

MG Wood Works

November/December 2023



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Wood Works Staff

Kathy Goodman, Editor
Jenna Nelson, Proofreader

Barb Williams: President's Letter

Howdy y'all and happy holidays!

It's hard to believe that it is already November! Although, with the cold rainy days and several nights below freezing, it's starting to sink in.

As the folklore goes, the inside of a persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) seed can give an indication of the conditions of the upcoming winter. Forks (fluffy) predict a mild winter, knives predict bitter cold that cuts through you, and spoons predict a cold, wet winter.

The persimmon seeds I cracked open looked like spoons to me; so expect plenty of snow to shovel. While not at all scientific, this observation is a fun way to speculate.

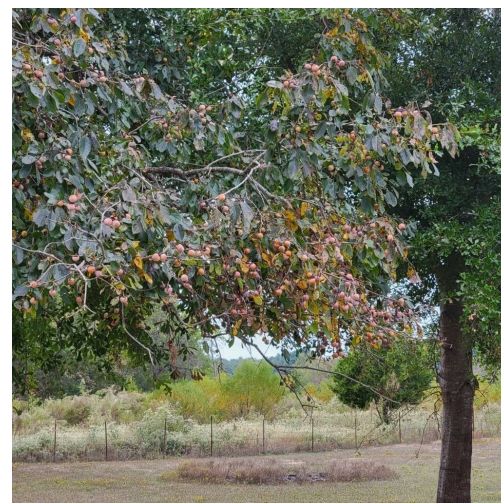
I'm grateful that my greenhouse is ready this year and that I haven't had to scramble to get the plants protected.

I'm not going to plant a fall garden after all this season. My plan is to enlarge and organize my existing veggie space so it will be ready for the spring garden next February.

It's hard for me to believe I have been president for almost two years now! I'm very grateful to all who helped me delegate duties and create committees to handle a lot of the important stuff such as membership and budget.

I'm excited that Angela Thompson is going to be the next president! She has a good head on her shoulders and, along with the new executive board, she will keep us moving forward.

Unfortunately, we're going to be without an extension agent again, but Emily has put a lot of things in place; so we should be able to keep on keeping on until the new agent is found.



My persimmon tree



My persimmon seeds look like spoons.

I appreciate the time and energy that Emily brought to our group and how much she participated in all things WCMGA. She will definitely be missed! I'm sure y'all also join in wishing her and Zach all the best in their future endeavors!

While I won't be president, I will still be around and, as always, please feel free to reach out to me whenever you would like. I respond quickest to text messages at (505) 321-2817.

Peace, love and joy!

Upcoming Events

November 16: Wood County Master Gardeners Association's Annual Meeting

December 21: Wood County Master Gardeners Association's Year End Celebration

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: Master Gardeners can find a Master Gardener's phone number and email address on the Member Roster under the General Information menu on the Wood County Master Gardener Volunteer Management System (VMS). <https://vms.texasmg.org>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent, Wood County

Extension agent—TBD

wood-tx@tamu.edu

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office

618 S. Main Street

Quitman, TX 75783-0968

903.763.2924

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WCMGA Project Chairs

Emory City Park and Sandy Creek Park, Lannette Beaver

Trainee Class, Gayle Mullinax

Hawkins City Park and Library, Meleena Byram and Betty Stark

Mineola Nature Preserve, Linda Timmons

Phenology-Nature Watch, Jessie Mellon

Quitman Public Library, Laura Palumbo and Dana Childs

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, Nate and Kelly Ann Holden

Winnsboro Library, Patt Bauerschmidt and Cindi Miller

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

Hooten's Lawn & Tree Service Program in September

By Kathy Goodman

At the September WCMGA meeting, Tim Hooten and several of his employees shared their experience with planning a landscape project. They brought several plants to demonstrate design ideas.

Some of their recommendations were:

- A misting system is better for watering than a drip system.
- When planting, they scoop out 3 to 4 inches of the flowerbed soil and replace it with landscape growers mix.
- Add Bio-tone Starter plant food when planting new plants.
- Use Nutricote controlled release fertilizer, which provides a continuous slow release of nutrients when planting.
- Add Osmocote twice a year.



As a special surprise, they brought several gifts for the meeting attendees. They gave each MG a mum, a pansy, and a small bag of Osmocote fertilizer.

