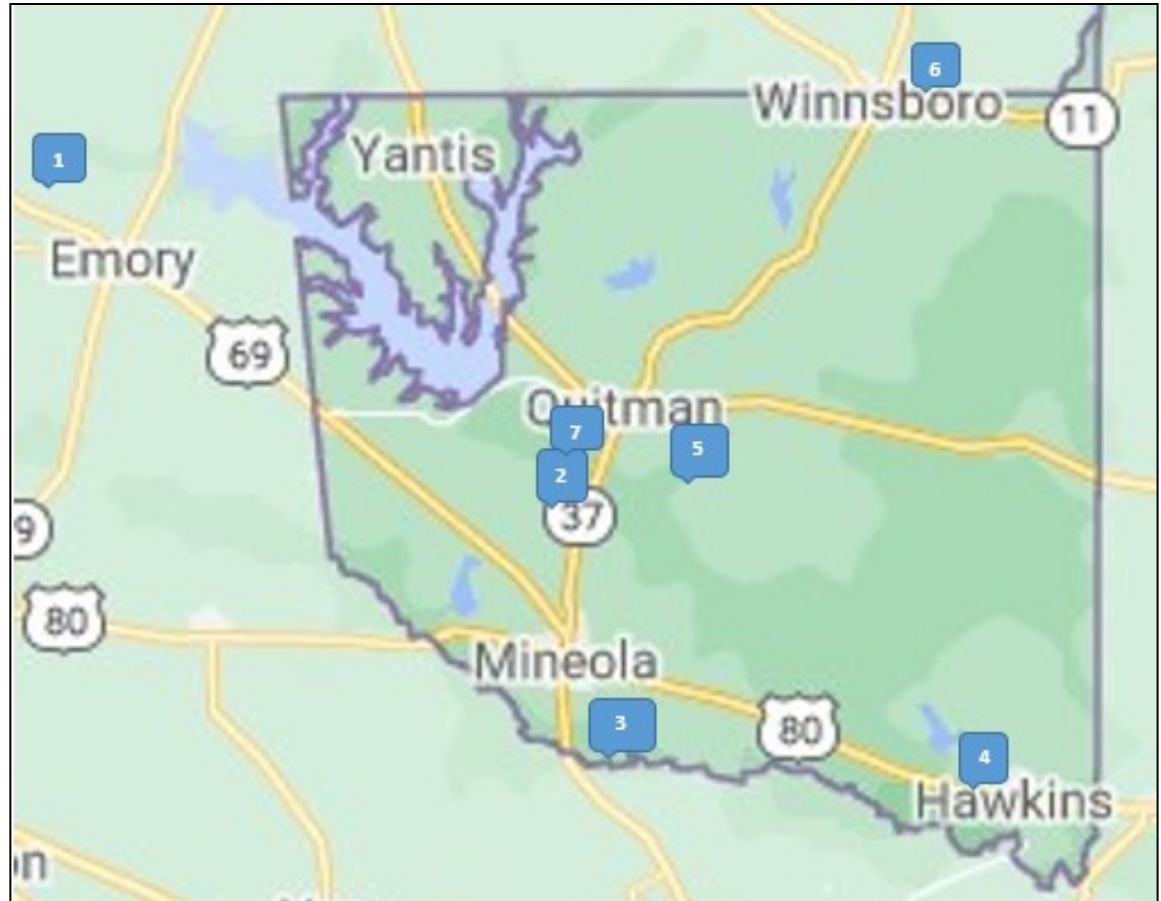


# WCMGA Projects Map

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

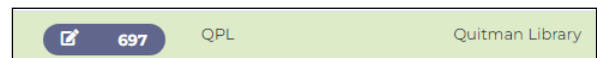
1. Emory City Park and Sandy Creek Park (Emory)  
Project Chair: Lannette Beaver  
Workday: Varies
2. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office (EOG)  
Project Chair: Dana Childs and Laura Palumbo  
Workday: Thursday @ 9 am
3. Mineola Nature Preserve (MNP)  
Project Chair: Linda Timmons  
Workday: Tuesday @ 9 am
4. Hawkins City Park and Library (HCP)  
Project Chair: Meleena Byram and Betty Stark  
Workday: Varies
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 Ann Reynolds.

### 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. *Please check out our page and Like us!*

<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.*