Thank you to our vice president, Carolyn West, who has arranged such interesting programs this year for the WCMGA meetings.

2024 WCMGA Officer Candidates

By *Kathy Goodman*

The WCMGA candidates for 2024 are:

- Angela Thompson, President
- Carolyn West, Vice President (second year)
- Gayle Mullinax, Secretary
- Penney Ryan, Treasurer

We will vote on the candidates at the November WCMGA meeting. Each candidate has provided the following information so we can get to know them better.

Angela Thompson, President

I'm very excited to be the president of the Wood County Master Gardeners Association for 2024! I know most of you but we are always growing so I'm really looking forward to getting to know each of you better while rolling up our sleeves and getting to work together on our project sites, executive board, committees, and the new trainee class. While we are experiencing some upcoming changes with a quest for a new extension agent, my goal is to help us traverse these new transitions seamlessly and harmoniously with our shared love of gardening always unifying us.



I love all things homesteading and gardening is a big part of the homesteading trifecta—chickens, gardening, and preserving! My extended family in Golden always had big gardens and preserved the food they grew but I was too young to really learn the methods of gardening. So, in 2019 I signed up for the Wood County Master Gardener Training Class and absolutely loved it!

I almost exclusively garden in large recycled mineral tubs, at last count I think it was 95 tubs! I use an adapted hügelkultur method of gardening in these tubs.

I retired in January of 2020, from Christus Trinity Mother Frances Labor and Delivery. That was right before Covid hit, which lead me into my latest homesteading adventure—herbalism. I'm taking a course on herbalism while growing, preserving, and making herbal remedies.

I am married to a wonderful man who totally helps me with my adventures at The Chicken Coop Homestead. He built my chicken coop and my greenhouse and keeps our 5.5 acres pristine. Ladd and I have been married 38 years and have two children and three grandchildren. I've lived in Mineola my entire life except during college.

Carolyn West, Vice President

Since I was a child, I have loved growing flowers and vegetables. Although in my younger days my gardening efforts were pretty unsuccessful and I could hardly be gardener of the year, I enjoyed every minute outdoors. I joined Texas Master Gardeners after retirement to rekindle my gardening spirit and learn new techniques.



Pascagoula, Mississippi is my hometown; however, Ken and I moved to Dallas in 1977 to join Texas Instruments. In 1985, we learned about Lake Fork; so we decided to build a second home on the lake in Wood County.

We both retired in 2008 after a wonderful career with TI and TriQuint Semiconductor in Richardson. When we joined TI, I was the first woman logistics engineer. Later I moved into Procurement Quality Engineering management. I held several jobs at TI, then transferred to TriQuint Semiconductor when TI sold their Defense Systems Group. There I held several positions but ended my career as Customer Service manager.

My favorite thing about WCMGA is learning from such sage members. I literally love being a part of the organization. In 2024, I am looking forward to being the vice president and having the opportunity to learn so much more as we set the programs for the year. It will be my pleasure to serve again.

Gayle Mullinax, Secretary

We moved here from the Amarillo area eight years ago. After moving from an area that was all clay and no sand, I knew I needed to learn about how to garden in a different part of the state.

I had always wanted to take the Master Gardener course but did not have the time. I enjoy learning new things and gardening is something I like.

I am a Registered Nurse and worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs for 35 years.

What I like most about the WCMGA is the ability to keep learning and finding so many like-minded people. I have made so many friends since taking this course.

I look forward to continuing to grow in knowledge and to promote our organization. I am excited about the Spring Conference and the monthly Lunch and Learn opportunities.



Penney Ryan, Treasurer

From the time I first heard about the Master Gardener program several years ago, I knew I wanted to join and earn my certificate. It was the first thing I checked into upon my retirement last year.

I grew up on a farm and some of my earliest memories are of "making garden" with my grandpa. I've always loved growing things and have had a garden wherever I lived.

I grew up on the plains in Colorado. My husband and I moved to Montana early on and loved living in a town of 23 people. But when it became clear that we needed more opportunities to support our family we relocated to Bedford, Texas. Believe



Continued on page 4

Candidates continued from page 3

me, I had no desire to even visit Texas, let alone move here! But almost 25 years later we realize it was the best thing for us. We moved to Rains County nine years ago and are very happy to be out of the city once again.

My background and degree are in accounting, but the job I retired from was account manager and claims advocate for an insurance broker. As a claims advocate in employee benefits, I

helped people navigate the health care system and found it much more rewarding than working with numbers.

I love the people I've met in the WCMGA and the wealth of knowledge to be gleaned from the members. I'm looking forward to becoming more involved and getting to know more members in the coming year.

Congratulations for 20 Years of Master Gardener Service

By Barb Williams

WOW! 20 years is a long time!

Congratulations to Linda Long and Linda Timmons on celebrating 20 years as Master Gardeners in Wood County. At one point, Linda Timmons' last name was also Long, which caused some confusion.

Both ladies were in the first Master Gardener class offered in Wood County. So that also means — Happy 20th Birthday to WCMGA! Interestingly, the first Master Gardener class of 2003 started the Mineola Nature Preserve project.

These ladies have stuck around to see all the changes that have taken place over the years. Boy are we grateful they did!

Here is just a bit about the contributions from these two amazing Master Gardeners:

- Linda Long helped the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent, Wood County, Emily Husmann Castillo, with the past two Master Gardener classes and she's been on the tip book committee since it started in 2021.
- Linda Timmons was president of WCMGA in 2016. In addition, in 2016 she took over as project manager for the Mineola Nature Preserve, she is the awards committee, and she is our VMS person.



Linda Long, Barbara Williams, Extension Agent Emily Husmann Castillo, and Linda Timmons

Bird Houses by Steve Judkins

Thank you to Steve Judkins who generously donated his hand made bird houses for door prizes at the September WCMGA meeting.

Steve explained how to clean the bird houses and described different options for hanging them.

Master Gardeners Gloria Jeane Rosewall and Laura Palumbo won the bird houses.



Fall at the Wildscape—Education and Wildlife Habitat

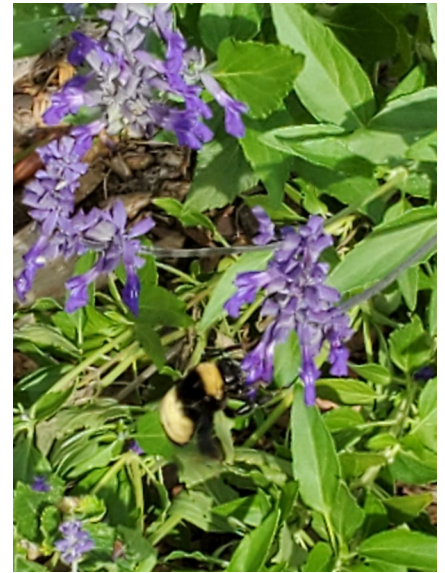
By Linda Timmons



Bee house box



Gulf fritillary caterpillar on passion vine



Bumble bee on salvia

The Wildscape is designed to provide habitat for wildlife and to provide educational opportunities for our community.

This fall our garden is providing pollen for the bees and butterflies. For example, golden rod (*Solidago altissima*) and salvia (*Salvia sp.*) plants seem to be favorites of the bumblebees (*Bombus sp.*). In addition, the passion vine (*Passiflora incarnata*) has supported a large number of Gulf fritillary (*Dione vanillae*) caterpillars.

For the birds this fall and winter there are flower seed heads. For the berry eaters there are pokeweed berries (*Phytolacca americana*), beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), and lots of holly (*Ilex sp.*) berries.

For the wildlife habitat we have a bee-house box that is home to some carpenter bee (*Xylocopa sp.*) larva.

To help educate the visitors to the Wildscape garden, an information station displays posters about why leaving fall leaves can be important to small critters and the health of the soil and information about native spring flowering seeds that can be planted now.

Recently we've added two book boxes, one with children's books and the other with adult gardening books and magazines and packets of seeds that can be sown in the fall for spring flowers.

After the rains in October, the bluebonnet (*Lupinus texensis*) seedlings have been popping up all over the gardens. Anywhere you see these green rosettes, expect beautiful blue flowers in March.



Bluebonnet seedling will bloom next March



Cotyledon leaves of the bluebonnet



Golden rod and beautyberry



Information station at the Wildscape



Free books
for
children
and adults
and free
packets of
fall seeds.



Hawkins Oil Festival – A Public Education Opportunity

By Meleena Byram and Betty Stark, Hawkins Project Co-Leaders

The annual Hawkins Oil Festival was held Saturday, October 7. We set up a table to represent Wood County Master Gardeners and handed out free seeds and brochures, sold MG tip books, visited with the public, and consulted on gardening issues with festival attendees.

At the crack of dawn, we set up a table at the pollinator bed in front of the park pavilion, decorated the bed with pumpkins, put out the interactive question and answer stands, covered the table with the Wood County Master Gardener logo on the front, and we were ready to go!

Thanks to Sandy Hayden for helping set up, handling the tip book sales table (she did a great job marketing them!), staying with us greeting the public all day, and then helping with tear down. Also, thanks to Lorraine Pedretti who helped the first half of the day and Dana Childs who helped the second half and also helped with tear down.



Pollinator bed in front of the Hawkins pavilion



Interactive question and answer stands



Betty Stark, Meleena Byram, Sandy Hayden, and Lorraine Pedretti representing WCMG

Many thanks to Pat and Bob Bauerschmidt, Sandy Hayden, and Reggie Askins who helped spruce up the bed on the two workdays leading up to the festival! We really appreciate all their help and support.

It was a lovely day. The weather was perfect to represent Wood County Master Gardeners to the Hawkins festival goers. We received compliments and thanks from festival attendees for maintaining the Hawkins gardens.

Phenology Report

By Jessie Mellon

According to the USGS Winnsboro rain gauge, as of the middle of October, Wood County had received 3.31 inches of precipitation. However, my soil is still very dry and sometimes hydrophobic.

Pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*) plants grew in full sun and partial shade this year. The pokeweed that was in full sun wilted in this summer's drought and dropped a few leaves. However, there was enough water stored in the stem and root for a recovery. The shaded plant suffered no ill effects as it also stored water but was protected from the harsh afternoon sun. Seeds and flowers are present on both plants and provide a good meal for hungry birds.

A little rain can work wonders! The common hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), red mulberry (*Morus rubra*), pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*), and Mexican plum (*Prunus mexicana*) are all recovering from the drought and have enough resources to produce new leaves.

The yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*) was unphased by the drought and sports new leaves as well. New growth is



Gulf fritillary on passion vine

sprouting from spreading roots. Containing its growth is a constant chore.

The black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) does not show new leaves. In fact, it had dropped some of its leaves prior to the last shower at my house. In a few weeks it will be in its full scarlet fall foliage and will be a sight to behold.

American holly (*Ilex opaca*) is not as invasive as its yaupon cousin. It is loaded with unripe fruit and has begun to shed a few leaves onto the seat of my chair outdoors. Now, I have to check for spikey leaves before I sit.

There are still a few Gulf fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*) caterpillars munching on their host passion vine (*Passiflora incarnata*). The passion vine is virtually stripped bare but is fighting back with sprouts from the roots and new leaf buds. I expect the butterflies to stay around until the first frost.

Dragon flies mop up mosquitoes and tiny midges in the garden. A few hummingbirds feed on flowers in the pollinator garden and eat tiny insects on the fly.

Mother Nature, please send blessed rain!

Deterring Insect Pests: Using Trap Crops in the Organic Garden

By Linda Mahony

Brown marmorated stink bugs (*Halyomopha halys*), aphids (*Aphidoidea*) and other damaging insects are everywhere! Unfortunately for vegetable growers, insect pests are always around. However, with forethought and planning, you can mitigate pest problems using organic solutions.



Planting sacrificial plants as a trap crop can attract specific, damaging insects away from the desirable, or main, crops. Trap cropping means planting larger, older plants on the perimeter of the garden to keep insects away from main crops. Using trap crops enables you to decrease insecticide use and save beneficial insects. Incidentally, decreasing insect pests also reduces plant disease.

Keep 20 percent of your garden in trap crops

As part of an arsenal against pests in the garden, trap crops need to be more mature and thus more alluring than the plant you are protecting. Always set out extra plants in case you lose some to pests. Keep 20 percent of your garden in trap crops and pay attention to what works! It's relatively inexpensive to grow trap crops from seed.

Use trap crops as pawns or soldiers on the front line as protectors ready to give their lives for the greater good of the garden.

For the next season, you can collect the seeds from your trap crop or you can allow your trap crop to self-seed and rotate crops according to what works best with that trap crop.

Blue Hubbard Heirloom Winter Squash as a Trap Crop

Blue hubbard heirloom winter squash (*Cucurbita Maxima*) attracts squash bugs (*Anasa tristis*), squash vine borers

(*Melittia cucurbitae*), spotted cucumber beetles (*Diabrotica undecimpunctata*) and striped cucumber beetles (*Acalymma vittatum*).

You can transplant two to four blue hubbard squash seedlings when you sow seeds for summer squash. The blue hubbard squash needs a head start because it needs to be bigger than the main crop to lure insects to it.

Plant blue hubbard squash early at the corners of the garden, along the perimeter of the garden, or in pots at an 8-foot distance from the cash crop. The blue hubbard squash will sprawl; so it needs a lot of space. Blue Hubbard squash can grow to between 15 and 40 pounds.

Once the blue hubbard squash is infested, you can either remove the plants and place them in a plastic bag to die in the sun or you can harvest the blue hubbard squash. Cook them as you would a pumpkin.

Mustard as a Trap Crop

Mustard (*Brassica Rapa subsp. Oleifera*) is another example of a trap crop. Plant it around strawberries (*Fragaria X ananassa*) and other fruits.

The mustard attracts both good and bad bugs. Mustard leaves, which are nutritious for both humans and the soil, are attractive to a number of pests.

Plant a foot-wide ring of mustard leaves around your garden. However, dig and remove the mustard before it seeds so it doesn't spread.

Your main crop should mature before the mustard bolts to seed or you can plant mustard in seven-day intervals to ensure a continuous supply.

References:

- [Trap Cropping for Small-Market Vegetable Growers | UGA Cooperative Extension](#)
- [Protect Your Favorite Plants with Trap Crops | Park Seed](#)
- [Trap cropping: A simple, effective, and affordable Integrated Pest Management strategy to control squash bugs and squash vine borers // Missouri Environment and Garden News Article // Integrated Pest Management, University of Missouri](#)

See the Trap Crops for Various Plants table on pages 8 and 9.

Trap Crops for Various Plants

The following table lists possible trap crops for various plants.

Plant	Trap Crops That Lure Pests Away from Plants
Arugula (<i>Eruca vesicaria ssp. sativa</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> French parsley chervil (<i>Anthriscus cerefolium</i>) attracts slugs and snails (<i>Gastropods</i>). Common parsley (<i>Petroselinum crispum</i>) attracts slugs and snails.
Broccoli (<i>Brassica oleracea var. italica</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radishes (<i>Raphanus sativus</i>) attract flea beetles (<i>Altica spp.</i>), harlequin bugs (<i>Murgantia histrionica</i>), and cabbage moths (<i>Mamestra brassica</i>). Nasturtiums (<i>Tropaeolum</i>) attract flea beetles (<i>Altica spp.</i>). Mustard attracts harlequin bugs. Turnips (<i>Brassica rapa</i>) attract leaf beetles (<i>Chrysomelidae family</i>) and flea beetles.
Butterhead lettuce (<i>Lactuca sativa var. capitata</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> French parsley chervil attracts slugs and snails. Common parsley attracts slugs and snails.
Cabbage (<i>Brassica oleracea var. capitata</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radishes attract flea beetles, harlequin bugs, and cabbage moths Nasturtiums attract aphids. Collards (<i>Brassica oleracea var. viridis</i>) attract cabbage worms (<i>Pieris rapae Linnaeus</i>) and cabbage moths. Mustard attracts harlequin bugs. Turnips attract leaf beetles and flea beetles.
Corn (<i>Zea mays L.</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunflowers (<i>Helianthus annuus</i>) attract stink bugs (<i>Pentatomidae spp.</i>). Millet (<i>Poaceae family</i>) and vetch (<i>Vicia sativa</i>) attract stink bugs, as well as being nitrogen-fixing soil builders.
Cucumbers (<i>Cucumis sativus</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amaranth (<i>Amaranthus viridis</i>) repels spotted cucumber beetles (<i>Diabrotica undecimpunctata</i>) and striped cucumber beetles (<i>Acalymma vittatum</i>). Start amaranth in warm weather and surround fall-planted cucumbers. Marigolds (<i>genus Tagetes</i>) deter many pests. Plant marigolds before you plant cucumbers. Group the marigolds seven inches away from the food crop. Dig
Eggplant (<i>Solanum melongena</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nasturtiums attract aphids. Radishes attract flea beetles, harlequin bugs, and cabbage moths.
Okra (<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunflowers attract stink bugs. Millet and vetch attract stink bugs and are nitrogen-fixing soil builders.
Peppers (<i>Capsicum sp.</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunflowers attract stink bugs. Millet and vetch attract stink bugs and are nitrogen-fixing soil builders.
Potatoes (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>)	<p>Tansy (<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>) repels the Colorado potato beetle (<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>). Tansy is also a repellent to Japanese beetles, cucumber beetles, squash bugs, ants, aphids, cabbage moths, and even mice! It inhibits egg laying and larvae feeding, while providing nectar and pollen to honeybees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. It also replenishes potassium to the soil.</p> <p>Plant the tansy in pots because it can be invasive.</p> <p>Warning: Tansy is poisonous to cattle and horses.</p>

Continued on page 9

Trap Crops continued from page 8

Plant	Trap Crops That Lure Pests Away from Plants
Rose (<i>Rosa sp.</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zinnias (<i>Zinnia elegans</i>) attract the Japanese beetle (<i>Popillia japonica</i>). • Four o'clock flowers (<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>) attract the Japanese beetle. • Scented geraniums (<i>Pelargonium</i>) attract the Japanese beetle.
Spinach (<i>Spinacia oleracea</i>)	Marigolds attract earwigs (<i>Forficula auricularia</i>).
Strawberries and other fruit	Mustard attracts both good and bad bugs.
Summer squash (<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> subsp. <i>Pepo</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue hubbard heirloom squash attracts squash bugs (<i>Anasa tristis</i>), squash vine borers (<i>Melittia cucurbitae</i>), spotted cucumber beetles and striped cucumber beetles. • Pearl millet (<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>) is the preferred food of the squash bug. The vines are sprawling, so keep it at least 8 feet from summer squash. • Patty pan squash (<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> var. <i>clypeata</i>) attracts squash bugs.
Sweet corn (<i>Zea mays</i> convar. <i>saccarata</i> var. <i>rugosa</i>)	Sorghum (<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>) attracts corn earworms (<i>Helicoverpa zea</i>).
Sweet peppers (<i>Capsicum annuum</i>)	Hot cherry pepper pimentos (<i>Capsicum annuum</i> var. <i>annuum</i>) attract pepper maggots (<i>Zonosemata electa</i>).
Swiss chard (<i>Beta vulgaris</i> L. var. <i>cicla</i>)	Marigolds attract earwigs.
Tomato (<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marigolds deter many pests. Plant marigolds before you plant tomatoes. Group the marigolds seven inches away from the food crop and then dig finished marigolds into the soil for their repellent chemical properties. • Cherry tomatoes attract leaf-footed bugs (<i>Leptoglossus phyllopus</i>) and stink bugs. • Dill (<i>Anethum graveolens</i>) attracts tomato hornworms (<i>Manduca quinquemaculata</i>). • Okra (<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i>) attracts aphids. Interplant with tomatoes. • Nasturtiums attract aphids. • Mustard attracts harlequin bugs. • Sunflowers attract stink bugs. • Millet and vetch attract stink bugs and are also nitrogen-fixing soil builders. • Moonflowers (<i>Datura wrightii</i>) attract tomato hornworms. Plant them in pots because they are invasive. <p>Warning: Datura is poisonous to cattle!</p>

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 Chairs: Nate and Kelly Ann Holden
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 Chairs: Meleena Byram and Betty Stark
Workday: Varies
5. Quitman Public Library (QPL)
Project Chairs: Laura Palumbo and Dana Childs
Workday: Monday @ 9 am
6. Winnsboro Library (WINNS)
Project Chairs: Patt Bauerschmidt and Cindi Miller
Workday: Monday @ 10 am
7. Wood County Arboretum & Botanical Gardens (WCABG)
Project Chair: Lin Grado
Workday: Wednesday @ 9 am

How to Sign Up for Up-To-Date Information

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/
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. The Wood County Extension Agent reports the total pounds of produce grown by Wood County Master Gardeners as well as the total pounds of produce donated for the year.

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 the Wood County Extension agent.

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.